Calm Waters Beginning to Show Varied Hues

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Bayou Lafourche is taking on new color, as it does every year about this time. The calm waters are beginning to glow with a variety of hues that ripple the surface, mirroring the scene on the banks.

These are the sparkling lights—greens and reds and myriad others—heralding the Christmas season from home and highway along the inhabited length of the stream, spilling reflected colorful decor into the long-romanticized waterway.

There are those individuals who hurryly pass along Bayou Lafourche with never a sideward glance at the glowing contribution to the holiday season.

And there are those who do notice and who pause to watch and then wonder about the many reflections, Christmas and otherwise, that these waters have briefly held and let go.

The face and form of Jean Lafitte, for instance, were reflected in the bayou waters long ago as he and his lieutenants leaned over the sides of their craft as they took their captured goods from their stronghold and sold it to the planters and merchants along the Lafourche.

There were the reflections of the immense oak forests that historian Francois Xavier Martin, early historian, wrote about. He wanted to see the wood from these trees carried to New Orleans.

He saw a short cut and time saved in getting this wood to the New Orleans market by digging a canal of 20 arpents that would join Bayous Lafourche and Terrebonne and reduce the voyage to the Crescent City to a few hours.

The bayou was a mirror for the Chitimache Indians who once inhabited its banks and sparkled in those days with the colors of birds' plumage in the festivities that were held.

Many a face caught by the camera in history books was photographed by Bayou Lafourche as those who had gained or would gain fame rode through its waters. Francis T. Nichols, native of Donaldson-

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