Does Bogie Man Still Linger In Carenco?

Is the Bogie Man still alive and well? What was the typical resident of Lafayette Parish like during the decade 1835-1837? What's happening at the Perry-O'Bryan Cemetery?

These and other questions are answered in a recent volume of the "Atakapas Gazette," the official organ of the Atakapas Historical Society. Published in conjunction with the University of Southwestern Louisiana's Center for Louisiana Studies, the journal includes historical tidbits, in-depth studies of the area, genealogical queries, book reviews, etc.

Volume IX includes "Typical Household: Lafayette Parish, 1835-1837," in which Jene Weiland paints a picture of life in a "basically self-sufficient agrarian system." Using random sampling of 108 succession inventories, she was able to piece together a good idea of society during that long-ago decade.

Carenco Area

"The Bogies Linger" in the Carenco area, according to Blanche M. Lewis' report. Interviewing area teenagers, she found that "the list is formidable. First there is the Robert Man himself; then there is the Tiki, the Coche Mai, the Long Garrote and Conjurer, and do not forget, Madame Grand Debit and the Pile Folk."

Karen Olivier Cown investigated "Holy Week in Catahoula," finding many traditions and folkways were served there. Going from Holy Thursday's preparation of " Así la bonolle" and potato pie, she covers all of the activities through Easter Sunday's "hoppin' john," a contest going to the egg with the hardest shell. "Craziest," by Louise Darnall cites timing of greatest importance in this act. She outlines the use of crazier in marbles and in riding oneself of an enemy.

New Iberia

Glenn R. Conrad traces "New Iberia: 1779-1974," outlining the city's history from the tiny settlement on the Teche to the thriving population of today. Conrad writes of New Iberia's growth through wars, fire and the new century's new construction. He judges the effects of such developments as the steamboat and radio and finds the city still "La Reina de Teche."

Father Donald T. Hobert compiled "The Pastors of Chalalanier and Eunice," covering the years 1869 through the present. The church moved from Chalalanier to Eunice in 1906. Fr. Hobert gives each pastor's name and years of service.

Harold Prejean contributes an "Estimate of Lands and Slaves: Return of the Lands and Slaves of the County of Opelousas for the Year 1800." The estimate gives landowners' names, acreage, value and number of slaves in Grand Prairie, St. Martin, Lafayette, Iberia and Vermilion Parishes by Mary Elizabeth Sanders. She gives genealogical material on each child and their spouses.


Allen E. Segnaud reviews "Charlie the Mole and Other Droll Souls" by Howard Jacobs, saying, "From the antics of politicians, strippers, wieners and sundry characters Mr. Jacobs has woven a delightful book about those who live on the fringe of Middle America."

"Wilderness Manhunt: The Spanish Search for LaSalle," by Robert S. Weddle, is reviewed by Carl Brussaway, "Weddle's work is a masterful account of Spain's frenzied efforts to maintain its tenuous hold on the Gulf Coast in the face of France's initial effort to establish a colony there. Although written from the Spanish viewpoint, Weddle's narrative sets the stage for the founding of French Louisiana in 1682."

Gazette editor Mathe Alain reviews Marcus Christian's "Negro Ironworkers of Louisiana, 1718-1900," saying, "Black poet and historian, Marcus Christian is exceptionally fitted for the task of discussing the craftsmen whose work gives the French Quarter its special character." She describes the book as "...a pleasant volume which packs a formidable amount of information in its slender frame."

Howard Ashley White's "The French Quarter Bureau of Louisiana," is reviewed by Claude Oubre, who calls it "an invaluable starting point for any study of the Bureau...The footnotes and essays on sources will be of considerable assistance to students of Reconstruction, Louisiana history or Afro-American history."

Glenn Conrad writes of "New Iberia Architecture, Vol. III: The Cemetery." In his conclusion, he praises the contributions of Peggy McDowell, Mary Louise Christovich, Leonard Huber and Edith Elliot Long. The volume, with 473 illustrations, is the third in a series of six intended by its publishers as "the most comprehensive architectural study any American city ever undertook."

In his "The Perry-O'Bryan Historical Cemetery," Dennis Gibson warns that the Cemetery is threatened with destruction and cites its historical significance. The town of Perry's Bridge pre-dated Vermilionville and Abbeville. Many of Vermilion Parish's early leaders are buried in the Perry-O'Bryan Historical Cemetery.

As usual, the Gazette closes with a salute to a "Contemporary Atakapas Personality," this time artist Ben Leonow, "who is best..."