Down The Bayou

Historical Events Occurring During Month of June Noted

Bayou Lafourche's Rare Days Are Recalled

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DONALDSONVILLE, La. — Poets have long given their attention and thoughts to the month of June, and one of them, James Russell Lowell, had this to say: "... what is so rare as a day in June?"

As this month of weddings and graduations and the beginnings of vacations comes to its end, a bit of thought about it brings realization that June has had its rare days.

It so happened that the first legislature of the State of Louisiana met on June 27, 1812. The year was 1812. And the latest of the state's constitutional conventions met June 18, 1921.

There was a rare ceremony on the bayou in Lafourche at the end of June, 1751, as a French captain by the name of Bassou met and was greeted in a friendly manner by the Chitimaches Indians who for a long time had been at odds with the French.

It was mid-June that Chief Chac-Chouma of the Houmas received praise from Louisiana Gov. William C. Claiborne in a letter to the commander of Acadian County dated June 14, 1811.

PRESENTS GIVEN

On a visit to the governor, the chief and his people were presented with presents and provisions and Chac-Chouma was called by Claiborne "this good old man."

On a rare day in June, 1854, the Ascension Parish Police Jury and the town of Donaldsonville entered into a contract to build a bridge across Bayou Lafourche.

The state legislature had authorized the police jury to construct a drawbridge over the stream. The cost of the bridge was $17,000 and it was to be of pitch pine timber. This June of 1870 found things in readiness for a bridge across Bayou Lafourche here.

A Post Office came to Burnside on June 9, 1894. It was three years after the death of John Burnside, called the "sugar prince," who was the leading citizen of his day and had vast land holdings on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish.

CANE COVERED

Burnside has since passed into the hands of the petrochemical industry and tremendous shipments of bauxite now occupy the space that once was entirely covered with sugarcane.

On June 7, 1886, a Post Office was established at Cofield Settlement, no longer in existence as a community. Named for J. C. Cofield of North Carolina, who came to Louisiana in 1837, it was five miles below Donaldsonville.

A railroad depot was built here in June, 1871, but it was hard to reach on foot because of the condition of the streets in inclement weather. So the City Fathers arranged for a plank walk and with installation of the walk went a "white way" with oil lamps.

It was in June, 1909, that the first ordinance regulating the speed of motor vehicles in Donaldsonville was adopted. And four days later, June 20, Mayor Charles A. Maurin's administration began paving the city's two main thoroughfares.

On June 16, 1888, the city council changed the name of the street recalling the Attakapas...