Artifact
Storage
Said Bad

Louisiana is a dream state in every way except in the storage and preservation of its historical artifacts, the director of the state's archives told Sertoma Club members Monday.

Dr. Don Lemieux said, "Louisiana offers beautiful greenery, wealth, fishing, wonderful food second to none in the whole world, oil and gas, but the items of historical value are sorely neglected."

"The state's artifacts are stored in an abandoned warehouse on Choctaw Road in Baton Rouge, that leaks, is not climate controlled, is structurally unsound and is small," Lemieux said. "This location is highly polluted, a high crime area and hard for researchers to get access to archives. It is deplorable that the pride of Louisiana is kept in such poor conditions."

"You're probably wondering why I stay with the state archives if they're in such poor shape. I stay only because I have a love for the state and the neglect I've seen forces me to stay to try to improve things."

"We've got the most colorful state in the U.S. with the merging of cultures brought about by the Mississippi River," he stated.

"You businessmen wouldn't take care of your business records as poorly as the state takes care of its," the speaker told the club.

"We need a vault to keep the spirit of Louisiana alive."

"Louisiana needs a new facility for its archives to protect the interest and rights of the people," he said. "We've come up with a monument that will save Louisiana's historical artifacts," he said. "That's the only way anything is going to get done."

"Most of all we need the governor's support, because he has the final decision in the matter," Lemieux added. He urged that Sertoma members and the community give their support to this project "for you and all of Louisiana and especially for your children."

In other business the Lafayette Sertoma club received an excellent club award and the district membership award at the Sertoma Regional Convention in Corpus Christi this past week. The club, which sent 10 delegates to the convention, also placed second in the bulletin board contest.

Gerald Domingue, Pete Lavergne and Gordon Keller received special awards as past governors of the club.