CAVE-LIKE CONSTRUCTION — A grotto, surrounded by a fence to keep cattle and stray animals out, is constructed in a cave-like shape with lumber, wire and concrete. The structure, near Abbeville, was built by the parish pastor in memory of his mother. (Photo by Godfrey J. Bergeron)

Cobwebs Invade Grotto Near Here

By LYDIA SASJAWORSKY
Advertiser Staff Reporter

Something of interest to people who love to visit and discover places and things of the past can be found in Buncher, Louisiana.

This small community, 10 miles south of Abbeville in Vermilion Parish, has a history all of its own. One particular point of interest is a large cave-like structure located in an open field owned by the Cadet family who were pioneers of the community. This enormous structure is a grotto which was once used by priests for prayer and meditation.

The cave-like man-made creation was originally built behind a parish church which was torn down and moved to Healy, Louisiana, another small community three miles west of Buncher.

The grotto, constructed with lumber, wire and concrete, was built by Reverend De Vos of Belgium in memory of his mother. Despite age and lack of care, the structure remains and holds many of the original things placed there 80 years ago. A fence now surrounds it to keep cattle and stray animals out. At one time, Reverend De Vos had served as pastor of the church.

Upon approach, a small altar is seen where the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor once stood. Above the altar, the words, "Lord have mercy on me" can be seen clearly and on the wall to the left, a broken plaque with the first three words, "To My Mother", can be distinguished upon a closer view.

Although cobwebs and bees have invaded the grotto, the beauty and memories it once held, remain.

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