Dividing Bayou from River ‘Big Project’

By CLAIRE FUNKE

DONALDSONVILLE, La. - On June 22, 1903, as history records, Louisiana was purchased from France for $15 million. That major transaction took place 166 years ago. A tiny part of it, the spot where the Mississippi River and Bayou Lafourche meet, was where the waters of the two streams freely mingled, sometimes to the destruction of homes and farms near the bayouside when high waters from more northern states made their way into the South.

For many years, people and sometimes the courts faced the task of trying to overcome the flooded conditions after an annual, or even a century, has been the centennial year of the Louisiana Purchase, sometimes to the destruction of homes and farms near the bayouside.

In 1903, the decision to construct a dam across the stream’s mouth to separate it from the rampaging mouth to a river was given the approval and authorization.

In the 20th century dam was made and Clarence J. Savoie, sugar planter of Assumption Parish and later state legislator from that parish, had the backing of a dam across the stream's mouth to separate it from the rampaging river was given approval and authorization.

Promptly, a suit was filed by Louis Dehon to prevent the Lafourche and Atchafalaya Basin Levee Board from building the dam. The district court ruled March 21, 1903, in favor of Dehon and the others who had filed the petition with him.

However, on June 22, 1903, the district court judge permitted the work to go on.

Engineers had recommended that a temporary dam of earth be built in the manner that an ordinary dike or levee would be constructed.

Walter Leaman, who wanted locks for the bayou and thought he had foreseen the long half-century in which the bayou would become stagnant without a flow of fresh water into it, was one of Dehon's attorneys.

Edward N. Pugh was also representing Dehon in the centennial year of the Louisiana Purchase, representing Dehon. That year in which it was decided to put a pumping station on the Mississippi River levee here to put fresh water into Bayou Lafourche, those in charge decided to name it the Walter Leaman Pumping Station, a name that has continued in use. And a pump was broken in the 166th year of the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1953, when it was decided to put a pumping station on the Mississippi River levee here to put fresh water into Bayou Lafourche, those in charge decided to name it the Walter Leaman Pumping Station, a name that has continued in use. And a pump was broken.

That year in which it was decided to memorialize him was the sesquicentennial year of the Louisiana Purchase. Two years later fresh water flowed into the bayou from the river through the station located on the Civil War’s Fort Butler.

Back in that centennial year of the Louisiana Purchase there was memorable snowfall here, one that saw several inches of snow cover the ground of this one-year-old community.

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