LE MONDE DES ACADIENS

Lafayette Had No Crooked Streets Once Upon A Time

By HILDA GALLASBRO

One of the legends that once upon a time Lafayette had no crooked streets. Back when she was just a village and went by another name, her streets were straight.

It is said that the little village, as laid out for Jean Baptiste L'Haridon by his surveyor, was radical as anything and quite well planned. And that her streets ran north to south and east to west, just as they do everywhere else.

As the story goes, the surveyor was neither drunk nor off his rocker — just systematic. Well, the way the town grew then the railroad came through. That caused a lot of movement around 1917 and new streets were opened up. Existing trails were extended and mostly they were curved to accommodate the pedestrians and horse-drawn carriages. They paralleled the tracks and sometimes they crossed it. And besides — who really wants to take the long way when you can cut across?

Opelousas

Opelousas' first inhabitants were Indians and the city derived its name from a tribe that once lived there — the Opelousa Indians. This tribe lived for a while, traded, and later fought the white men from beyond the Mississippi.

At the time Opelousas was a vast, alluvial floodplain. In 1820 it was still a swampy area. It was not until the 1870s that the town really started to grow. The railroads came through and the town began to thrive.

New Iberia

New Iberia sits on the banks of Bayou Teche, the sister to a mixture of French, Spanish, and Acadian. Many of her people speak French. In fact, the French language is still spoken in New Iberia, especially in the southern part of the town.

The town dates back to 1779 when a group of Spanish and Acadians founded the town. The land was never formally settled, but the town grew and prospered.

Today, New Iberia is a vibrant town with a rich history. The people of New Iberia are proud of their heritage and are always ready to share it with visitors.