THE Louisiana State Exhibit Museum in Shreveport has been called “Louisiana in miniature.” But some parts of it are far from miniature. For several years, a collection of murals—seven feet tall and twelve feet wide—has been slowly growing. A few of those murals are shown here.

Louis G. Sicard, a New Orleans native who has been winning top prizes for his art for more than 30 years, painted “Louisiana Riverboat,” a mural unveiled Oct. 18, 1968, and “Evangeline Oak,” unveiled Oct. 14, 1969.

“Louisiana Riverboat” is a scene from days gone-by. The artist says it depicts that portion of the Mississippi known as Nine-Mile Point, a site that appeared often in his early works.

“Evangeline Oak” depicts the famous tree near St. Martinville. Legend has it that the real Evangeline—model for the heroine in Longfellow’s poem—met her lover there.

The other four paintings—“Louisiana Forest” (unveiled May 12, 1966) “Hodges Gardens” (unveiled Sept. 21, 1966) “Louisiana Wildlife” (unveiled Nov. 17, 1967) and “Grand Isle Sulphur Mine” (unveiled Oct. 24, 1970) are by Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, a native of Shreveport.
"Louisiana Riverboat," by Louis G. Sicard
“LOUISIANA Forest,” rather than depicting a specific spot, shows a typical Louisiana woodlands scene. “Hodges Gardens” doesn’t exactly mirror the appearance of its Sabine Parish model. Instead, points of interest are combined for a panoramic effect no photograph could produce.

“Louisiana Wildlife” is another in which no particular location is depicted. It is designed to display a variety of the game animals that help make Louisiana the “sportsman’s paradise” it is.

“Grand Isle Sulphur Mine” was inspired by a helicopter trip over such a mine. The center shows an offshore mine, while the left and right sides of the mural show land operations of the Freeport Minerals Company and a few of the uses of sulphur.

These murals and others will be seen by thousands of visitors to the State Fair, starting Friday (the museum adjoins the fair grounds). New ones are unveiled every so often—the collection isn’t complete, and won’t be until every facet of Louisiana is preserved on canvas.
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"Hodges Gardens," by Mrs. Elizabeth Harris
Mrs. Elizabeth Harris, the Shreveport artist who created several of the murals at the museum, poses beside "Grand Isle Sulphur Mine."
"Evangeline Oak," by Louis G. Sicard