New Tourists' Attraction Was Once Lafitte Haven

Cypremort Point Resort Association Formed

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

CYPREMORT POINT, La. — A peninsula that once provided haven for pirate Jean Lafitte will soon harbor treasure from tourists, if a recently formed resort promotional association has its way.

A major attraction is a public “million dollar sand beach” financed by Louisiana taxpayers at Cypremort Point, a sliver of land jutting into Vermilion Bay from St. Mary and Iberia Parishes.

The Cypremort Point Resort Association was formed during a dinner meeting held at the rectory of the Rev. James Wright, a Catholic priest with a church at Four Corners and a chapel at Cypremort Point. Father Wright’s interest in the community development project is the recreational value to the family. He also reported that a spurt in activity at the point increased Mass attendance at the chapel.

Jeanerette businessmen George Moresi Jr., who has leased the public beach from the state parks and recreation department, was named temporary chairman of the association. He has named committees to set up rules and regulations, prepare brochures and establish a dues structure for the association.

Interested Acadiana businessmen from St. Mary, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes discussed law enforcement at the point, including control of vandalism and traffic, and heard plans for establishing charter boat service as well as litter-control.

The association will ask St. Mary Parish Sheriff Chester Baudoin to take care of law enforcement, and the St. Mary Parish Police Jury will be requested to dredge and clean out Bayou Cypremort.

The historic bayou was a haven for Jean Lafitte and his band from storms that stirred the bay and the Gulf Of Mexico. “Islands” in the area were reportedly first named by the swashbuckling buccaneer.

Vermilion Bay teems with fish, crab and shrimp, and the point is headquarters for two annual fish rodeos. Private camps are maintained at the resort, and the association of businessmen will work with the camp owners in improving security and public cleanliness at the site.