Rolling down the river

The new KIDD in town

By Laurie Smith/
State-Times writer

The USS Kidd, Baton Rouge's latest tourist attraction, is officially open for business.

The World War II Fletcher class destroyer is docked just off the Mississippi River levee downtown in a unique floating/dry dock cradle. An accompanying Nautical Historic Center will raise interest in her restoration and preservation about three years ago.

The Kidd's annual docking facility allows the ship to refit each year during flood stage and settle back down to a dry dock cradle during normal river stages, according to commission Chairman Dan Derbe.

The ship itself, built in 1943, is the most complete surface vessel the Navy has ever released for such a project.

She earned eight battle stars during her service in World War II and the Korean War, surviving a direct hit from a Japanese suicide plane. Many Ohioans served aboard the Kidd, which was named after Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, who was killed aboard the Battleship Arizona during the Pearl Harbor attack.

The destroyer was decommissioned in 1964 and was headed for the scrapyard when residents expressed interest in her restoration and preservation about three years ago.

The Kidd has been faithfully restored to its original World War II configuration, with an emphasis on educational exhibits.

The Kidd is open for tours every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission prices are $3 for adults, $2 for members of groups (over 15), $1.50 for children between the ages of 6 and 14 and free for children under the age of 6. Group parties aboard the Kidd can be arranged.

Callioppe announces the Queen

If you're in downtown Baton Rouge and enjoy a callioppe blasting out a happy tune, don't look for a circus - run to the levee and watch the riverboat coming into dock at the foot of North Street.

Two paddle wheelers make port at Baton Rouge through the winter and early spring and late fall months - the Mississippi Queen and the Delta Queen, both owned by the Delta Queen Steamboat Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Talk about a beautiful sight to show visitors from other parts of the country! And it's even better if you happen to catch one of the Queens making a big sweeping turn at night, all lit up like a Christmas tree, with the music floating out over the water.

The Delta Queen is a true riverboat, refurbished from an era when steamboats plied the river in numbers. Because she's wood, she's been banished from passenger service several times. Only special action by the United States Congress allows her to continue carrying passengers along the Mississippi. The Delta Queen is neat and compact, but much space is given to a magnificent grand staircase case of burnished brass, wrought metal and teakwood. It's space well-used, since it serves the tone of earlier elegance. You can almost visualize the passengers who used to travel the river, like ghostly shades, descending to the Lounge to play in or watch a high-stakes poker game.

The Mississippi Queen was built recently, to specifications which meet all the safety standards. Considerably larger than the Delta Queen, she offers many more amenities - a swimming pool, gym and sauna, a movie theater - to compensate for lack of authenticity. The Mississippi Queen is one of the handsomest sights on the river - nearly 400 feet long from stem to stern, 70 feet wide and rising more than 80 feet to the top of her majestic smokestacks, with a two-story red paddlewheel that churns the muddy waters to a white foam. Both riverboats stay on the lower Mississippi when the weather is cold in the north, and travel the upper Mississippi and several other rivers in the best days of summer. Cruises are scheduled all year long. The shortest is three days and the longest three weeks. Travel agents or the home office, Delta Queen Steamboat Company, 515 Main Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, can give you information.

Baton Rougians who have never made a trip still feel proprietary about these two paddlewheelers, because they stop here on many trips and pass the city on the others. The Mississippi Queen docks here quite a bit more frequently than its rival, the Delta Queen, but Baton Rougians will have plenty of opportunity to see both ships.

Enjoy a ride on the Samuel Clemens

If you haven't the time or money for an extended cruise on one of the Queens, but would like to see the river - or show it to your visitors from out of town - you can take an hour-and-a-half excursion on the Samuel Clemens, a miniature riverboat which began operating in Baton Rouge in July.

This new entertainment and tourist attraction is a triple-decked mini-riverboat, 65 feet by 23 feet, with a seating capacity of 276. It runs twice-a-day tours upriver, about 10 miles roundtrip, leaving from its dock at the foot of Florida Street at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily. Fares are $5 for adults and $3 for children, Snack bar and bar facilities are available during tours. There are special rates for a group of 25 or more and the boat is available for charter and private parties with catering.

The Clemens also features a Jazz Cruise (dining and dancing) every Wednesday evening from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is $20 per person.

The Samuel Clemens, which came to Baton Rouge from a similar operation in St. Louis, is piloted by Capt. Joy Manthey and Capt. J. Curran Steckfox for Stockton Excursions. Here and hope you stay.
Take a ferry ride

Ferry boats are well known to some Baton Rougians and virtually unknown to others, newcomers and oldtimers alike.

If you've never ridden a ferry, you don't know what you've missed. Everyone should have the experience at least once.

To help those of you who have been longing to take a ferry ride, and to give inspiration to those of you who never know what to do on a Sunday afternoon, we've obtained a ferry schedule from the Department of Transportation and Development's Office of Highways.

The following is a list of ferries that cross the Mississippi River and are in close proximity to Baton Rouge.

THE ST. JOHN — Runs between Edgard and Reserve. Free ferry, runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Leaves Edgard on the hour, makes round trip to Reserve and returns to Edgard between 12 midnight and 5 a.m. Continuous shuttle between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. Leaves west bank on hour and leaves east bank on 1/2 hour each hour between 8 p.m. and 12 midnight.

THE FELICIANA — White Castle. Free ferry, runs 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, 5 a.m. - 9 p.m. Leaves west side on the hour and 1/2 hour and east side on 1/4 hour and 3/4 hour.

THE IBERVILLE — Plaquemine. Free ferry, runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Leaves west side on 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 & hour between 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. On the hour and 1/4 hour between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. On the hour between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m.

THE ST. CHARLES — Plaquemine. Free ferry, runs 6 hours, split shifts, 5 days a week: 3:30 a.m. - 4:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Leaves the east side on 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 and hour between 5:15 a.m. and 6:15 a.m. and 6:45 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. and 8:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. On the 1/4 and 3/4 hour between 8:45 a.m. and 8:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. On the 1/2 and 3/4 hour between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.

THE ASCENSION — Luling-Destrehan. Free ferry, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Leaves Luling side on hour and 1/2. Leaves Destrehan side on 1/4 hour and 3/4 hour. Except when shuttle service is in operation. Shuttle service runs from 5 a.m. - 8 p.m. and 8 p.m. - 11 a.m. Leaves west bank on hour and 1/4 hour and east on 1/4 hour and 3/4 hour (15 minute schedule). From 1 a.m. - 5 a.m. leaves west bank on the hour and east bank on the 1/4 hour (30 minute schedule).

ACADIA — Luling-Destrehan. Free ferry, Monday-Friday, 9 1/2 hours split shift. Shuttle service in conjunction with The Ascension (continuous crossing when ferry is loaded Monday - Friday only) from 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

THE NEW ROADS — St. Francisville. Free ferry, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Leaves east side on hour and 1/2 hour between 5 a.m. and 12 midnight. On hour between 12 midnight and 6 a.m.

THE ST. FRANCISVILLE — St. Francisville. Free ferry, supplemental operation, 5 days a week, 7 hours a day, split shift from 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Leaves west side on 1/4 hour and 3/4 hour between 5:15 a.m. and 12 midnight. On 1/4 hour between 12 midnight and 5 a.m.

Village Square

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There's so much to do. So much to see.

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So, come fill your shopping bag with treasures, and your day with fun, excitement and imagination.

Village Square — College Drive at I-10.
One of the quickest ways to get comfortable in a strange new city is to create one's own ready-made social group, to make contact with people who share your special interests. Baton Rouge has a wealth of business and professional associations, civic clubs, arts-oriented groups, and common-interest clubs to make it easy for you.

Of course, many of these are listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book under the headings of associations, business organizations, or clubs, or in the white pages under the specific name of the group. If you don't find what you want there, you can call the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce at 387-1400. The Chamber maintains an up-to-date Clubs and Organizations Directory which lists the many area groups who are not listed in the telephone book, and they will be glad to help you locate the group you want to reach.

Perhaps, with the free time you have before you become involved in social activities, you can finally find time to take that class you've been planning to get around to. You're in luck, because, in addition to the clubs, there are several organizations in Baton Rouge which offer both day and evening courses in diverse craft and study programs: the Louisiana State University's Continuing Education Program, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board's Continuing Education Program, and the YMCA classes.

The LSU Division of Continuing Education offers 3 units of general interest to Baton Rouge residents. The Short Courses and Conferences Department (388-6621) offers non-credit short courses as diverse as speed reading, business courses, real estate courses, photography, physical fitness, dancing, residential landscape gardening and ceramics. The Correspondence Study Department (388-3171) offers courses by mail for college and high school credit. The Extramural Teaching Department (388-5215) handles credit courses taught off-campus at convenient locations in the city. These courses range from French and psychology to engineering management. You can reach the students in just about any type of study you're interested in by telephone and request information or ask to have a brochure mailed to you.

At the Adult Learning Center of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board's Continuing Education Center on College Drive, you can learn conversational French, Spanish or German, prepare for college entrance, find academic preparation for specific fields—all with a tailor-made individual program. There is no charge for these studies, but you must be 16 years old or older and not currently attending a regular public high school. Any other short course is offered upon demand (fee charged). For further information contact the Valley Park location at 925-1247 or the Rosenwald location at 355-8678.

The YMCA maintains a year-round program of special interest classes such as fitness, aquatics, aerobic dancing, and youth sports. If you call 924-5606 they will be happy to give you information about YMCA membership and classes.

Every Friday in the FUN section, published as a supplement to both the State-Times and Morning Advocate newspapers, you will find a calendar of the special events, concerts, art exhibits, festivals, etc., currently in progress in the Baton Rouge area, and restaurant and nightlife listings.

Finally, the Baton Rouge Newcomers Club, which meets once a month for a program luncheon, offers the opportunity to meet other newcomers to the city. The Newcomers Club also sponsors social interest groups which meet to take tours of the surrounding areas, to learn how to cook the local cuisine, to play bridge, master crafts, etc. You'll probably be contacted by the Newcomers Club soon after you move into the city, but if they don't reach you, you'd like to attend a meeting, call Judy Spenzak at 275-8587, to make arrangements.

It shouldn't take long to find the time, the place, and the people to help you enjoy your leisure time in Baton Rouge.

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**Variety of clubs and organizations**

Annice Get Your Gun, Oliver, and Elsie for the Night for Baton Rouge dates during 1983-84, with another show to be announced. Tickets for the performances are available at the Centerplex box office (389-3030) and at several other locations — no checks and no credit cards accepted.

**ASSEMBLY CENTER**

Concerts at the LSU Assembly Center are presented from time to time, featuring pop performers who are currently touring. Recently, Jackson Browne, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Diana Ross, The Statler Brothers, Olivia Newton John, Dolly Parton, Blondie, Cheap Trick, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, the Beach Boys, Willie Nelson and Hank Williams Jr.

The box offices in the LSU Assembly Center (388-5128) and the Assembly Center (388-8831) have tickets available for pop concerts. Though no checks are accepted, Master Card and Visa are honored.

**LITTLE THEATER**

The Baton Rouge Little Theater, now in its 38th season, presents non-professional productions of popular plays — offerings for the 1983-84 season include The Runaway Stumblers, Romantic Comedy, the world premiere of Gus Weill's Cry from a High Place, The Children's Hour, Move Over, Mrs. Markham and Born Yesterday — during its regular season and a summer musical.

Participation in BRLT productions is open to anyone interested. Admission to regular season productions is by subscription only; season memberships are (Continued on Page 82).
Organizations that can help

Relocation means rediscovery. When you move to a new town, you don’t know where to turn to find professionals whom you can trust. If you are like most homeowners, you have to sift through dozens of incompetent people to find trustworthy landscapers, remodelers, music instructors, and so on.

Carol Harbo, consultant, educator, and owner of The Skills File referral service, has developed a method of avoiding the frustrating task of locating reputable professionals who provide reliable service in the Baton Rouge area.

The free hotline provides information on a wide range of professional services. The file tells you who provides the service you need, what his/her qualifications are, and how to get in touch.

This service began largely because as a newcomer to Baton Rouge in 1971 I experienced the frustration of ‘“beginning anew.”’ One of the largest problems is knowing whom to call when you need a service,” Mrs. Harbo recalls.

She struggled through, as most newcomers do. However, she felt that there must be a better way than trial and error. This better way she developed as The Skills File, a compilation of professionals recommended by associates and accepted into the file only after thorough credential and reference checks.

Among the hundreds of professional services a few specific ones are inspection service for home buyers, career consultant, financial counselor, diet counselor, professional party coordinator, Oriental furniture restoration, landscaping, monogramming, instrumental instructors, wall paperer, auto consultant, and a long list of business services from software designer to courier service.

The Skills Service also helps the relocation professional establish contacts for his/her own business. Many people who relocate because of their spouse’s job want to remain in Baton Rouge, but it is difficult to re-establish a clientele.

“One of our registrants, a professional woman who is an excellent interior designer, commutes to Houston and Lake Charles. Her clientele there is extremely impressive, but as a newcomer to Baton Rouge she just needs time until her talent is recognized here. The Skills File helps her do that,” Mrs. Harbo explains.

Mrs. Harbo keeps actively researching the Baton Rouge community to ensure her registrants are giving quality performance.

“She follows up when she gives a referral to make sure that they are giving professional service,” states Dr. Fred Waddell, LSU professor of English and frequent user of this service.

In addition to The Skills File, Mrs. Harbo is president of the YWCA’s Connections—professional women’s networking group and instructs an LSU short course entitled, “In Business For Yourself. Formula For Success.”

Skills File information is available free of charge at 789-3863.

Library information can be very helpful

By Lynn Greeson Mitchell

“There are birds in my chimney. Can they fly out?” “There are birds in my chimney. How can I get rid of the noisy things?”

Newcomers to Baton Rouge often react differently to the problems that beseech them when moving into a new house — like the two callers who asked Library Information Service (LIS) about what to do with the birds in their chimneys.

A recent caller said, “I just moved to town, and someone told me that I can find out anything I need to know by asking the library. I’m not sure who the responsible group is and I tried to find the extensive collection of books and resources of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, or the caller may be referred to community agencies, clubs or individuals who can supply the needed information.

LIS is part of the Reference and Referral Department of the library at 7711 Goodwood Boulevard. Files are constantly updated on agencies and organizations to maintain accurate information about the services they provide.

Where can I get help for a learning disabled child?” is a typical question that LIS would refer to community agencies that deal with such needs.

A comprehensive listing of addresses from around the country is used to supply the answers for questions on how to obtain birth certificates for school and passports.

Finding a physician who takes new patients is a problem for many newcomers in Baton Rouge. The East Baton Rouge Parish Medical Society maintains a list, and LIS can give the caller their number.

The moisture problem and insects in houses and garages, and many newcomers don’t know where to turn for the answer. The EBR county agent is a source of information for many newcomers, and many newcomers have never heard of a county agent before LIS suggests a call to their office.

Mardi Gras is the most famous Louisiana party, but the number of parties and parades is often overwhelming those unaccustomed to the Cajun spirit of South Louisiana. Questions concerning where they are held, the time date and what they are about are frequent.

(Continued on Page 32)
Schools in Baton Rouge

(Continued from Page 3) of the Catholic Diocese, 1800 S. Acadian Thruway, 387-9651. Individual schools can also provide detailed information about their programs.

Applications for enrollment of other information should be made at the individual school in public, parochial, and private systems. Questions about special education in the public schools should be directed to the special education offices at Southdowns Center, 2050 Hood Ave. The phone number is 364-8342.

The public school system has 21,000 students and employs about 3,200 certified teachers. With about 6,000 total employees and a $138 million operating budget, the public school system is one of the largest employers in the parish.

The central offices at 1050 S. Foster Drive are headquarters for the superintendent of schools and his staff. School board meetings are held at 1050 S. Foster Drive, 387-9651. Meetings are held every other week at 4 p.m. Thursday.

Cablevision broadcasts the board meetings live each Thursday and has re-broadcasts. WBRH-FM radio, a student-operated radio station from Baton Rouge High, also broadcasts the meetings live from 90.3 FM.

The diocesan school board meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Catholic Life Center. All new and transfer students should be enrolled at the school of their district or church parish with immunization records and a valid birth certificate. Diphtheria, polio and measles immunizations are required. Records of physical and dental examinations are recommended but not required.

The school-community relations office of the public schools, at 1050 S. Foster, provides information on all school topics to parents and has a 24-hour information line, 922-5465.

Entertainment

(Continued from Page 50) still available.

For information, call the theater’s box office, 924-6496.

Baton Rouge Dinner Playhouse

The latest dinner theater venture in Baton Rouge is located on Aubin Lane, and seems to have reversed the bad fortunes this form of entertainment has found in Baton Rouge.

The theater is under the management of a quartet of entrepreneurs who perform in and stage the shows, run the business and even cook the food. Meals are ordered from a menu instead of a buffet, and the bill of fare is exclusively musical comedy — so far, Fiddler on the Roof, The Music Man, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Annie and Damn Yankees.

For ticket information and reservations, call the theater, 275-6845.

University Theater

Theater productions are presented throughout the academic year by the departments of speech at LSU (388-4172) and Southern University (771-3190). Performances in the LSU University Theater season require tickets, available through the LSU Union box office.

The LSU University Theater’s 1981 season will include productions of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, A Christmas Carol, the world premiere of a dramatization of John Kennedy Toole’s Pulitzer Prize-winning A Confederacy of Dunces and You Can’t Take It With You.

A series called Theater 150 will enter its second season during 1982-83 with productions of new and unproduced scripts in the LSU Speech Department’s 90-seat workshop theater.

In the summers, the department joins with the LSU Union to present a summer dinner theater season, utilizing a company of students who perform and build each production. The summer season will be announced during the spring.

DANCE

Last spring, The Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre received the designation “home company” from the Southwest Regional Ballet Association and presented a full-scale production of Giselle.

For 1982-83, the company will present two performances — a production of The Nutcracker at Christmas at Baton Rouge High Magnet School and a spring production that will repeat the company’s successful 1981 world premiere Caged Birds and a new work by the same choreographer (Will Eldredge) based on portions of Handel’s Messiah.

Molly Buchmann and Sharon Mathews are co-artistic directors. BRBT also has a junior company, under the direction of Amelie Hausey.

For further information, call the Dance’s Workshop, 387-4507.

In past seasons, a group called Louisiana Ballet Company has been active as a showcase for local dancers, though it did not present public performances during 1982-83.

Library Information

(Continued from Page 51) by answered by LIS.

The Community Calendar clearing House maintains a calendar on which are listed major events in the community, and callers may call to ask what is going on for entertainment, or to make sure a date they are planning for an event is not in conflict with other activities.

Tel-Med, Tel-Law and Parent Talk are also services of LIS. Tel-Med is a library of instructive, tape-recorded health messages to help callers remain healthy, recognize the early signs of illness, and adjust to serious illness. There are tapes on arthritis, backache, first aid and much more.

Tel-Law is a collection of tapes made by knowledgeable lawyers to offer general legal information concerning divorce, child custody, bankruptcy, adoption and other legal problems and where to go for help.

Parent Talk gives general information on parenting. These tapes are general information assistance, not to replace professional medical or legal counseling. The number for Tel-Law and Parent Talk is 928-3700; Tel-Med and Parent Talk is 928-7600.

The community volunteer who serves as operator for the "Tel" services plays the tape requested by the caller, either on a subject requested by general subject heading or by number as listed in a brochure that is available at the library. Upon request, the operator will mail directories that list the tapes.

"What is the public school calendar?" "Voter registration locations?" "Senior citizen's services?" Library Information Services has the answers. Call 369-3370 for more information.

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Arts & Humanities offers much

By EVERETT POWERS

The Arts and Humanities Council of Greater Baton Rouge is this area’s agency concerned with “cultural” development, with the word “culture” meaning everything from symphonic to Cajun music and from ballet to square dancing.

The council works with artists and humanists and their organizations as well as provides programs for the general public. It is best known for the four festivals it sponsors each year: the Baton Rouge Fall Crafts Festival, set for Oct. 29-30 this year, the River City Blues Festival in April, FestForAll in May, and the International River City End of Summer Musical Extravaganza and STOMP held each year on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend.

All of the events are held in the downtown area and are free. According to the theme of each event, a festival may offer everything from arts and crafts to singing and dancing to family games. Each summer the Council also sponsors a series of Brown Bag in the Park events in the Lafayette Street Park downtown. They feature performing artists and demonstrating craftsmen.

Throughout the year, the Council sponsors its Artists-in-the-Community program. In it, painters, poets, musicians, potters and others give informational performances in schools, nursing homes, hospitals and other group facilities.

To keep the public abreast of what is happening in the arts and humanities, the Council compiles a Cultural Events Calendar published monthly in the Sunday Advocate Magazine and broadcast by Cablevision. The Arts Hot Line, 344-7777, provides a telephone recording of events information. The Council has also published a listing of more than 300 cultural resources in the area with information on what each offers, times they are open, telephone numbers, etc. The book, “In Our Own Backyard,” is available at local bookstores and at the Council’s office.

Another major area of activity for the Council is serving arts and humanities organizations. It provides funding, advice, classes in arts management, office space and rehearsal space. It also calls meetings of its various member organizations to discuss opportunities for working together, and it represents them to members of the City Council and the State Legislature.

In addition to its offices in the Old Bogan Central Fire Station — which also houses the Baton Rouge Firefighters’ Museum, which is administered by the Council — the group recently opened offices at the Reddy Elementary Cultural Center. There, it provides office space, rehearsal space and room for the construction and storage of sets and costumes by local cultural groups.

Although the Council is not actually part of the governments of the parishes in which it operates, it frequently works closely with those governmental bodies to improve the cultural climate of the area. In East Baton Rouge Parish, the Council has been designated as the city’s official cultural agency and serves as an advisor to the mayor and the metropolitan council in cultural matters.

The Council is celebrating its tenth year of service to the community this year. A look at the number of cultural opportunities now available in Baton Rouge shows that it — and the city — have had 10 years of success.

Deciding On Furniture Isn’t Easy.

Deciding Where To Buy It Should Be.

What Kornmeyer’s thinks you should expect when shopping for quality home furnishings:
Baton Rouge has ancient wonders

By MIKE MULHERN

Baton Rouge, unfortunately, is without its Great Pyramid, its King Tut’s tomb, or any other antiquity of that scale and magnitude. It does, however, possess a genuine Egyptian mummy, flanked by surroundings similar to what might be found in an ancient tomb. The display can be seen in a special room at the Louisiana Arts and Science Center’s Riverside Museum.

Actually, there are two mummies in the exhibit: that of a young woman who died when she was about 18, and that of a small child. Included in the display are several mummified birds and funerary jars. All the items in the exhibit date back to circa 300 B.C.

The mummified woman is that of a high priestess. It was discovered on the ruins of Thebes during the late 1800s and acquired by the Arts and Science Center in 1964 as a permanent loan from the City of Philadelphia Commercial Museum. Mr. and Mrs. B.B. Taylor of Baton Rouge were responsible for its acquisition.

“We had quite a time getting it down here from Pennsylvania after the loan had been finalized,” says Sharon Jacques, LASC curator of education. “Believe it or not, the shipment of the mummy to Baton Rouge was held up because of laws which regulated the shipment of dead bodies across state lines. The law stated that we needed the consent of the next of kin and a statement from the attending physician certifying the cause of death. Finally, B.B. Taylor got impatient with all the red tape and drove up to Pennsylvania to pick it up, leaving the legalities of the matter to be settled afterward.”

In addition to the Egyptian mummy exhibit, there are many other interesting reminders of ages past here in Baton Rouge today. Inside the State Capitol Building, for instance, visitors can see lava from Mt. Vesuvius in the flooring and supporting pillars in the House Chamber and main lobby. The stone, which was imported from Naples during the 1930s when the State Capitol was under construction, was produced by the same volcano which destroyed the city of Pompeii in 79 A.D. Now this same material that caused one of the most noted catastrophes in world history is being put to practical use, adding charm and beauty to the State’s most monumental edifice.

About half a century prior to Mt. Vesuvius’s most noted eruption, another tragic event occurred that produced mementos now here in Baton Rouge. Locked in a vault at St. Joseph Cathedral, 412 North Street, are fragments from the Cross of Christ. The sacred wood, which is put out on display in the cathedral during Good Friday observances, came from a cross which — according to The Catholic Encyclopedia — was excavated near Jerusalem during the Fourth Century A.D. It was suspected of being the Cross of Christ after a dying person touched it and was miraculously restored to good health.

Other ancient wonders of Baton Rouge have a religious significance. Many of the Indian mounds located throughout the parish were also used for religious purposes. Some were used to bury the dead; others served as foundations elevating sacred buildings or acted as platforms from which chiefs could address their tribes.

The most well-known mounds in the Baton Rouge area are the elevation beside the Old Arsenal Museum and the two on the LSU campus on West Campus Drive.

There is no agreement among archeological authorities concerning the age of the LSU mounds; estimations range from the pre-Christian era to 1000 A.D. A superficial excavation at the site was performed during the...
Baton Rouge has ancient wonders

2006s by Professor George Beyer of Tulane University, who suspected that the mounds were multi-tiered vertical cemeteries. He found nothing which either proved or disproved his contentions.

Although they may be the best known, the LSU mounds are far from being the oldest remnants of Indian civilization in the area. "There are mounds and old Indian sites on the Amite River, Jones Creek, the Comite River, in the Kippner area on Bayou Manchac, in Baywood and on Highland Road near LSU," says Sherwood Gagliano, director of Coastal Environments, Inc., a local firm that does archeological surveys. "The oldest of these sites dates back 9,000 years," he points out.

The next ancient wonder predates even the oldest of the Indian sites here by many millions of years. It is the fossil collection at the LSU Geoscience Museum house in the University's Geology Building. A portion of the collection is on exhibit in the lobby there.

Among the items contained in the collection are dinosaur footprints, an impressive array of mastodon bones excavated locally at Ward's Creek some years ago, and a cast of a dinosaur skeleton which is now being painstakingly assembled by Thomas LeFebvre and Alvin Phillips. The skeleton is that of an alligator and upon completion, will measure 25 feet diagonally from the snout to the tip of its tail. The purchase of the cast was funded through a special project grant from the Institute of Museum Sciences.

Baton Rouge's next ancient wonder is located about a mile south of LSU. It is a "Possum House", the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Hathorn, at 4966 Highland Road. Portions of the exterior walls of this house are made from rocks removed from quarries in the Austin, Texas area which contained sea fossils about 116 million years old.

Fossil rocks dating back to this same period were used to make the altar, pulpits and holy water fonts at St. Aloysius Catholic Church at 2925 Stuart Avenue.

The last of Baton Rouge's wonders of the past is in the Mississippi River, and is only visible when the water is very low. It is the ancient cypress swamp at Port Hudson. No less a person than the "Father of modern geology" himself, Sir Charles Lyell of Scotland, singled it out as a significant site and made a special journey to visit there in 1845.

Lyell, at the time, was searching for evidence to support his contentions about geological ages (that changes are perpetually taking place on the surface of the earth), and the existence of the cypress swamp gave credence to his theories. Lyell's research had a tremendous impact on Charles Darwin, who used the geologist's work to confirm his own evolutionary contentions. It may be hard to believe, but observations made at the site of an East Baton Rouge swamp were used as support for one of the most earth-shaking scientific theories of all time.

In 1964, a sample removed from an exposed stump of a tree that died when it was about 500 years old was submitted to radiocarbon tests. The analysis showed it to be about 12,534 years old. It was at that time, geologists speculate, that the rambling river swallowed up the forest and began burying it under mud and sediment.

Some of Baton Rouge's ancient wonders are imported, while others are genuine reminders of an era when prehistoric forests, foraging mastodons, and primitive natives occupied the land where our homes are now.

THE MUMMY AT THE ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER

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Baton Rouge is proud of its zoo

WELL MANNERS: ELEPHANT AT THE ZOO

By CONNIE DUPRE

The Greater Baton Rouge Zoo opened on Easter Sunday in 1970. In the years since, opening the zoo has grown and developed a reputation as a leading contributor to the conservation of our world's precious wildlife resources.

The zoo has one of the best hoofstock collections in the country (captive or endangered), a representative Old World primate collection, a large group of big and small cats (including black jaguars and black leopards); a pair of very rare snow leopards; five Atlan lions (the only other American zoo with Atlas lions is the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.); and a good selection of large traditional zoo animals such as elephants (both species), bears (four species), rhinos (the square-lipped or white rhino), and giraffes. The zoo also has a small but selective collection of raptors and tropical birds.

The zoo exhibits approximately 675 animals in 91 exhibits, comprising 148 different species of birds, mammals, and reptiles. The animals are fed every day a balanced diet according to their requirements, and are also checked every day by the zoo veterinarian for any signs of illness or injury. They are tested for parasites and innoculated regularly. The animals at the Baton Rouge Zoo are among the healthiest and best cared for zoo animals in the country.

The zoo offers the distinction of being one of 54 zoos in the country accredited by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (or AZA), and one of the 53 zoos approved for the importation of animals by the United States Department of Agriculture. This means that the Baton Rouge Zoo meets all federal guidelines for the safety, comfort, and good health of the animals.

(Continued on Page 57)

KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

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Welcome animal lovers

Are you an animal lover? Well, you’ve come to the right city! Baton Rouge has an animal show in progress almost any week of the year.

Most of the shows are held at LSU in the Parker Agricultural Center. You can get additional information by calling the LSU Livestock Show Agriculture Center at 388-2255 or 383-1404. For the shows held at Southern University, you can call 771-3210.

The four Sundays in October are traditionally reserved for the Prison Rodeo at Angola, Louisiana. All contestants in these outstanding rodeos are inmates of the state prison; the proceeds go to the prisoners’ Inmate Fund.

You can find information about events and performance times in the newspapers several weeks before the October dates. Tickets are available at the gate.

The Greater Baton Rouge Cat Club has its show in the Centrplex in downtown Baton Rouge, on the 2nd Sunday in March. You can reach entry clerk Susan Lenhardt at 769-3831 for additional information.

Here’s a listing for the animal shows scheduled to be held in the Baton Rouge area for 1983 & 1984:

- Angola Prison Rodeo (Angola, La.) — Each Sunday in October
- The Southern University Fall Horse Show — October 16 (1983)
- The Dixie Jubilee Horse Show (LSU) — November 2-6 (1983)
- The Fall Livestock Show (LSU) — November 17-19 (1983)
- The Fall Quarter Horse Show (LSU) — December 2-4 (1983)
- The Greater Baton Rouge Cat Club Show (Centrplex) — February (1984)
- The Open Livestock Show (LSU) — February 16-19 (1984)
- The Spring National Quarter Horse Show (LSU) — March 16-18 (1984)
- The BREC Rodeo (held at BREC Horse Activity Center, River Road at Brightside) — First Weekend in March (1984)
- The 19th Annual Spring LSU All-Arabian Horse Show — May 3-6 (1984)
- The Hunter and Jumper Horse Show (LSU) — May 10-13 (1984)
- The Paint Horse Show — May 19-20 (1984)
- Baton Rouge Kennel Club Dog Show — Date Unavailable (1984)
- 4-H Short Course (LSU) — June 19-21 (1984)
- 4-H FFA State Light Horse Show (LSU) — July 14-16 (1983)
- Annual All-Arabian Fall Louisiana Horse Show (LSU) — September 13-16 (1984)
- Capitol City Obedience Club Dog Show — 1984 date unavailable
- Dixie Jubilee Horse Show & Livestock Show (LSU) — November 7-11 (1984)

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Plantage homes in close proximity

By MIKE MULHERN

The rich soils bordering on the Mississippi made the Baton Rouge area one of the most agriculturally productive regions in the nation prior to the Civil War, with sugar cane, cotton, indigo and corn being some of the money crops contributing to this area's prosperity. During the Civil War, the area was used as a source of food for Union troops. The region also played a significant role in the development of plantation homes, many of which are still standing today.

Baton Rouge

Magnolia Mound, 2161 Nicholson Drive. Originally built during the 1700s, the site was used as a location for various plantations. The house is now open to the public and serves as a reminder of the area's agricultural history.

PLAZA

Placelake Place, Hwy 63 southeast of Clanton. This is a restored century-old shop which has been converted into a restaurant and shop, offering a variety of local products.

Other homes

Parlane, La. 1, five miles south of La. 460. Built in 1850, this home is one of the oldest extant homes in the state. It was occupied by Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War, and is now open to visitors.

San Francisco, on La. 44, 35 miles upriver from New Orleans. Built in 1834, this home was restored to its original magnificence by the Marathon Oil Company, and is open to the public on weekends.

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Welcome to sportsman's paradise

By MIKE COOK
Outdoor editor

If you like the out-of-doors, you'll love Baton Rouge.
All of the reasons why Louisiana is called "Sportsman's Paradise" are either near Baton Rouge or only a few hours away.

There's hunting, fishing, water skiing, sailing, canoeing, birdwatching, bird-watching, hiking, cycling — any many outdoor activities within easy driving distance of Capital City.

When it comes to fishing, there's everything from brook trout (bluegills and chub) weighing a few ounces to blue marlin weighing more than 1,000 pounds.

The Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico are the most famous of Louisiana's waters, there are also countless lakes, bayous, canals and streams with exciting possibilities for all kinds of recreation on, in, and under the water.

There are probably more boats under more carpports in Baton Rouge than anywhere you've ever lived.

Over the centuries, the Mississippi River has followed several erratic courses, always seeking the path of least resistance to the Gulf as it drained surplus water from a major portion of the North American continent. One result has been to straighten itself in some places, leaving several "U" or horseshoe-shaped oxbows along its former path. There are several oxbow lakes in Louisiana, some of which are still fed and flushed by the Mississippi. Almost all have good gamefish populations.

Favorites with Baton Rougeans are False River and Old River, in nearby Pointe Coupee Parish. Others include Lake Bruin and Lake St. Joseph in Texas Parish.

High water from the Mississippi still enters Old River and its level, therefore, fluctuates with the flow in and out over the dam in the Narrows. Although this annual flushing may interfere with fishing for a while during the spring and cause silting in some areas, it restocks the oxbow, contributing to excellent populations of black bass, sac-a-lait, bream, catfish and white and yellow bass.

Some four and five-pound striped bass, one of the kind which grow up to 70 pounds in salt water, have been caught at Old River during periods of high or falling water, but biologists of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries aren't sure how they got there.

False River, about 35 miles from Baton Rouge, has been completely cut off from the Mississippi for many years but has maintained good, healthy fish populations without an annual flushing — and despite heavy fishing pressure. It also has bass, sac-a-lait and bream, but has never had many yellow or white bass, which prefer moving water. It has, however, been stocked with hybrid striped bass — a mixture of the true striped and the white bass. Some of these fish now weight 12 pounds and scientists expect them to grow to 15 or 20 pounds.

True stripers, some of them now approaching 40 pounds, have been stocked at Toledo Bend — a large impoundment on the Texas-Louisiana border, regarded by many experts as one of the top 10 fishing lakes in the nation — and several other lakes in the state. Hybrids have also been stocked at Toledo Bend and other bodies of water.

One of the favorite fishing areas for south Louisiana anglers is the giant Atchafalaya Basin — a semi-wilderness area of almost a half million acres between the bridge at Krotz Springs and Morgan City.

The Basin, or Spillway as it is affectionately known to many, is split north and south by the Atchafalaya River and east and west — between Baton Rouge and Lafayette — by Interstate 10.

Were it not for the Old River control structure which prevents it, the Atchafalaya River would probably capture the Mississippi.

(Continued on Page 61)