Lafayette Had No Crooked Streets Once Upon A Time

By MILDA GALLASPERO

Could you believe 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 was laid out for Jean Mouton by his surveyor, who was paid in tobacco and quite well pleased. And that her streets run north and south and east to west—just as they do everywhere else.

So, if the surveyor was neither drunk nor off his rocker—awesome! Well, the way the yarn goes, then the railroad came through. That was sometime around 1881 and new streets were opened up; existing trails were extended. And mostly, they were curved to accommodate the pedestrians and sometimes they paralleled the tracks and sometimes they crossed it. And besides—who really wants to take the long way when he can cut across?

Opousas -

Opousas' first inhabitants were Indians and the city derived its name from a tribe that once lived there—the Opousas Indians. This tribe was killed off, exiled, and hosted by the white man from a time later and had no rights.

At that time Opousas was a vast Atakapousa territory stretching from Alexandria on the north to the Sabine River on the south. Early French traders in 1689 found several villages of Opousas Indians in the area. Under the rule of the Spanish, El Peso de Opousas was called one of the Atakapousa Territory.

With the transfer of Louisiana from France to France and then to the United States in 1803 the area became a district incorporated Feb. 21, 1821. Opousas was also capital of Confederate Louisiana from May 1, 1862 to Jan. 23, 1863.

Carretera -

There is a legend that in Italian days, a mastodon died in the vicinity of Carretera. Thousands of boulders fed for weeks on the carcass, leaving the bare and whitened bones lying on the prairie. The explanation is that the town took its name from the carion crow, eventually buzzard. (If you ask me I'd really rather be from Carretera than from Buzzard.)

Youngsville -

The town of Youngsville began in 1853 when J.J. Roy took up land there, bringing with him a wagon, everything he owned. In 1899 the town was laid out either by J.J. Roy or by his son, Desire Roy and was called Boisville. But Boisville became so confused with Bayouville that, at the request of the postoffice department, the name was changed to Youngville. It was incorporated in 1883 with A.A. Dyer as mayor.

Million -

It is not known when Million was first settled. Some accounts of persons living there today take up lands in the vicinity as early as 1822. The town was named after Milton Chaddam, a younger son of the John Chaddam who settled there about 1810 and became one of its leading citizens.

Broussard -

The first settler in what is now Broussard was old "Bert" Soubri - be of the happy countenance, who led some of the early Acadians from Nova Scotia, Mr. Valois. Broussard acquired land on which the town is located. Other early inhabitants were the Malvoisins, Malvasseaux, Broussards and the St. Juiles names still prevalent in Broussard.

Scott -

The name, Scott, was given in honor of G. P. Scott, who was a divinity student of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The village was never formally surveyed into blocks and streets till just grew.

One of the first inhabitants of the little town was V. Cayard, native of France, who took up land in the area before 1860. The French gentleman refused to give the railroad a right-of-way through his land unless the officials promised to place a statue on his property, thus encouraging the building of a town there.

They agreed, but evidently some local residents resisted the railroad. There is a per-