Old Arsenal Museum Marks Anniversary

Thursday marks the third anniversary of the Old Arsenal Museum on the State Capitol grounds, a tourist attraction visited by more than 283,000 persons in the last three years.

The old fort has had many nations' flags fly over its breastworks and last saw action during the Civil War. It was opened as a museum July 1, 1962, and has various displays representing significant chapters in Louisiana's history.

Two new attractions soon to be displayed relate to the Casket Girls and the West Florida rebellion in the early part of the 19th century.

The Casket Girls were brought over from France in 1718 just after the founding of New Orleans to become wives of bachelor Louisiana settlers. They got their name from the small trunks or caskets in which they carried their possessions.

The museum is governed by a five-member commission headed by Mrs. J. A. Tucker. Other members are Mrs. Florence Peters, secretary-treasurer, Hayes Town, Byrne Womack and Raymond Bridgeman serve as hosts at the old fort, which is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.