Three Parishes Are United by Waters of Lafourche

Body Has Long Been an Important Link

BY CLAIRE PUNKEY

THIBODAUX, LA. - Bayou Lafourche, "the Fork of the Choctaw Indians," stretching from the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, for long generations has been an important link for the three South Louisiana parishes of Lafourche, Assumption and Ascension.

Docile and quiet, it rests between the banks of these parishes, accepting whatever use its population may make of it today. It harbors fishing craft in the southern tip of Lafourche Parish, feeds water to sugar and other industries at its middle, and diverts Mississippi River water to its own use at its upper reaches.

All three parishes of this bayou are part of the Louisiana Sugar Belt, producing that great commodity which long ago supplanted an early crop known as indigo.

It is perhaps fitting that of the three parishes on the bayou, the one that borders it in greatest length, Lafourche, bears its name. And in the parish of Lafourche, down the bay from Thibodaux, it is an area also named for the stream.

This is Lafourche Crossing, today a small settlement with sugar cane fields predominating on its landscape, but a little more than a century ago the site of a battle that bears its name in the history of the Civil War.

MAINLY OIL

Far down the bayou in the vicinity of Leeville, the scene is one mainly of oil activity, and for many years now the Lafourche has accommodated itself to supporting equipment for this industry.

Golden Meadow, going up the bayou, but a location near its southern tip, presents a scene of busy activity, with its shrimp boats, oyster luggers and wharves to receive the catch from the Gulf and preserve it for discerning palates.

In this area and beyond going upstream are the signs of the industry of boat construction, and a considerable stretch of the bayou is devoted to this craft.

The people at the southern end of Lafourche Parish are calling attention to their blessings in festivals and other events. In Golden Meadow there is the blessing of the fleet. Gallo...