Bayou Lafourche District Honors Late Chairman

By CLAIRE PUNEKY

THIBODAUX, La. — A weir in Bayou Lafourche was dedicated Sunday in memory of the late David H. Barker of Thibodaux by his cousin, T. M. Barker, president of the Lafourche Parish Police Jury.

Leonard J. Toups, chairman of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, presided at the ceremonies and said Barker, who had preceded him as chairman, worked with great zeal to obtain the dam in Bayou Lafourche.

He said the weir's purpose is to impound emergency water and water for normal drinking purposes the year around and that David Barker had envisioned such a need.

He had also seen a need for a reservoir of water in the bayou for the future when the population would increase and industries would establish themselves in the area, Toups said.

Toups, who was one of four legislators who had brought the fresh water district into existence in 1950, gave a brief history of the project. He said the reservoir from Donaldsonville to Thibodaux, which extends 35 miles, now impounds 300 billion gallons of water. He added that Ascension, Assumption and Lafourche Parishes make up the district and derive water from the bayou and that Terrebonne Parish is expected to begin using its water.

In his talk preceding the dedication, T. M. Barker said that the weir will contribute to the growth of this community. He cited David Barker's efforts, despite criticism, and said "criticism never bothered David Barker. We are in a critical period, and we need more David Barkers," he said.

Mayor Warren J. Harang Jr. of Thibodaux welcomed the friends and relatives of David Barker to the ceremony.

Members of the Barker family were introduced at the ceremony. They included his widow, Mrs. Nancy Barker, who succeeded her late husband as a member of the Lafourche Parish Police Jury; her sons, David H. Jr. and Marc Barker, and her daughter, Nancy Gail Barker. Also introduced was Barker's mother, Mrs. Charles J. Barker.

Giving the response for the Barker family was Brother Lee Barker, S.C., principal of St. Stanislaus College in Bay St. Louis, Miss., brother of the man for whom the weir was named.

Other members of the district board of commissioners participating were John Spano, Ascension; C. F. Daigle Jr., and Sabin Savoie, both of Assumption, and James H. Summersgill and Moise Martin, both of Lafourche.