

NOTES AND ISSUES

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NO. 5

Voodoo Festival Moves to Bayou Side of Park

City Park to Allow Camping

The Voodoo Musical Experience, the City's premier Fall festival, is moving to a new location in City Park. This year the Halloween weekend event will take place on the site of the South Golf Course, which is being dug up and converted into festival grounds. And, for the first time, the audience will be invited to spend the nights under the Oaks in City Park, which may turn into one of the largest sleepovers in the City's history.

The new festival grounds location, which is along Wisner just south of I-610, has caused some concern for residents of Faubourg St. John, including at least one person living in the 1800 block of Moss Street, which is directly across the Bayou from the festival grounds. Residents of Parkview and the City Park Triangle have also expressed concern about the noise and the traffic that the Festival is expected to bring to the neighborhoods.

For an additional \$35 a festival-goer will be permitted to camp in an area adjacent to the musical staging area. The details are just being put together, but the camping concept is creating much excitement with the posts of the Voodoo-faithful on the festival's message boards - www.voodoo musicfest.com.

The announcement that the Voodoo Festival would be moved to the Bayou side of the Park came as a surprise to many residents, who learned of the move in

(Continued on page 6)

Average Rent for a One Bedroom Apartment in Parkview is \$852

A survey of rents in Parkview for the first six months of the year revealed that the average listed rent for a one bedroom apartment in Parkview was \$852 per month.

The average listed rent for a two bedroom apartment was \$960.

The survey was conducted by using published listings in *The Times-Picayune*, *Gambit Weekly*, and various real estate

(Continued on top of page 2)

General Meeting Postponed Until October

Renewal Drive Successful

Articles on Page 5

[From Page One]

(Continued from page 1)

sites that list rentals. Some newspaper listings will not contain an address; only a phone number. Listings without an address were not included in the survey. Phone numbers were not called to inquire about the address.

If a "For Rent" sign on the property listed a price, then that rental was included in the survey. However, if a rent price was not included on the sign, then that rental was not considered. In other words, phone numbers on signs were not called in order to inquire of rental price.

Rentals are difficult to track in New Orleans because many landlords do not advertise, relying rather on word of mouth or referrals from friends and relatives.

Rents ranged from a one bedroom apartment for \$650 to \$1,895 for a three bedroom double. Furnished apartments were not included in the survey, nor were corporate rentals.

No single family homes were for rent during this six month period. This would suggest that most single family homes in Parkview are owner-occupied.

When landlords did advertise available rental property, the overwhelming choice was *GambitWeekly*. Of the 17 Parkview properties included in this survey that were advertised in newspapers during this six month period, fifteen were advertised in *GambitWeekly*, with only two being advertised in *The Times-Picayune*. However, it must be pointed out that that this ratio is not consistent city-wide.

Internet-only listings are starting to come of age in New Orleans. Craigslist, the popular internet marketplace, now includes New Orleans listings. On July 3rd there were 25 new listings for apartments in New Orleans. A recent report suggested that newspapers in the Bay Area, where Craigslist was founded, have lost tens of millions of dollars in classified ad revenue because of Craigslist.

This survey of Parkview rentals will be published every six months. The Faubourg St. John and Faubourg Pontchartrain neighborhoods are also being tracked for comparison purposes. The City Park Triangle will not be included because it has very few rental properties. ■

**DON'T FORGET - IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED**

Problems Reported By Members

NOTE: If you have a problem to report that you'd like for the Association to take action on, please let us know either at 483-0733 or marktullis@bellsouth.net.

DATE PROBLEM RE-PORTED	DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM	STATUS OF RESOLUTION
Feb. 2003	Parking of vehicles on the banks of the Bayou, especially near the Magnolia Gardens/Harding Bridge.	The Association has exhausted nearly all options in trying to discourage vehicles from parking on the Bayou. The next step is to work with the City in erecting granite curbing to physically prevent vehicles from parking on the Bayou.
March 2003	Roosevelt. Automobiles parked improperly make it difficult for large emergency vehicles to travel down the street.	Ideas needed by members on how to address this problem. Another Roosevelt resident has recently brought this matter to the Association's attention. More members from Roosevelt are needed.
June 2004	Improper parking on Dumaine near Carrollton making entering and exiting driveways difficult.	All members who need or desire street marking will be contacted. Board is embarking on a project to ask the City to strip areas around driveways to give guidance to drivers. This will be included in the parking and traffic master plan.
Oct. 2004	Commercial flyers being placed on doors, creating litter.	Businesses are contacted, asking them to patrol areas to look for litter.
Oct. 2004	Condition of street on St. John Court	Will target this as a street to repair after Olga and Picheloup work is completed.
Oct. 2004	Empty lot on Moss and St. John Court needs attention	Owner of record will be notified. Owner has responded and grass was cut. However, the job was not complete and a follow up is necessary.
Jan. 2005	Speeding on Harding Drive	Will be addressed with traffic and parking study being conducted.
April 2005	Storage Pods	Commercial storage pods are being kept on lawns and in front of homes for long periods of time.

[Parkview Opinion]

EDITORIAL

CITY PARK'S BIG GAMBLE: CONCERTS NEAR THE BAYOU

In the April issue of *Notes and Issues*, this page questioned the speed with which City Park's Master Plan was being approved and implemented, asking:

"Have the right questions even been asked yet? For example, have residents of the Bayou area given much thought to the location and purpose of the proposed festival grounds?"

The Voodoo Music Experience, which was formerly at the Old Driving Range, is being moved to this new festival grounds. The area, which was formerly a golf course, will host the musical event the weekend of October 29-30. This will be a test for both the Park and its neighbors.

Neighbors who live along the Bayou and City Park have expressed concerns. The festival grounds runs along Wisner near the DeSaix bridge, and residents along Moss will be impacted.

There are other concerns too. If the purpose of this festival grounds is to be a source of revenue for the park, then more festivals are anticipated. Yet, New Orleans is a very expensive city for tourists to visit, especially for the young, who are the most likely to attend such events. City Park has addressed this issue by allowing camping in the park. For \$35 a festival-goer will be allowed to spend the weekend sleeping in the park.

Few doubt that this event will be successful, and the cheap camping concept will be a major draw, as talked about on the Voodoo on-line message boards. The folks at City Park may soon find themselves to be in the concert promotion business.

A financial success, yes, but what about a success for neighborhood relations. As the park tries to win favor for its master plan and funding, why do something now that may encourage the plan's detractors?

LETTERS

Policy Regarding Letters

Letters from members to *Notes and Issues* are welcome with the understanding that there is no vested or absolute right to have letters published. Letters may be edited to reduce length or for reasons of style or content. No letter will be published that attacks another member or attempts to bring a personal disagreement between two members before the membership at large. Letters that might discourage or disparage membership in the Association will not be published.

Libelous material is never allowed. A letter containing information which could be construed as libel will not be printed.

Letters may either be e-mailed to marktullis@bellsouth.net or simply mailed to Parkview Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 791577, New Orleans, LA 70179.

Next General Meeting Will Be Held in October

The Board of the Parkview Neighborhood Association has decided to cancel the July general meeting. The next meeting will be in October. The date of this meeting will be in the September newsletter.

The Association meets quarterly, and the Summer meeting is the most poorly attended one of the four. Also, there are no pressing issues on the agenda that can't be deferred until the Fall meeting.

If any member would like to have an item added to the agenda, please bring the matter to the attention of the Board. ■

Membership Drive Successful: 94% Renewal Rate

The 2005 membership drive for the Association was successful as 69 members renewed. Only four members who continue to live in Parkview did not renew their memberships. Parkview Tavern renewed its membership and is now the only business in Parkview that is also a member of the Association.

Renewal notices were sent to all members who joined the Association prior to July 2004. Those who joined in the second half of 2004 had their memberships carried over to 2005. Membership dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families.

Every new homebuyer in Parkview is sent a membership packet. The response is usually good, with over half of these new residents joining the Association.

There are currently approximately 90 dues paying members of the Parkview Neighborhood Association. ■

Who Receives the Newsletter?

Besides members of the Association each issue of the newsletter is mailed to about two dozen city and state officials. These include some city council members, mayor's office, City Planning Commission, State Senator Murray, and State Representative Bruneau. The major institutions that border Parkview, such as Cabrini High School, Holy Rosary, and the Pitot House also receive copies. All neighborhood associations that border Parkview are also mailed copies. ■

[Parkview News]

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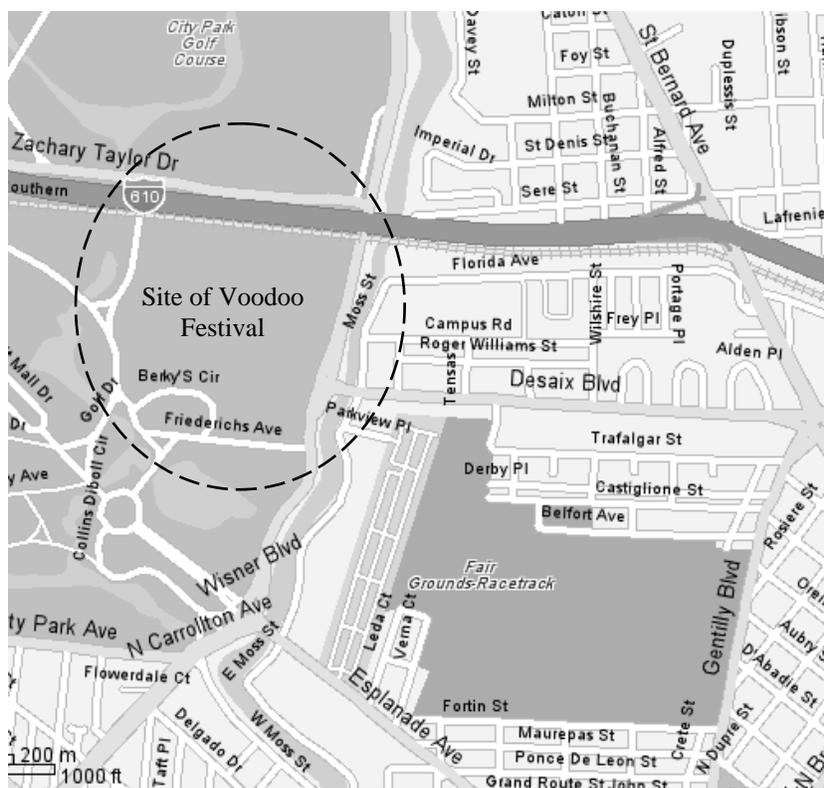
the June 24 issue of *The Times-Picayune*. However, the Park's executive director Bob Becker discussed the move in a January 26 article in the same newspaper. Mr. Becker said then, "If the move is approved, the park would spend \$4 million to transform the land into festival grounds for large events such as the Voodoo Music Experience. When the area is not being used for events, it would be open green space for the public."

The South golf course will be closed in July, with the land fenced in for the Voodoo Festival. According to the June 24 article Mr. Becker said, "This will give us an opportunity to see how well (the site) works. We think we can contain all aspects of the event better over there: parking, noise, crowds."

There were some problems when the Voodoo Festival was at its old location, which was within earshot of Lakeview's important commercial corridor on Harrison Avenue. In a letter to Steve Rehage, the producer of the Voodoo event, Mr. Becker wrote optimistically about the new site. However, Mr. Becker also reminded Mr. Rehage that the Park has "repeatedly impressed upon you our desire for the music acts to be modified so as not to include acts which use profanity." (The complete text of the letter can be found on page eight.)

Mr. Rehage's name is one that people need to remember. The 41 year old New Orleans native, who was a defensive back for LSU, is a rising star in the festival promotion business. Last year, when the Jazz and Heritage Foundation Board made it known that it was opening up to competition the future management of the Jazz Festival, Mr. Rehage put together a solid bid that nearly won him control over the largest musical festival in the country.

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

Some observers feel that now that Churchill Downs has slot machines at Fair Grounds it will be less interested in hosting the Jazz Festival. For years people have argued over where Jazz Fest would move should Fair Grounds become available. With the new festival grounds at City Park, and with Mr. Rehage's experience in producing the park's major musical event, a partnership could be in the making that may make any move of Jazz Fest easier than most could have ever envisioned. ■

San Francisco Residents Complain About Street Festivals

On the same day that City Park announced that the Voodoo Music Festival would take place at the new festival grounds, residents in San Francisco were complaining about the proliferation of street fairs and festivals in Bay Area neighborhoods.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported in its June 24 issue that many residents are begging for mercy. "It's hell," said a Haight resident, who often leaves town. "It's a zoo - noisy, crowded, no parking. Life comes to a complete end for anyone not participating. It's totally inconvenient, and it needs to stop."

Residents see as the answer either limiting the number of festivals and fairs, or moving them out of the neighborhoods and into Golden Gate Park.

Supporters of the festivals said that while the street fairs are inconvenient to residents, the benefits the festivals provide to the local economy are important. Some area businesses though complain that their sales actually decline during the festivals and that the only businesses who do well are those vendors from out of town. ■

Members Urged to Complete Traffic Survey

In the center of this issue of the newsletter you will find a brief one page survey that asks for your comments regarding traffic in Parkview. The questions on the survey concern the use of one way streets and four way stop signs as means to better control traffic and parking. At the last general meeting in April many of those who were in attendance filled out the questionnaire, but more input is needed.

A committee is now being formed that will evaluate changes in parking and traffic for Parkview. The committee was formed because many members have expressed concern over these issues. ■

City Park Expresses Concern over Profanity at Voodoo Festival

In preparation for the 2005 Voodoo Festival, and its move to a new location in City Park, the management of the Park reminded the festival organizers that the use of profanity by performers and musical acts will not be tolerated. The following letter which is dated May 31, 2005, is from Robert W. Becker, CEO of City Park, and it is addressed to Steve Rehage, the producer of the Voodoo Festival. The letter shows copies to Mayor Nagin, Councilman Batt and State Representative Peppi Bruneau. The letter was forwarded to the neighborhood associations in the City Park area.

The text of the letter is reprinted here in its entirety. ■

* * * * *

Mr. Steve Rehage
Rehage Entertainment
75 Ninth Avenue, 2nd Floor
New York, New York 10020

Re: 2005 Voodoo Music Experience

Dear Mr. Rehage:

As you know, we have been in discussions about the 2005 Voodoo Music Experience. You have requested the ability to move to the South Golf Course for this year's event and we hope to accommodate you primarily because we think the South Course is more suitable for this type of event and better able to contain any sound, which comes from the music venues.

As you also know, we have repeatedly impressed upon you our desire for the music acts to be modified so as not to include acts which use profanity. You have indicated your desire to alter the type of music offered to include more moderate acts.

Our contract with you states, "(LESSEE agrees that the content of the Event is not offensive to public morals or speech. LESSOR has the right to object to said performances not to be subject seven (7) days prior to each events date)". I am informing you now that the LESSOR, New

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Orleans City Park Improvement Association formally objects to any act in which profanity is used, as it is offensive to public morals and speech.

Furthermore, it is our intent to be on the Festival Grounds with appropriate New Orleans Police to enforce this provision. If an acts use profanity we will reduce the sound level so that it is not audible beyond the immediate stage area or pull the amplification entirely. We have both tried to address this issue in the past. Clearly, from the amount of complaints we received last year as well as previous years, we have been unsuccessful. I find this to be the effort of last resort. It is clear that this contract envisioned performances, which would not be offensive, and some of them have been. If you are not successful in ensuring that the performances are not offensive, we will consider the contract breached. We will enforce this provision of the contract regardless of venue.

I look forward to working with you on the new site plan and other arrangements for the event and am happy to discuss any aspect of the event with you.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Becker
Chief Executive Officer

Mid-City Plays Host to First High End Condo Project in Area

A developer plans to build a dozen high price two story condo units on top of the Reuter Seed Company Building at Carrollton and Bienville, making it the first significant condo project in Mid-City. The two and three bedroom units will sell for about \$250 per square foot.

Some real estate experts interviewed by *The Times-Picayune* for the article, expressed caution about the project. Wade Ragas of UNO's Real Estate Market Data Center said that the project was "pioneering for Mid-City." He noted that because the units are large and the per foot price is high, the developer is left with a small market of potential buyers.

One added amenity that the units will have is access to full power from a generator, which would come in handy during hurricane season. The article also noted that being next to the streetcar line would be a big plus.

Fair Grounds Gets Slot Machines and New Building; Neighborhood Gets Midnight Closing (Plus Security Detail)

On June 16 the City Council approved a measure that would allow Churchill Downs to install slot machines at Fair Grounds. However, the slots must shut down each night by Midnight, a compromise, which appears to be a victory for the Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association (FSJNA). And, as an added concession to the neighborhoods around Fair Grounds, Churchill Downs will provide the neighborhoods with security patrols.

In the weeks leading up to the final vote by the City Council both FSJNA and an independent neighborhood task force organized a major assault on the slots proposal. Letters to the Editor were published in *The Times-Picayune*, phone calls were made to City Council members, and the matter was discussed and debated daily everywhere from radio talk shows to internet message boards.



The climax of the controversy came on May 31 when Churchill Downs hosted a meeting at its facility. What Churchill Downs surely thought would be a cordial meeting turned into a shouting match between neighbors. Randy Soth, President of Fair Grounds, was regularly heckled when speaking. At one point someone yelled at him to state where he resided. When he said the French Quarter, a woman stood up and screamed that she lived across the street from the track and was seeing her neighborhood destroyed.

Tommy Usdin, President of FSJNA, outlined his organization's position on the issue. During the course of the meeting Mr. Usdin and others urged those in the audience to be civil and courteous to each other and Fair Grounds management.

Audience members who opposed slot machines not only shouted at Churchill Downs representatives but also those in the audience who voiced approval of the slot proposal. One man stood up to say that he supports the slot machine proposal, saying that he believes that Fair Grounds is an important part of the City, adding that he thought Churchill Downs was a fine company. To this one woman in a rage stood up and yelled, "You live on Dumaine Street."

In the end though City Councilman Jay Batt was able to broker a compromise between Churchill Downs and the neighborhood. ■

City Park History 100 Years Ago This Month; Park Open Late to Accommodate Workingman – 1901

Editor's Note: In the early 20th century the affairs of City Park were widely reported in the city's newspapers, most notably The Daily Picayune and The Times-Democrat. The City Beautiful movement was in full swing by this time, and its major tenets, particularly an appreciation of aesthetics, were most evident in New Orleans in the development of parks. Since the development of Parkview is so closely linked with the development of City Park, we are continuing with a series focusing on how activities at the park were reported a century ago.

The following is from an article in The Daily Picayune from 1901. The title of the article is "The City Park Will be Open Until Ten O'clock at Night to Give Tired Workers a Chance to Explore its Cool and Quiet Beauty."

Beginning tonight the City Park will be kept open until 10 o'clock. The board of commissioners so decided at their meeting yesterday evening. The public has long wanted the park kept open longer, as it is only after sunset that the workingman has an opportunity to enjoy the charms which the delightful resort offers. The matter was finally taken up by the executive committee, and it was on their recommendation that the commissioners acted yesterday. The park will remain open every evening until 10 o'clock during the remainder of the summer season.

The matter of lighting Metairie Road will also be given attention. On the recommendation of the executive committee the board instructed the committee on water works, under the chairmanship of Mr. Torre, to correspond with the mayor and council and lay the matter before them.

While the park is open in the evening the music stand will be lighted through the courtesy of the Orleans Railroad Company and the arc lights will also be operated.

The secretary was instructed to correspond with the mayor and council relative to getting the lines of the City park from the city engineer as it is intended to construct a fence which will divide the park property from that of the Louisiana Boat Club.

The thanks of the board were voted to Mr. O. A. Weibel for the donation of an American flag on July 4, and the Patriotic Order Sons of America and merchants were thanked for the part they took in the festival.

The squirrels which Judge Sambola intended getting for the park will not arrive yet. They are too expensive at present, and the 100 pair, the purchase of which was contemplated, will stay in Texas. Mike Biri's pair will have the park to themselves in the meantime.

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[City Park History]

(Continued from page eleven)

Judge Sambola moved that Congressman Meyer be requested to use his influence to get proper books on fishery and forestry from the government printing office. If the volumes are procured, Judge Sambola will donate about thirty which he has collected.

The executive committee reported that during the past month the park was kept in good condition and the lake was several times cleaned of weeds. They reported the donation of a flag by Mr. Weibel, a pair of squirrels by Mr. Biri and a number of old bomb shells from Morro Castle, Havana, by Mr. M. Schwartz.

Treasurer P.M. Schneidau reported a cash balance of \$1,393.55.

A letter from the drainage commission showed that the matter of equipping the southeast corner of the park with better drainage was receiving their attention. At a meeting of the commission on June 13, on the recommendation of the chief engineer, it was decided to put in that section of the park a proper drain of suitable section and grade, leading from the intersection of Metairie Road and Carrollton Avenue to the Orleans relief canal. It is proposed later to change this for a terra cotta pipe of proper dimension. The city engineer was instructed by the drainage commission to proceed with the work at once.

A letter from Miss Sophie B. Wright thanked the commissioners for the use of the park for the waif's outing, under the auspices of the King's Daughters.

Vice President E. W. Smith occupied the chair at the meeting in the absence of Mayor Capdevielle. The following members of the board were present: Joseph Bernard, P.M. Schneideau, V. Anseman, M. Biri, C.F. Claiborne, Charles Dittman, F.J. Dreyfous, H.L. Frantz, P. Torre, L.A. Richards, A. Sambola, J.J. Weinfurter, James Thibaut, Sidney Story and Julius Koch. ■

Kids and Architecture

The State's Division of Historic Preservation has available on its site a coloring book that uses the alphabet to teach children about architecture. The charming coloring book is free and available for download at <http://www.laheritage.org/>

While you are at the site be sure to check out the Division's page on Louisiana's contribution to the National Register of Historic Places. There you'll find a list of 130 places in New Orleans that are on the register, including the Parkview Historic District. ■

Book Review:

A Fierce and Fractious Frontier: The Curious Development of Louisiana's Florida Parishes, 1699-2000

While the Northshore, particularly St. Tammany Parish, may be the fastest growing region in the state, its citizens remain underserved by historians. Residents of Covington and Mandeville, the two most important cities on the Northshore, would be challenged to fill even a linear foot of their bookshelves with titles that reflect their area's rich past.

This doesn't have to be the case. St. Tammany Parish's archives are deep and substantial. Recently, researchers hired by J.P. Morgan were able to use these archival records to substantiate that Louisiana banks that the New York investment house recently acquired had financed the purchase of slaves, a tale that was reported on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Samuel C. Hyde, Jr., pictured at right, a professor at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond is trying to remedy this problem by bringing much needed attention to the Northshore. Dr. Hyde's previous book, *The Dilemma of Democracy in Louisiana's Florida Parishes, 1810-1899*, was the first contemporary work that examined the history of the region, and it is only fitting that *A Fierce and Fractious Frontier: The Curious Development of Louisiana's Florida Parishes, 1699-2000* (LSU Press; 2004), a new collection of essays on broader topics related to the Florida Parishes, is edited by Dr. Hyde.



Dr. Hyde echoes the sentiment of scholars north of I-10 when he points out in his introduction that too often New Orleans and Cajun culture receive great attention at the expense of other regions of the state:

Explorers and early pioneers from three different nations recognized the strategic importance the Florida Parishes commanded. Yet those familiar with the published history of Louisiana over the past century will know that the region's relevance has somehow become abbreviated, if not forgotten, over time. Tales of Cajuns, Creoles, and the debauchery of New Orleans have come to dominate both popular and professional impressions of Louisiana. While Acadiana and the Crescent City are significant in their own right, popular interest in

(Continued on page 14)

[Parkview Book Review]

(Continued from page 13)

these locals has undoubtedly distracted attention from the region that arguably experienced the most dramatic pattern of Louisiana, if not the entire Gulf South.

Charles Elliott discusses in his essay the role the native Indians played in the development of the area surrounding Lake Pontchartrain, reminding the reader that the preferred route to the colony, which was via Bayou St. John, was itself of Indian origin. As the Indian nations collapsed in the face of European colonization, the tribes took defensive positions. For example, the Houmas nation, reduced by disease and war, abandoned its Florida Parishes homeland to settle on Bayou St. John. Further east the Acollapissas and Nachitoches tribes defended access to the Lake.

The Florida Parishes are called such because the eight parishes running west to east from East Baton Rouge Parish to St. Tammany Parish, were surrendered by the French to the English in 1763. Until 1783 this area, which included the City of Baton Rouge, was ruled by the British. The introduction points out that:

A significant proportion of the white population in the Florida parishes boasts an English heritage, unlike the white population throughout the rest of the state and the Gulf South. In the wake of the American Revolution substantial numbers of British loyalists, feeling persecution along the eastern seaboard, migrated to then Spanish West Florida in an effort to escape the overlordship of their former rebel enemies. Their presence established in the area a pocket of so called "Torries," many of English descent, who remained intensely suspicious of most forms of authority.

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 did not include the Florida Parishes, which stayed in control of Spain. In 1810 the local residents were able to overthrow their Spanish rulers. After seventy-four days of local rule, William C.C. Claiborne, the territorial governor of Louisiana, seized the land as territory of the United States.

Although *A Fierce and Fractious Frontier: The Curious Development of Louisiana's Florida Parishes, 1699-2000* covers background history, it is nonetheless an economic history of the region, with great emphasis on the lumber industry. Slavery, for example, is covered as a labor matter, so those readers who desire discussions of sociology will be disappointed.

However, for any New Orleanian living in a house built before 1920 the lumber industry should be of interest. The Northshore was timber country and the longleaf pine was its greatest export. Because of the lack of urbanization virgin tree groves were abundant, so much so that a "cut out and get out" mentality prevailed. Mills to cut the timber sprung up everywhere. Amos Kent's milling operation eventually be-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

came the town of Kentwood. Railroads were established in order to transport the finished product to market, and eventually this finished product ended up as floorboards in New Orleans homes. However, the damage was done.

The timber was rapidly being cleared, and the end of the virgin longleaf forest was near. By the early 1930's, virtually all the virgin forest had been taken down and the last of the big mills ceased operations, thus marking the end of the "cut out and get out" era in the longleaf pine country. It is probable that well over one million acres of virgin longleaf pine forest in the interior of the Florida Parishes were logged out from 1890 to 1930. A magnificent forest that stood for thousands of years was now little more than a memory. (Note: Most of the homes in Parkview, as well as Mid-City, were built during this booming lumber period.)

LSU Press simultaneously published the book both in cloth and in paper, offering serious readers of local history a rare opportunity to save money. The hardcover is marked at \$60, while the paperback is a third of that price. ■

Web Site of the Month: NOPL Obituary Index

The New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) is continuing a project of putting online in a searchable database all of the obituaries that have ever appeared in New Orleans newspapers. The database is available for use, free of charge, through the library's site at: <http://obits.gno.lib.la.us/nopl/obitindex.htm>

The easy to use database allows a reader to do a search by family name. Once the correct person is located the date of death is given. However, more importantly the entry will list all of the published obituaries of the individual. This could include many different newspapers. This allows most of the research to be done at home with one's computer. However, in order to read the obituary one must go to a library to view a newspaper on microfilm.

The Obituary Index has its origin in the 1930's when WPA workers at NOPL began using an index card system to record obituaries. The number of cards in the index grew to 650,000, where they are still housed at the library. In 1999 the Historic New Orleans Collection embarked on a joint program with NOPL to produce the computerized database.

The index is a work in progress. Not all of the alphabet is complete, as of yet, but in due time this index will be a major source of information for locals and genealogists. ■

[*Parkview Events*]

PARKVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday July 10 8:00 - 10:00 PM	Scene Study for Actors Fair Grinds Coffee House Advanced Scene Study for Actors with Edward Holub	
Thursday July 14 6:00 PM	Twilight Concert Series City Park's Botanical Garden In honor of Bastille Day Celebration a pianist performs music from cabaret halls. \$6 admission charge.	
Saturday July 16	Tropical Plant Sale City Park's Botanical Garden Gingers, plumeria, and heliconias will be available.	
Saturday July 30 10:00 AM- 4:00	Mid-City Art Market Monthly event moves to its new location in City Park, near the tennis courts. See story below.	

Lakeview Fine Foods to Purchase Whole Foods Site

After contentious meetings, hundreds of e-mails, and plenty of strong vocal opinions, the future of the Whole Foods site was announced rather quietly in a few paragraphs in the June 13 issue of *CityBusiness*.

According to the article Lakeview Fine Foods won the bidding competition to purchase the property on Esplanade. At the end two grocery store owners were interested in the location: Cosimo Matassa of Matassa's Market in the French Quarter, and Charles Ciaccio of Lakeview Fine Foods on Harrison Avenue.

Mr. Matassa told *CityBusiness* that he bid \$1.1 million for the property, which according to Mr. Matassa, was about \$200,000 greater than the Lakeview Fine Foods bid. Mr. Matassa said that he was told that Mr. Ciaccio's bid was selected because Mr. Ciaccio "reportedly promised to make the store exactly like the former Whole Foods."

According to an article in *The Times-Picayune* Mr. Ciaccio and a group of investors recently purchased four store grocery chain on the Gulf Coast. ■