

DAR Dedication of Marker Is Set

The New Orleans Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold an Historical Marker Dedication program at 2 p. m. Sunday on the West Bank of Bayou St. John at Moss st. and City Park ave. **MAR 19 1964**

The Metairie and Gentilly Ridges, connecting ridges which formed the nucleus of the first highway through New Orleans, lower Kenner to Chef Menteur, will be marked.

Sidney L. Villere, assistant genealogist general of the General Society of 1812, will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Rudolph J. Holzer Jr., State Regent, N.S.D.A.R., will dedicate the marker.

DAR TO MARK SITE OF FIRST N.O. ROAD

The site of the nucleus of the first highway through New Orleans will be marked by New Orleans Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dedication ceremonies are being set up at Metairie and Gentilly ridges on the West bank of Bayou St. John at Moss street and City Park ave., Sunday, March 22, at 2 p. m., Mrs. Robert C. Paslay, regent, announces.

Metairie and Gentilly Ridges, first highway through the city, led from lower Kenner to Chef Menteur, say Mrs. S. R. Campbell of Hymel and Dr. Isabel M. French, New Orleans, who did the historical research for the marker.

The Mississippi River, they point out, overflowed into Lake Pontchartrain during prehistoric times. The receding of the waters created the ridges and their accompanying bayous, which connected at the City Park area with Bayou St. John, named after Jean Baptiste le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville.

These connecting ridges, joining Bayou St. John and its ridges, formed the first highway through the city of New Orleans, they point out.

A ridge, or road, which ran parallel to a bayou (whose name is not listed on the old maps) bore the name Camino del Bayou San Juan. This road started at Bayou Roads and

North Claiborne. Bayou Roads, a ridge, followed along Bayou Gentilly, which flowed that far down, they point out. Bayou Roads curved right traveling up to North Broad and along Bayou Gentilly to Chef Menteur.

City Park avenue once formed a part of Metairie ridge, they relate. Metairie Bayou and its accompanying ridges ran from Bayou St. John along City Park avenue into present day Metairie road and continued on to almost the Mississippi River banks at the area in Kenner known as Little Farms, they state.

Camino del Bayou San Juan was also known as the "road to Creek or Bayou St. John." The first name for Lake Pontchartrain was Ok-wa-ta, a Choctaw word meaning wide water, they point out.

It was from Madisonville that Andrew Jackson and his men crossed in small boats and landed on Dec. 2, 1814, at Old Spanish Fort on Bayou St. John. Madisonville was the Southern terminus of the road leading to New Orleans by which flat boatmen returned after disposing of their produce in New Orleans and over which the mails to and from New Orleans were carried, the historians say.

Mrs. Paslay will accept the marker from Miss Annie Lou Murphy, Baton Rouge, representative of the state Tourist Bureau of the State Department of Commerce and Industry, which furnishes these historic markers. It will be unveiled by Mayor Victor H. Schiro, who will welcome the assembly.

Mrs. Rudolph J. Holzer Jr., New Orleans state DAR regent, will dedicate the marker, which

Mrs. Paslay will present to Gerald J. Gallinghouse, president of the New Orleans Board of Levee Commissioners, who will accept it for the parish of Orleans.

Mrs. Edmond H. Singreen, chapter past regent, will place a wreath at the base of the marker.

Guest speaker for the ceremonies will be Sidney L. Villere, New Orleans, assistant genealogist general, General Society of 1812. A cannon salute will be fired by les Grenadiers d'Orleans under the direction of Capt. Wesby Goldthwaite.

Charles E. Weimer, associate professor of education at the Francis T. Nicholls College in Thibodaux, will be the master of ceremonies. Mrs. Kenneth Cranor, the chapter's historical marker chairman, will present honored guests. The invocation will be offered by Mrs. Myron C. Turfitt, chapter chaplain, and Mrs. M. L. Kerlin, chapter chairman of the flag of the U.S., will lead the pledge of allegiance to "Old Glory."

Others bringing greetings will be James F. Bezou, president of l'Athenee Louisianais; Ellis P. Laborde, general manager City Park; A. Beresford Ball, consul of Great Britain; J. G. Bisson, consul general of Canada; Robert Picquet, consul general of France, and Hans Marmann, consul general of Germany.

Boy Scout Troop No. 52 from Our Lady of the Rosary parish will present and retire the colors. The DAR flag will be carried by Miss Mary Holzer, president of Bienville Chapter, Children of the American Revolution.

DAR Marks Historic Highway Site



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

DEDICATING a marker Sunday afternoon at the site of the nucleus of the first highway through New Orleans, are (from left) Councilman James E. Fitzmorris Jr.; Mrs. Robert C. Paslay, president of the New Orleans chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, which sponsored the program; Miss Annie Lou Murphy, a representative of the

Louisiana State Tourist Bureau, and Gerald J. Gallinghouse, president of the Orleans Levee Board. The ceremony took place at Metairie and Gentilly ridges on the West Bank of Bayou St. John at Moss st. and City Park ave. The connecting ridges joining Bayou St. John and its ridges, formed the first highway.

Marker Will Be Dedicated Here

A historical marker will be dedicated Sunday at 2 p. m. at Moss and City Park ave. commemorating the first highway through New Orleans.

The marker is being erected by the New Orleans Chapter National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Sidney L. Villere, assistant genealogist general, General Society of 1812, will be the principal speaker. **MAR 20 1964**