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Continued from Lords of the Basin, by Kenneth Delcombre

In 1913, fish prices were 2¢ for 1 lb. for Buffalo fish and 4¢ for 1 lb. of Catfish. Gaspergou and Paddlefish were also sold. The diets of the basin dwellers consisted of deer, rabbit, squirrel, wild fowl, beef, pork and poultry. Crawfish was not noted as a choice food at that time and fish was hardly eaten. As early as 1913 through the 1930's, individuals such as Tom Martin, Tom Bernard, Fernand Dupuis and others experimented with hatcheries.

The basin, which is a natural habitat to many of the wildlife species, always supplied an adequate food chain to man. "North Basin" and "South Basin" did differ in the varieties of wildlife.

Paddlefish, or the Spoonbill Catfish, was a popular item prior to 1900. Its roe was sold for caviar and its meat was shipped as catfish. By 1914, Paddlefish were in immediate danger of being extinct. Joseph Loeb, a Morgan City fish dealer from 1913 to 1924 remembered seeing only 4 or 5 during his entire stay in "South Basin", while Tom Bernard at Pelba handled a considerable quantity of the species.

Alligators were plentiful throughout the basin. The Atakapa's Register, March 16, 1878 stated that 9,000 were killed by three Morgan City men in one year (1877). However, the need for the meat or hides were not in demand in the northern Atchafalaya Basin.

The period between 1914 and 1926 saw a great increase in the economic importance of the fishing industry, which brought in as much as $250,000.00 in a good year.

OUR POLICE DEPARTMENTS

We seem to be having trouble in our country with people disrespecting our police. Since when did it become OK to do that? It's mostly in big cities where this happens. When people disrespect law enforcement it becomes chaos. Does anyone feel safe in that environment?

There is NO country in the world like The United States of America. Yes, England and Canada have democracies and others as well, but not like ours. Our people are REALLY free. You are free to think and act as you

Continued on page 2

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Our Police Departments

Continued from page 1

wish as long as you don't infringe on the rights of others.

Our police are the ones that protect us. If not for them it would be the WILD WEST again. In outlying areas the Sheriff Deputies take over.

Some people forget this is a country of laws. If you don't like the laws contact your representative and ask them to change the laws you don't like. Don't blame the police. It's their job to enforce the laws. They don't make them. If there's a bad apple in the barrel, deal with it. Don't blame the whole troop.

These people put their lives on the line every time they put their uniform on. How many of you do that when you go to work?

Our police are human beings just like you and me. Next time you see a police officer thank them for what they do. You will appreciate it the next time they help you.

Article by Perry Serrette

Musician Of the Month



Kevin Naquin interview

By Bill Chaisson
Courtesy of Hibernian Weather Channel Productions

In the 19th century a burger living in a provincial city of, say, Bohemia, would have known through the newspapers and through gossip in the music-appreciating community about the enormous talent of Franz Liszt, but he would quite likely have never heard the master actually play. Even in this age of recorded media I find myself, in advance of Kevin Naquin's first appearance in Ithaca, in a position similar to that of a 19th century Bohemian; I have never heard him play, but his reputation proceeds him. And, as we say in the 21st century: the guy is hot.

Kevin Naquin learned to play the accordion at 14, which is somewhat late to pick up a music instrument. But he apparently had innate talent; two years later he put together the first incarnation of his band, the Ossun Playboys, and began to play out around Lafayette, LA, where he lives. Music is apparently in the blood. Naquin is the great-grandson of Hadley Fontenot, the accordionist on the first Balfa Brothers album. His great-grandfather on his father's side was a ballad singer, who accompanied himself on fiddle. He has always been surrounded by Cajun music; even his babysitter played a mean accordion.

Naquin grew up in a French-speaking household, but it was singing the Cajun ballads on stage that has made him focus on becoming fluent in his ancestral language. He is aware that some younger Cajun singers have little or no French and sing the songs phonetically, which makes it difficult to project the meaning. Both he and

Continued on page 3

Don't forget page 3 and more will be on Facebook @PerrySerrette and the web @TheBasinGazette.com

KEVIN NAQUIN-Continued from page 2

his wife are working on their French so that they can pass it on to their children.

Maintenance of the Cajun culture is important to Naquin. He and the other members of the band all have other jobs (Naquin is a salesman for the Insurance Australia Group) and the Ossun Playboys are essentially a vehicle for spreading the good word about things Cajun rather than a livelihood that they depend on. Naquin feels that this arrangement allows him to hew more closely to the tradition. When asked if he ever feels drawn to integrate more pop or rock elements into his music, his answer is an emphatic, but polite, "No. I've watched other people, like Steve Riley, do it, and that's shown me that you just don't have to do it. Just when you're hot and the crowd is all heated up, you do a rock or pop thing and you lose them." He hastens to add that he has nothing against crossover music, but he simply doesn't feel the need to "chase audiences", because he's not playing music for a living.

The current line-up of the Ossun Playboys has been together for about two years, since earlier bass and guitar players were replaced by Chevy and Wyatt Foreman. Drummer Dwayne Lavergne and fiddler Louis Dronet have been playing with Naquin for six years now. In 2000 and 2002 the Ossun Playboys swept the Cajun French Music Association awards, walking away with "Band of the Year", "Album of the Year", and "Accordionist of the Year". Dronet was nominated to the "Fiddler of the Year" category in both years. In 2000 Naquin was only 21 years old.

The presence of the electric guitar, bass and drums distinguishes the Ossun Playboys music from that of earlier generations of Cajun players. Naquin asserts that for him "It is all about dancing" and he plays in a honky-tonk style that shares more with Walter Mouton than with the Balfa Brothers. Although he avoids rock elements in the strict sense, he admits that his music is "more aggressive" than the music of his grandparents' generation. He says that people are delighted to find out that they can do either zydeco or Cajun steps to his music, which he says "has a 'Zyde-Cajun' feel that is hard to describe".

Last week the Ossun Playboys released their fifth CD, Never Satisfied, while they were on tour in Colorado. It includes five of their own compositions in addition to traditional tunes. Naquin says that it has been well reviewed so far, but, as I said, I haven't heard it yet. You probably haven't either. So, like the 19th century Bohemians, I guess we'll have to hear him when we see him. I bet Liszt would have loved to have been able to sell CDs at his shows.



KEVIN NAQUIN

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Dear Boudreaux,

A friend and I were trying to figure out, how much gravy do you put in a cup of rice? Well, how much do you put?

Boudreaux

Well, the way I do it is– one cup of gravy to one cup of rice. If that's too much gravy for you, you can either eat it like a gumbo or put a little more rice. If that's too much rice, you can add a little more gravy. If that's too much gravy, you can add a little more rice. If that's too much rice, just add a little more gravy. Aw... hell, if you have a lot of gravy in the pot, just eat it like a gumbo. That'll stick to your ribs.

PAT'S ATCHAFALAYA CLUB
February Schedule

Sat., Feb. 1st—8:30-Til ** Bobby Page
Sun., Feb. 2nd—Closed — Super Bowl
Sat., Feb. 8th—Cecilia QB Club
Sun., Feb. 9th—5:30-Til ** Foret Tradition
Sat., Feb. 15th—8:30-Til ** Warren Storm
Sun., Feb. 16th—5:30-Til ** Tet Dur
Sat., Feb. 22nd—Kenny Fife & The La Rouge Band
Sun., Feb. 23rd—5:30-Til ** Mardi Gras Mambo Steve Reilly
Fri., Feb. 28th—8:30-Til ** Nickel Beer
Sat., Feb. 29—8:30-Til ** Nickel Beer

The flood of 1953

These are some pictures of the 1953 flood in Henderson, La.



Deluke Serrette At home 1953
Across the side street from Post Office Henderson, La.



Robin's Original restaurant 1953. Also a dance hall. You had to walk through the dance hall to get to the restaurant. Amy's Grocery on left. on main street in Henderson, LA.



Henry Guidry's Place, 1953, a few feet from the bridge. Originally built in Old Henderson, it was pulled on logs by oxen to this location, situated on a gravel road. Later bought by Harris LeBlanc and later leased as Pat Huval's first dance hall, also on Main Street, in Henderson.



P.J. SERETTE
Those horns are crooked
Outside in uniform with no hat.
NOT GOOD!



J.R. Clarkson, P.J. SERRETTE
"We're safe up here"
Sitting on a gun barrel.
Not the safest place under fire.

Pictures taken from the Unitas XII cruise book of the USS MacDonough in 1971

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The Henderson/Nina Water System

has received permission from the Corps of Engineers to proceed with the new project of bringing water to all the boat landings on the levee.

The other project in the works is bringing water to Butte La Rose and is still pending Corps approval.

The starting date is not yet determined for the first project. It will be going out for bid soon. The project entails a new well, replacing the filters, and basically revamping the plant, a major operation.

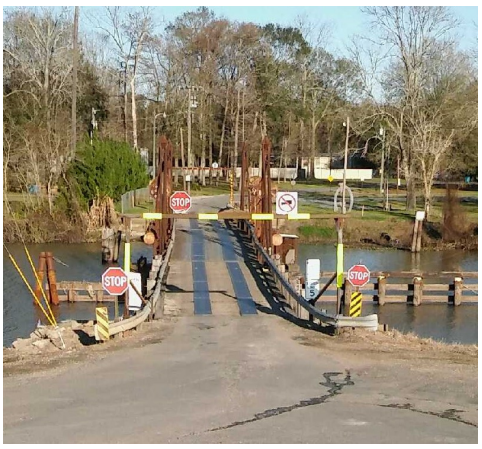
They will be running a twelve (12") inch line from the plant, crossing the canal north of Pat's, through the road and over the levee. On the Basin side of the levee they will be running the line along the right of way of the Entergy electrical lines. Entergy has given permission to use the right of way.

The line will stop at the Cypress Cove landing. After the Corps approves the Butte La Rose project the line will be run to the pontoon bridge. From there the line will be bored under the canal, then along the road to Butte La Rose itself.

After which, the line will be run along the basin side of the Atchafalaya Levee Road all the way to I-10. Everyone within range of the line will be connected to the line with meters. We will keep everyone up to date on the progress of the project.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

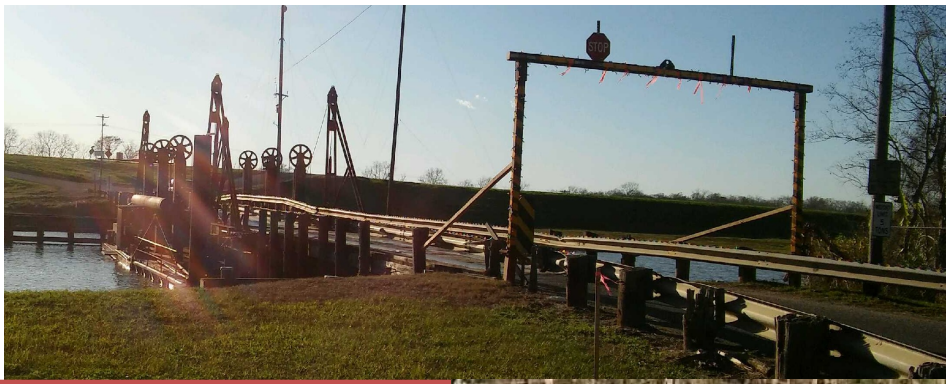
1st Theresa Parrie
Randy Lasseigne
2nd Eddie Roberts
Jamie Castille
3rd Tim Serrette
Mike Larson
4th Derek Thomas Theriot
Kandi Huval
5th Peggy Landry
Sophie Stelly
Sean Stelly
6th Luke Frederick
Mary Beth Hebert
7th Caleb Latiolais
8th Beverly Dansingburg
Madison LeJeune
Morgan LeJeune
10th Kasey Addison
Kenlee Etienne
11th Taylor M. Patin
12th Sally Robin
Robert Guidry
Cynthia Richard
Jeremiah Scrantz
Olivia O'Brien
13th Keith Baudin
Laurette Mequet
Cecile Robin
14th Brandy Melancon
Dana Robin
Jerry Eugene Linebaugh
Eric Alexander
Jen LeBlanc Roberts
Robert Daigle
15th Anita LeBlanc
Monkey Butte
16th Pamela Lasseigne Cormier
Virginia Joyce Bernard
17th Eric Bordelon
CLopha Prejean
19th Roddy Pourciaux
Collette LeBourgeois
Courtney Washburn Mullins
20th Jarrod J. Serrette
Gerald Guidry
Shelby Bradford
Joyce Domingue Landry
Peggy Choplin
21st Kevin Robicheaux
Greta Tally
22nd Christy Hayes Long
J.J. Castille
Melissa Kornmeyer
24th Richard Fendley
25th Diana Savoy
Kelly Patin
26th Milo Serrette
Joe Johnson
Zaylie Serrette
Kimberly Lynn Serrette
27th Jennifer "Poni" DeVillier
Mitch Arnaud
Amy Chambers
Kimberly Marie Patchin
Elton Scoggin
28th Kelly Hebert
Judy Daigle
Brooke Miller
29th Mikki Lanclos
Jeanne Cote



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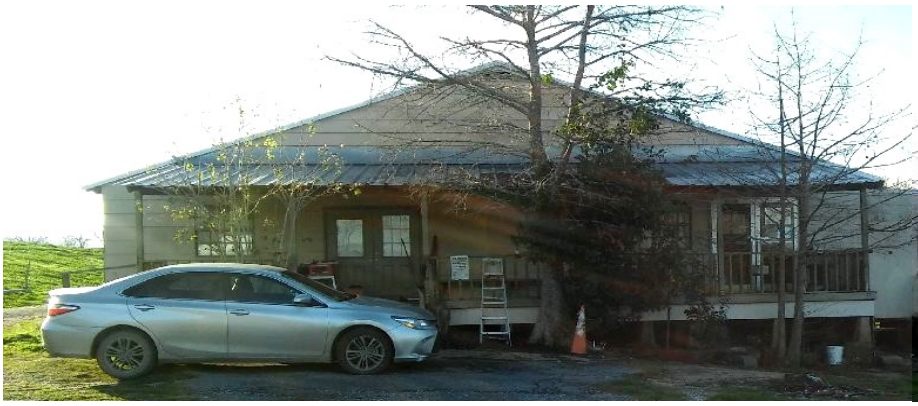


The Whiskey River Dance Hall

It was closed some months back, recently purchased and the remodeling is underway. The new owners are hoping to open the Sunday before Mardi Gras. I guess we'll see how that works out. For updates check out Whiskey River (Henderson) on the Web.

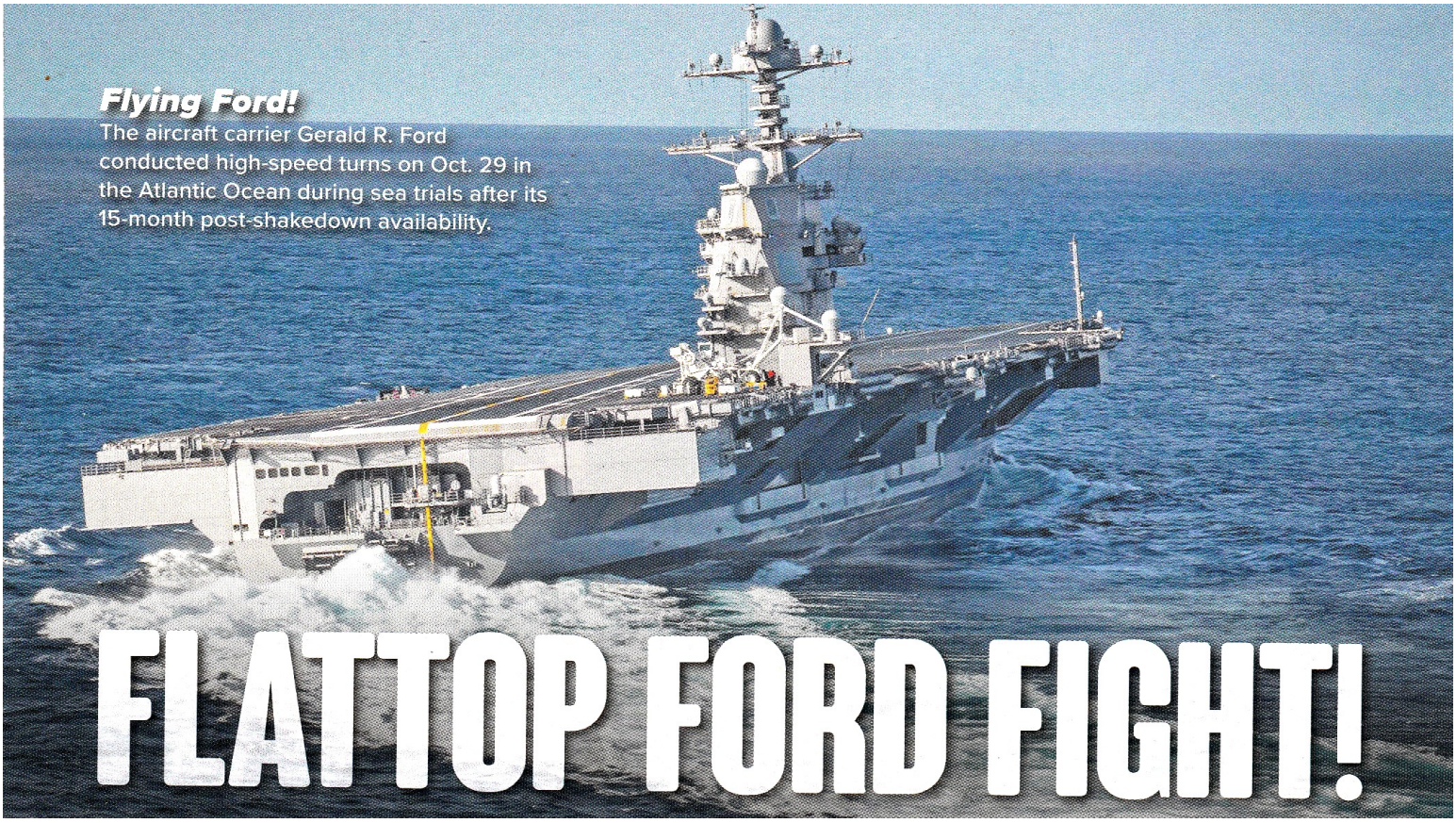








The USS Gerald R. Ford making a high speed turn. Don't worry they won't turn her over. She can outrun your bass boat. Oh yes she can! Photo taken from The NavyTimes.



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We must not forget Tyler Shelvin, a native of ACADIANA, Lafayette, LA, who was a big help in protecting our hero.

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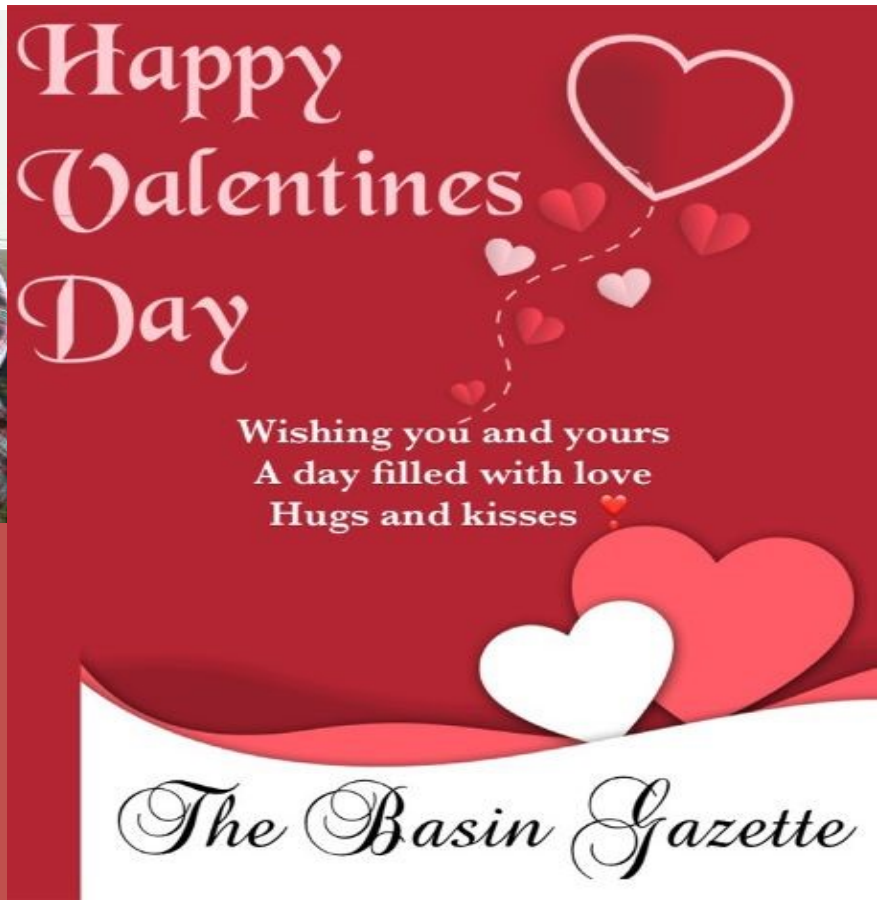


I have hidden this dollar bill within the Town limits of Henderson. If anyone finds it and brings it to me, I will trade it for a $100.00 dollar bill. Call Perry at (337) 228-2400 first.

The Beast of the Basin.
His name is Rou Garou. He joins us every day at Turtles' Bar



We seem to be forgetting about Valentine's Day. In ACADIANA we jump from New Years to Mardi Gras. Let's not rush it. Let's take the Holidays as they come. Enjoy it!



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A Cajun Restaurant in Illinois?





This Cajun restaurant is called Swamp Tails Tales. It's not in ACADIANA, It's in southern Illinois. The owner, B.J. Robert in picture on the right is with our old Buddy, Danny Angelle (on the left). B.J. has been having a house in Catahoula, LA for over thirty (30) years, so he's very acquainted with Cajun cooking.

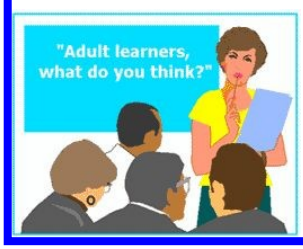
The picture on the top left is the front view when B.J. built it over a year ago. The picture on the top right is an areal view of the place. It almost looks like South Louisiana.

People in Southern Illinois love alligator. This restaurant sells about 700 lbs. of alligator meat every month. When they have a crawfish boil, 1500 lbs. will go in about three hours.

People in Southern Illinois would feel right at home <u>In ACADIANA.</u>



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