

SEASONS OF LOUISIANA

with Dianne Cage
February: The Ouachita Citizen way



“Nature always wears the colors of the sprit”...
Ralph Waldo Emerson...

More than any other kind of wildlife, birds have an almost magical hold on the human imagination, according to my favorite bird book. They are beautiful, vibrantly alive and everywhere to be seen. They open our eyes to the world of nature. They enrich our spirits with their color, their music and the wondrous gift of flight.

My good friend, **TEX KILPATRICK** called to remind me that it is time to get those Purple Martin Houses ready for the scouts to inspect the lodgings for the families who will follow shortly. This is a good time to clean out the sparrow nests, unplug the covers, and spruce up the multi-chambered birdhouses!

It is so exciting! From high overhead, streaming down like summer sunshine, the bubbling chirps and trills of Purple Martins descend to the earth. Walt Disney could not do it any better. Native Americans forged a friendship with the Martins long before Europeans arrived: they hung out hollow gourds near their lodges in order to entice the birds to nest nearby. The voracious Martins more than earn their keep by snapping up vast numbers of insects on the wing, mostly mosquitoes. It is almost time to put those Finch feeds out, they are on the way. Wee, we have lots to look forward to! Not sure when exactly, but the Orioles will be coming soon so get the grape jelly ready!

THE CANCER FOUNDATION LEAGUE from this area does amazing things, including raising money for cancer patients in our neck of the woods. They just held their big Cancer Gala at the lovely Bayou DeSiard Country Club and it was some kind of fun. From the beautiful people, to the food, the music, dancing, a silent auction and amazing items for the live auction, like a Kentucky Bourbon Trail Tasting package. Would not that be fun? Mike and I have always wanted to visit that part of our beautiful country. Our interest was sparked, maybe 20 years ago, when we had the honor of hosting **BOOKER NOE** (the grandson of Jim Beam and he lived in the Old Kentucky Home) and his entourage for a breakfast here in our home. The group was on a tour promoting their single malt bourbon — Bookers 126.9 proof.

They pulled up in the biggest black limousine I have ever seen. There may have been eight in their group. We invited Jimmy Noe, a distant cousin and owner of KNOE Television, Mayor Bob Powell and lovely wife, Nell. Maybe there were 16 people in all.



ABOVE: The Cotillion at Bayou Desiard Country Club: Mary Snellings Inabnett, escorted by her handsome brothers, Breard and Carrick Inabnett.



RIGHT: Mike Mulhearn and Jim Barry enjoying the Cancer Foundation Gala.



Seen at The Cancer Foundation Gala:

Charles Marsala and Cindy Rogers



Ramona and Brian Caldwell



Mary and Jay Hardwick

We started with good strong Louisiana Coffee, fresh orange juice, fresh strawberries, smoked ham, fried quail, grilled tomatoes, grits and gravy, biscuits and mayhaw jelly. We did it up right! I had Garfield Washington to help and we had magnolias on the table. It was just fun and delicious. A good time was being had by all.

Lo and behold, Booker sent his driver to the car to bring a bottle of Bookers for all to taste. This was the first time we have ever had bourbon for breakfast.

As the morning came to a very happy ending, Booker invited me and Mike to come for a visit and stay with him in the Old Kentucky Home. It never happened and we have always regretted that we did not make the trip. Who knows, maybe one day it will happen!

Be kind to all and I look forward to the next time!

Dianne

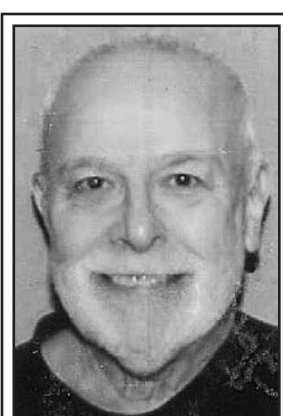
French aristocratic émigré region's colorful pioneer

Jean Francois Hypolite Pargoud was born in Sardinia in 1799. In his early 20s, he arrived in New Orleans, shortly after the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. The French Revolution prompted his visit. A loyal subject of Louis XVI, he intended to return to France as soon as the civil disorder ended, but his plans soon changed. The king, instead of being restored to the throne, was beheaded. This turn of events prolonged Hypolite's stay and it ultimately lengthened into permanent residence.

The turn of the century found him in the Opacity country, the principal trading post of the time being Fort Miro. Since almost all of

his means had been swept away by the turmoil at home, it was inevitable that he should engage in the fur traffic, an enterprise require little capital and returning large profits. A loyalist, he was warmly received and cordially treated by Don Juan Filhiol, the representative of the Spanish crown and a Frenchman himself. Eventually, he was the recipient of a small land grant.

By 1820, when the Spanish Fort Miro had become the American city of Monroe, he had sufficient cash to add approximately 1,000 acres and a general store to his possessions. Both were purchased from Jean Francois Girod. The land, together with that he al-



Ron Downing, local native historian, is enjoying his retirement with his wife Jan in West Monroe and with their two grandsons, Paul and Garrett.

ready owned, became the Lower Pargoud place, which was later known as Lower Pargoud Plantation.

During the same year, although past 50, he

married a young girl, Marie Henriette de Breard. She was a cousin of Louis Alexander Breard, one of the first settlers in this community. Four children were born to this union, three of whom lived to maturity, Jean Francois, Nicholas Hypolite and Marie Leontine. Jean Francois, commonly known as Frank was delivered by Dr. Christopher Dabbs who was thought to be the first resident physician in this area. He rendered a bill in the astonishing amount of \$500. When Hypolite questioned the amount, the doctor justified himself on the grounds that “rich old men have but few children and should pay for the privilege.”

As soon as his sons

and daughter were of sufficient age, Hypolite placed them in French schools. Even his daughter received the best education available, which was uncommon at the time.

In 1840, Pargoud moved his family to Paris, France. He visited his plantations, in Ouachita Parish at least every two years and sometimes every year, spending the winter here and returning to France in the spring.

Having become known as the first merchant in Monroe, Hypolite died at his residence in Paris, France on October 5, 1857. He left a large estate in the parishes of Ouachita, Morehouse, Madison, Carroll, and Orleans amounting to several

hundred thousand dollars with his principal establishment being the Lower Pargoud Plantation in Ouachita Parish.

Madame Pargoud never returned to Louisiana but her son Jean Francois visited twice between 1840 and 1857. When his father died, Frank moved to Monroe to run the family plantations.

Pargoud Boulevard was named for Pargoud's upper plantation. Pargoud Drive and Pargoud Avenue were named for the lower plantation.

Catalpa trees put down originally for fence posts by Pargoud on both plantations remain on the north and south sides of Monroe as do the overseers houses.






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-149 pounds

