

THIRD STREET AS IT HAS BEEN AND IS TODAY

(By Capt. John McGrath.)

Had any man or woman as late as 1852 predicted that in years to come a massive seven story building would crown the site at the corner of Third and Florida streets he would soon find himself in the asylum at Jackson and yet the writer has lived to witness Third street converted from a place of gardens, yes and a peach orchard, to its present condition of fine buildings with no open spaces. Every one of the present buildings from Boulevard to North street, with the single exception of the old house at the corner of Third and Convention, has been erected or remodeled and modernized since 1852 and only one or two have been remodeled, one at the corner of Third and North and it has yet I believe some of the original timber used in its construction. The original house was the house of Governor Walker during his occupancy of the Executive office.

Now let me present a picture of Third street when I first knew it. Beginning at Boulevard there was on the west side at the corner of the first block an old building of two stories and with wide galleries front and rear. This building must have been constructed during the reign of the Spaniards and as I have been told, was the quarters of the first United States troops to arrive in this territory who came before the pentagon buildings of the barracks now L. S. U. were constructed. The old property was purchased by the late Abe Abramson who caused it to be demolished to make way for the present building.

The next house on that side of the street was the home of Judge Sherburne who was lost when the Princess, on which he had taken passage, was destroyed by fire. This residence sat back some distance from the street and was surrounded by flowers and shrubbery. No other buildings were on that side of the street.

On the opposite side where the Boulevard building stands was a vacant lot but the remainder of that side of the street was fairly well covered with small houses.

On the west side of Third and Convention was a residence and this with one about the center of the block, now covered by the southern end of the Raymond building, was all. The last named was a boarding house owned by the first Philip Burg. Opposite the east side of Third street the entire block was vacant and was the ground upon which every circus arriving spread its tents and gave exhibitions.

On the next block north there were but a few buildings of any kind. Pike's Bank, afterwards and until quite recently known as the Hausey House, and a long wooden building at the corner of Laurel, the store of Mr. Samuel Isett were all.

On the west side of that block where Elks Theatre now stands was an old building and about the middle of the square a peach orchard with a small brick house on the rear of the lot.

On the square between Laurel and Main, on the east side, nothing but a one story at the corner of Main and a wooden box house about the center. On the west side a garden filled with flowers and shrubbery at one corner, a stable where the Knox building opposite the Bank of Baton Rouge is located and a two story brick on the corner of Third and Main.

The square between Main and North was fairly well covered, the principal residences being those of Dr. Harney on the river side and Governor Walker on the east side.

Front and Lafayette streets, as well as the side streets, were so congested that it became imperative to seek quarters elsewhere or go out of business. With such conditions staring him in the face one Fielding Musselman, a confectioner, purchased a site at the corner of Third and Laurel and had erected thereon the small two story just torn down to permit Mr. Robert Hart to have it replaced by one more in keeping with the present surroundings.

Mr. Musselman was quickly followed by a Frenchman named Dupuy who had constructed the two story brick removed to make place for the Roumain building. Mr. George A. Pike then chopped away his peach trees and contracted for the building now the property of Judge Brunot, and occupied by Woolsworth. With these buildings furnished and occupied old Red Stick took a rest until 1858 when another little boomlet was launched as the result of the construction of the Baton Rouge, Grosse Tete

and Opelousas railroad which brought to Baton Rouge the trade and products of a large section of a rich and fertile section. During that year the Sumter, Verandah, Pike's Row, McCormick and other buildings appeared on Third street and about the same time Duncan, Mather and Hickey threw the circus square upon the market when one or two rather small houses appeared where the Istroma hotel now stands.

The Burke, Fisher and all other buildings now strung along Third street have been erected since the Civil war and many of them within the memory of the youngest inhabitants.

It is a great pleasure to those of the older generation to gaze upon handsome buildings where they once saw coffee weeds to the height of one's head flourish in profusion and to find a seven story with a ground floor of one half block rising skyward where once they beheld empty space. Tear down the shack at Third and Convention, raise up the proposed sky scraper and we of earlier date may then exclaim "finis."

A WELL DESERVED TRIBUTE.

(By Virginia Bransford.)

There has been so little written about those faithful body servants of our fathers—those negroes, who through the years of the bloody conflict, which tore our country apart, followed their masters, with a devotion and loyalty seldom found on earth, that to find a monument to them is indeed rare.

There stands in the little progressive city of Canton, Mississippi, just a few miles above the state capital, a marble shaft dedicated to the body servants of the Harvey Scouts and especially to the faithful servant of William Howcott.

Mr. Howcott, whose home is in New Orleans, and whose deeds of generosity and charity are well known in the South, erected this well deserved tribute to this negro, and the servants of his beloved company.

Standing in the center of a large and beautiful square, surrounded by heavy iron chains, and resting upon a solid foundation, it lifts its head proudly. No doubt had it the power to speak, it would say in the words of the Master:

"To the least of these my brethren."

Near by a large tree stands spreading its branches near the shaft, and here the southern mocking bird sings a requiem to the faithful ones.

FOR WHOM THE STREETS WERE NAMED.

Dufrocq street was named as a memoria! in honor of John R. Dufrocq, at one time editor of the Baton Rouge Gazette and for several terms mayor of this city.

Lewis street was named after Travantion D. Lewis, a popular young citizen and native of this city who as Colonel of the Eighth Louisiana Infantry was killed while leading his regiment in a charge on the heights of Gettysburg.

Stuart street was so named in honor of Capt. J. D. Stuart, captain of a local cavalry company who was killed on the Plank Road some ten or twelve miles above Baton Rouge while attacking a force of the enemy on its way to Port Hudson. At the time of the breaking out of the war he was district attorney, elected to that position shortly after arriving of age.

Leon Gusman killed while carrying the flag of the Eighth Louisiana over the Federal fortification at Winchester, Va., is remembered by old residents whenever "Leon" street is mentioned.

While Dr. Beauregard, an uncle of the illustrious Confederate General of that name, laid out and threw upon the market all that portion of the city below North Boulevard, not a single street bears his name.

What was Carmeno Real during the Spanish occupation afterwards known by Americans as Spanish town road is now Boyd avenue.

Uncle Sam street of former days is now known by the more appropriate as well as euphonious name College avenue.

A name that should never be forgotten was bestowed upon the street adjoining the corporation line on the east, that of Allen. It was in that neighborhood the gallant Henry Watkins Allen while leading his brigade of Louisiana soldiers received the wounds from which he subsequently died.

SMILES.

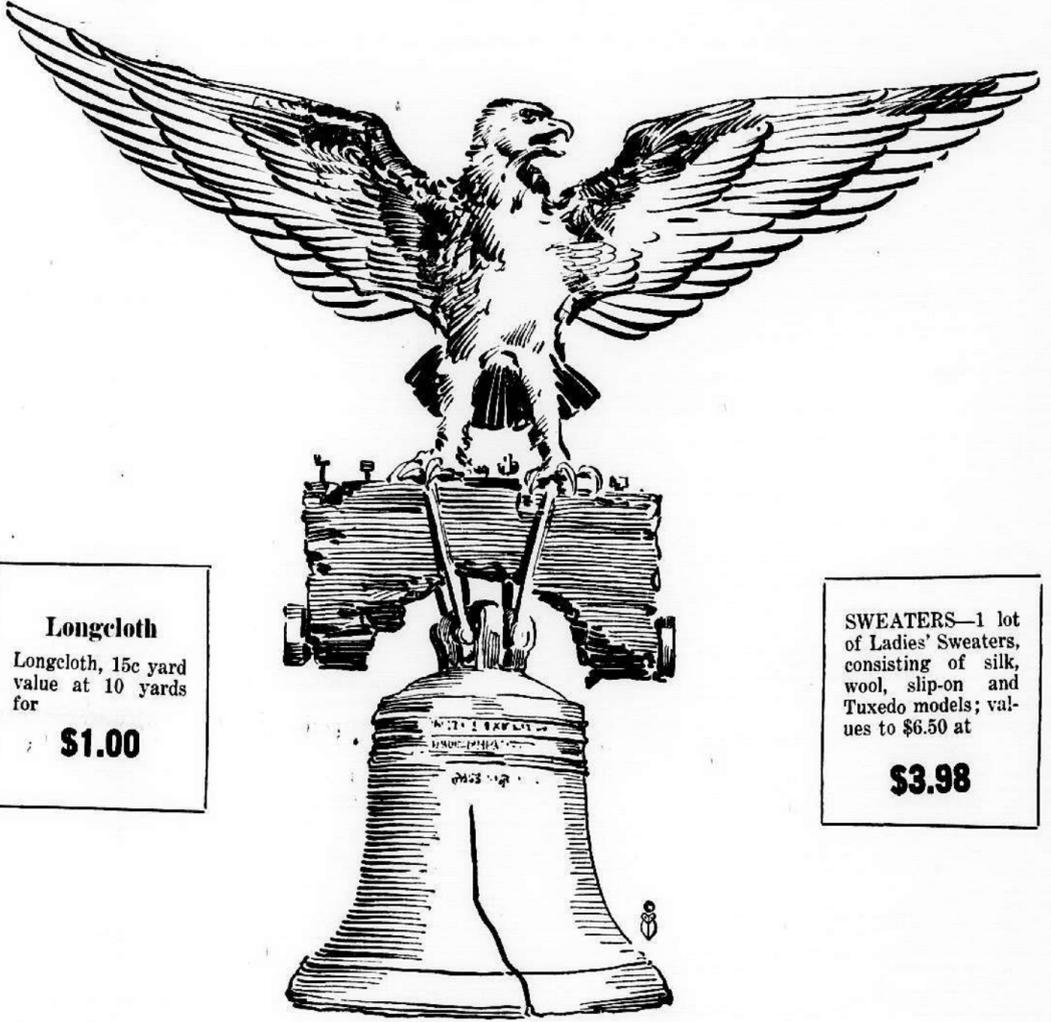
A poet swore he'd suicide, And many means he vainly tried, And as a last resort, I think, Drank down a quart or so of ink. I, wholly failed to turn the trick— It didn't even make him sick,— Had he spilled half that ink in verses We'd one and all have needed hearses!



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