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This map of Natchitoches is first an overlay and enlargement of the map drawn by J. F. Broutin in 1732. The reason for this being, a larger map had to first be made and the names and lettering be printed more clearly so that the writings would appear more clearly for newspaper copy. Thus the map was enlarged and then reduced in size again. A copy of the original map of Broutin now hangs in the Lemé House on Jefferson street, the site of which is the beginning of our annual historical tour supervised by our Ladies in Calico.

J. F. Broutin, an engineer was sent to the post St. Jean Baptiste de Natchitoches early in 1731. He was to repair the fort. This task was just completed when the French post was attacked by the Natchez Indians, thus Broutin must have been one of the defenders of the Post. This map must have been made before Mid-March of 1732 for Broutin was back in New Orleans by that date. Mrs. T. S. Dowdy who, with her husband and family moved to Natchitoches some years ago, is a descendant of Broutin.

Broutin's Map
Natchitoches is seven leagues east of the establishment of the Spanish who are among the Adais Indians. When one travels to the Spanish he goes through Pine Forests and valleys the area is very beautiful and healthy. When one travels to Natchitoches, it is by the Red River from its confluence with the Mississippi River. The Red River is free of obstruction with the exception of a few places where there are Log Jams and in which places one is obliged to portage, either to the right or left whichever is convenient. The Banks along the Red River is subject to overflows in many places. The Post, St. Jean Baptiste de Natchitoches is located on an island which is formed by the Red River which flows around it, and built on a bank which is 20 feet above the surface of the water. The Post commands the whole island on which it is located. (This Island was referred to in recording land grants as, Isle St. Jean.)

To New Orleans
The boat route to New Orleans was that of what is now Old River. The reason being was that this body of water was a shorter distance from Natchitoches and its confluence again with the Red River. (This portion of Red River is now Cane River. The Red River over a hundred years later cut itself a new channel taking the water course which in 1732 was called "Rigollet De Ion Dieu," a bayou which was some five miles east of the Red River at that time.)

Area Shown on Map
The area shown on Broutin's map covers the present day area from the Railroad crossing on Mill Street north along the River to Howena Street, about one and 1/5 miles and from Highway 1 south and east fifth street and west to Lee Street or 3/5 mile.

It is hard for one to visualize now, with all of the fills which have taken place since 1732 when most of this area was islands lakes and small bayous. First there were erected the dirt bridges which cross Bayou Amulet, so much so that one hardly realizes they are actually crossing a bayou. If one observes closely the width or distance from bank to bank on Jefferson Street and compare this with the distance between the banks of Bayou Amulet at the bridge on Highway 1 north, one must realize just how much water at early times in Natchitoches history passed through Bayou Amulet.

Second, there is the fills for the now Texas and Pacific Railway one can judge the lowness of the land by the height of the railroad bed there. Then there is the fill which an extension of Fourth Street which was originally the roadbed for the old Louisiana Railway and Navigation company, the Depot of which is now our City Hall. Third, one does not notice the fill which is at the railroad crossing at the entrance to Northwestern State College campus, or that Caldwell hall on the college campus stands on the site of the Bullard hall and that this land that is now a Millside was at one time part of an old bayou bank.

With the many highwaters that followed from the year 1732 the land between Amulet Street and the College Crossing has had a face lifting and then in 1836 to 1842 when the Red River changed its course to the Rigollet De Ion Dieu and the natural drain of Old and Cane Rivers, without the benefit of the Red River flowing in from above this lowered the water level of the area by about ten feet and when there was highwater on the Red River and much spilled over into the Cane River, as the currents became slow moving the low lands built upwards with a silty soil. The Bayou which was part of now Cypress street completely disappeared. The part of Natchitoches between Amulet street and College Avenue west to Lee Street part of which was Lake Bizon and Muller has become a recreation center and residential area.

Fort St. Jean Baptiste
As one looks at the area which was the site of Fort St. Jean Baptiste on lower Jefferson Street on its river side, one might question if this was the correct location because the land is so low this present day. However, as Broutin's map is studied closely he will notice that the point of land on which the French fort once has eroded away into the river at the time when Cane River was Red River. And this being the reason that St. Denis in the year 1735 to 1737 was compelled to move the Fort a pistol shot to the west. The site of the second French Post was in what is now the American Cemetery.

To the Spanish
The Camino or road to the Spanish Presidio, Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Los Adais entered the Natchitoches area and part of which was later to develop into what is now Toulaine Street.

The Log Jam
The Log Jam shown on the map extends from Bayou Amulet to what is now Lafayette Street. The portage around this

Log Jam was on the east Bank of the River and was known as Brounand's portage.

Inhabitants Listed on Map
Duplessis had land grants in two locations.
Duhomme, had land grants in five locations.
Robert, had one land grant.
Lefleur, had land grants in two locations.
Boquet, had land grants in two locations.
Mantel, had one land grant.
Duc, had one land grant.
Sampour, had one land grant.
Frandomme, had one land grant.
Du Pain, had one land grant.
Roland, had one land grant.
Daphnine, had one land grant.
Roudin, had one land grant.
La Perrier, had one land grant.
Fainbous, had one land grant.
Nantou, had one land grant.
St. Denis, two land grants.
Rachal, called St. Denis' Soldier, had one land grant.
Rambin and De La Fosse also had land grants at this time but the locations were up stream on the Red River and a league from the French Post and out of the area of Broutin's Map.
One of the earliest documents in the Natchitoches Parish Court House and by using Broutin's Map one can locate the following land grants.

January 29, 1722.
Knight of the military order of St. Louis, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, Commandant of the Red River and its tributaries and Fort St. Jean Baptiste de Natchitoches, Testify that Pierre de la Fosse and Pierre Colletaux, inhabitants of this post, have begun in this year 1722 to clear land of wood and holly trees and saw it.
The said wood of holly trees being about four arpents and bordering on the west bank of the Red River which flows in front of this fort on the east. The depth of the land will stretch the number of arpents that may be granted by the Council. On the south by land that F. Tontin and B. Lemoin have begun to clear and on the north by land Sleur Derbonne has begun to clear. In testimony of which we have given this deed. Made at Post St. Jean Baptiste Des Natchitoches this January 29, 1722.

Signed: Louis Juchereau de St. Denis
Duplessis, Notary.
New Orleans, October 23, 1723

The council ratifies the grant of said Pierre de la Fosse and Pierre Colletaux according to the boundaries and settles the depth to be 40 arpents.
Signed: Bienville
Le Blond de La Tour
The location on Broutin's map shows in 1732 the names being Colletaux and de La Perrier. Francois de La Perrier was a merchant and trader among the Indians and in the fall of the year in 1722 he was killed by marauding Indians at the portage of the Rapides near present day Alexandria. (This resulted in the establishment of Post Du Rapides in 1723) Later records show that De La Fosse had relinquished his claim to the joint land grant to the Widow Perrier and her three children.

Duplessis was a Notary, having come to the Natchitoches post in 1721 with St. Denis when the latter assumed the assignment as Commandant. Duplessis served in the capacity as Notary until 1741. He then returned to New Orleans.
Francois Dion Depens Derbonne
Francois Dion Depens Derbonne was in Natchitoches in 1719 the Minutes of the council of Commerce of the Company of the West state: Sleur Francois Dion Depens Derbonne will serve in the capacity as agent to the Caddo quapois Tribe and as a soldier of the Militia of the Post St. Jean Baptiste Des Natchitoches. He is now presently at the Natchitoches Post. And is charged with the continued friendship of that tribe of Indians.

In 1723 Derbonne wed Jeanne an Indian maiden and to keep the marriage records straight for future references the French documents show her listed as Jeanne de La grand terre, (daughter of the big earth or the mainland) Derbonne and Jeanne was wed at the Spanish mission at Los Adais, La Mission San Miguel Cuellar de Los Adais which was fifteen miles west of the Natchitoches Post (It is to be noted that the Spanish Padres supplied the ecclesiastical needs of the French at Natchitoches from 1717 to 1731 when at which time Father Vitery arrived in Natchitoches. Thus much of the church duties concerning Natchitoches Marriages, Children and burials were recorded at the Spanish Mission and these records lay in the archives of some Mexican Cathedral. There is one proof that such a record exists, Padre Caspar Jose de Solice when on a visitation to the (Continued on Page 88)

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