



STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

P. O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BATON ROUGE, LA
PERMIT # 2012

COMMUNIQUE

Vol. 20, No. 4

July / August 2004

State Library to open bookstore in July

The Louisiana Library Foundation and the State Library of Louisiana will open Louisiana Bound Booksellers, a full-service retail bookstore, at the library in July. The store will specialize in books about Louisiana or by Louisiana authors—including fiction and non-fiction—for both children and adults.

“Many people are not aware of our state’s rich literary heritage,” noted State Librarian Thomas F. Jaques. “A plethora of well-known authors of every genre are Louisiana natives or residents or former residents of the state. We believe Louisiana Bound Booksellers is an excellent way to promote Louisiana authors and facilitate public access to their works, which is part of the mission of the State Library.”

Louisiana Bound Booksellers will be managed by Toni Bova, who has 25 years of experience managing local bookstores. The store will be housed on the ground floor of the State Library at the corner of Fourth Street and Spanish Town Road.

The library’s choice location—on the downtown trolley shuttle route just south of the State Capitol—faces the soon-to-be-completed State Museum just across Fourth Street. Store hours are set for 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays.

Jaques said he expects most customers to be tourists, state government employees or residents who are interested in purchasing Louisiana books

and music for themselves or as gifts. Patrons will also be able to buy gift certificates and a selection of exceptional Louisiana music. Services offered will include gift wrap, special orders and shipping.



Learn-a-Test

Planning to take an important test – one that will decide whether you pass, get in or succeed? You can prepare ahead of time and improve your test scores dramatically with on-line courses and practice tests.

Learn-a-Test is an on-line database that includes practice tests for students in elementary school to those entering college and graduate programs, as well as people seeking jobs that require passing tests. The practice tests assist in recognizing weaknesses, a key to improving math and language skills – grammar, writing, vocabulary, spelling and reading comprehension.

Also included in *Learn-a-Test* are on-line courses in basic skills – grammar, writing, math, algebra, reading comprehension, vocabulary and spelling – plus a course in SAT preparation and English as a Second Language. Elementary and high school students can use the *Learn-a-Test* database to prepare for LEAP tests and the GED. People seeking government jobs can practice for Civil Service exams; those entering the armed forces can prepare to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

Students studying for college entrance exams can practice for the ACT, PSAT and SAT. Those seeking

advanced degrees are able to practice for the GRE (Graduate Record Exam), the LSAT (Law School Admission Test), and the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test). Many professions, such as real estate and financial planning, also require testing. People entering those professions can also prepare with *Learn-a-Test*.

The tests include both multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. At the end of the test, a score and an explanation of wrong answers is provided. If you can’t finish a test, you can save it and complete it later.

FACTS.com is one of a wide variety of online databases available at every Louisiana public library free of charge. Registered library patrons with a library card can also access most Louisiana Library Connection databases any time from home, work or any Internet-accessible computer by visiting the State Library web site (www.state.lib.la.us) or local public library web sites. The Louisiana Library Connection databases are otherwise available only to paid subscribers.

Viewpoint

Have you visited www.state.lib.la.us lately? If not, you may be in for a pleasant surprise. The new State Library web site was quietly born June 17 after an elephantine pregnancy (22 months). We are pleased and hopeful that you will find the new format to be both useful and attractive. No web site is ever static or perfect, so we welcome your suggestions for improvement. If you really like it, please let Sara Taffae and Ian Barnett of Computer Services know; they and more than a dozen other State Library staff worked long and hard to provide content and insight to our SOLINET consultant, Tim Spaid.

As you browse through the new site, be sure to click on *Louisiana Bound Booksellers*, the new Louisiana Library Foundation bookstore that will open in July at the State Library. It is a great resource for Louisiana publications, and we invite you to be one of our "preferred customers." (That's anyone who buys a book!) Rod Mills, director of the Louisiana Center for the Book, has gathered an outstanding inventory from which to choose. See the cover story of this issue of *Communiqué* for more details.

Louisiana's public libraries get lots of positive publicity in all media outlets, but few will soon top the recent New York Times article on the new Terrebonne Parish Library in Houma. Congratulations and applause go to Mary LeBouef, her board and TPL staff for persuading reporter Steve Lohr to 1) come to Houma (he wanted to do the interview by phone) and 2) to write so favorably of his experiences and impressions (they took him to lunch and dinner). He vowed to return with his family and has already accepted an invitation to speak at the Louisiana Book Festival November 6. It's nice to have a friend at the New York Times. Thanks, Mary.



Thomas F. Jaques
State Librarian

Communiqué is published bi-monthly by the Library Development Division of the State Library to provide information to Louisiana libraries and people with an interest in libraries. Correspondence regarding public libraries should be directed to the Library Development Division. People with visual or physical handicaps who need a large print or audiocassette version of *Communiqué* can contact the Library Development Division at (225) 342-4931.



STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

701 N. 4th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232
(225) 342-4923
fax (225) 219-4804

www.state.lib.la.us

The State Library of Louisiana is one of our state's greatest resources for research information, government documents, genealogical data, books in Braille, audiobooks and more.

The State Library's mission is to build an informed, literate and democratic society by ensuring access to informational, cultural and recreational resources, especially those resources unique to Louisiana.



LOUISIANA BOOK REVIEW

*Touring Louisiana's Great River Road:
The Mississippi from Angola North
to Venice South*

Written by **Mary Gehman**

New Orleans: Margaret Media Inc. (2003)
ISBN: 0-9616377-4-9 (280 pages)

Touring Louisiana's Great River Road follows the Mississippi River from Angola in the north to Venice in the south and all the wonderful places to visit in between. Author Mary Gehman offers an in-depth look at the many things to do and see along the Great River Road. Full of history, adventure and fun, *Touring Louisiana's Great River Road* will make the journey more enjoyable.

Touring Louisiana's Great River Road is a small, spiral-bound paperback containing 280 pages of interesting information needed to tour the area properly. The size makes it perfect to tote along on a lengthy vacation or a short day trip for a "taste of the River Road."

The Great River Road offers everything from plantations to casinos and churches to restaurants. There is something for the entire family. Lovers of history will enjoy the historic buildings, homes and cemeteries, while others will take pleasure in the unique dining and shopping experiences. Adults and youngsters alike will enjoy the wide array of flora and fauna and the many recreational activities such as hiking, biking, birding and fishing.

The Great River Road and the communities along it offer a unique vacation experience. Mary Gehman offers historical information on each of the areas, suggested itineraries, things to consider before starting along the River Road, highway shortcuts, side trips, a reference section and maps of the many communities. Some popular, cultural and historical Louisiana information is highlighted in gray text, covering topics such as Native American Settlement and Influence, Definition of

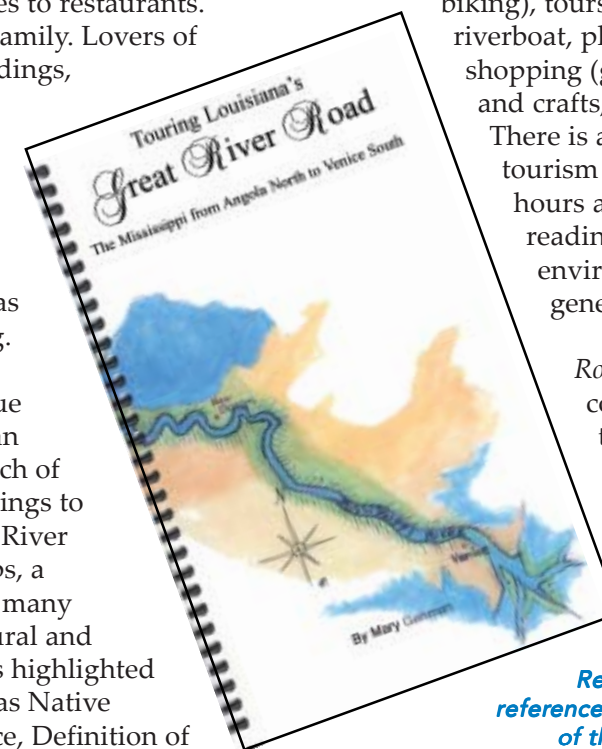
Creole, Louisiana Scenic Byways, River Lore, Civil War Imprint on the River Road, the Petrochemical Industry, the Plantation System, Slave Revolts, German and Acadian Coast and more. A few black and white illustrations of Louisiana architecture, flora and fauna enhance the text. Maps are small and hand drawn and may be a bit difficult to read, but they do note sites of interest in the various communities along the Great River Road.

The Reference Section of the book offers contact information by region and town for various eateries (restaurants, coffee shops, quick stops, lounges), lodging (bed and breakfasts, hotels/motels, RV camps, campgrounds), entertainment (festivals, events, museums, sights, casinos), recreation (parks, sports facilities, birding, wildlife, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking,

biking), tours (walking, bus/van, swamp, riverboat, plantation, self-guided), and shopping (gifts, souvenirs, unique arts and crafts, music, local items, markets).

There is also contact information for tourism and welcome centers, ferry hours and locations, recommended reading, a glossary of local terms, environmental information and general information websites.

Touring Louisiana's Great River Road offers both historical and contemporary information. For those interested in visiting an often overlooked area, this resource will prove extremely useful.



Reviewed by **Charlene Bonnette**,
reference librarian in the Louisiana Section
of the State Library of Louisiana

Check out these resources on the State Library web site.....

Continuing education & other activities: <http://www.state.lib.la.us/la_dyn_templ.cfm?doc_id=154>

Books about library organizations & services: <http://www.state.lib.la.us/la_dyn_templ.cfm?doc_id=160>

JOB OPENINGS

Library Director

Iberia Parish Library – New Iberia

Oversee operations of 8-branch public library system serving 75,000 people with staff of 40. Develop, administer \$2 million budget. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; minimum 2 years administrative experience; strong computer background; ability to communicate effectively with public, staff, board, governing body; commitment to public programming for adults, children. Must have or be eligible for state accreditation. Experience with building projects, computer migration desirable. Salary \$50,000-\$55,000, excellent benefits. Send resume, references to Gwen LeBlanc, Board President, 445 E. Main Street, New Iberia, LA 70560.

Library Director

Jefferson Parish Library – Jefferson

Oversee 15-branch system with FY 04 \$13 million annual budget, 281 employees. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; 10 years diversified, responsible administrative experience with minimum 3 years as director, deputy director or similar position; excellent communication skills; strong planning, management background; demonstrated ability to work within culturally diverse community; experience with building programs, including new facilities, renovations; demonstrated ability to work in collaboration with local, state officials; experience developing, directing balanced service program. Salary range \$52,112 - \$80,844 commensurate with education, experience. Excellent benefits, retirement. Send resume to F. Mendoza Jr., Director, Jefferson Parish Department of Human Resource Management, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 517, Jefferson, LA 70123.

Library Director

West Feliciana Parish Library – St. Francisville

Handle operations of newly formed single-building library system with \$290,000 annual operating budget and 2 full-time, 3 part-time employees; report to supportive, active board. Requires ALA-accredited MLIS; eligibility for state accreditation; 5 years public library experience, including at least 2 years as director, asst. director of public library system; demonstrated expertise in public library operations, including administration, personnel, fiscal and facility management. Salary \$45,000; excellent benefits. Send resume, 3 references to Clara Ruth Saint, Board Chairman, P.O. Box 3120, St. Francisville, LA 70775 or via email <crsaint@bellsouth.net> 225/635-6280.

Library Director

LaSalle Parish Library – Jena

Administer all aspects of fully automated main library with one branch, van delivery system, excellent staff of 10 serving 14,500 people. Good place for beginning administrator. Requires ALA-accredited MLS, ability or willingness to attain state certification. Salary depends on qualifications, experience; excellent benefits. Send resume, 3 references to Sammy Franklin, President, LaSalle Parish Library Board, P. O. Box 3050, Jena, LA 71342.

Library Director

South St. Landry Community Library – Sunset

Self-motivated director to manage single branch serving diverse population in St. Landry Parish and surrounding areas. Seeking strong communications, public relations, managerial skills; extensive knowledge of Dewey Decimal system; computer literacy with emphasis on library automation; basic bookkeeping and accounting skills; at least 3 years in public library administration; ability to interact with board, patrons, citizens, public officials and Friends. Send resume to P. Andy Dakin, Secretary, South St. Landry Community Library District, P.O. Box 387, Sunset, LA 70584.

Library Director

Washington Parish Library – Franklinton

Manage headquarters, 7 branches serving population of 45,000. Requires ALA-accredited MLS or active pursuit; supervisory, administrative, budgetary, technology experience; strong communication, public relations skills; knowledge of library automation (POLARIS); ability to interact with board, public officials. Grant writing knowledge, experience desired. Salary dependent on

qualifications, experience; full benefits including health insurance. Send resume, 3 references to Kay Bell, President, Library Board of Control, 1708 Main St., Franklinton, LA 70438 (985/839-2048 or 839-7805).

Financial Manager

South St. Landry Community Library – Sunset

Part-time financial manager, about 30 hours per month. Ideal for retired business person. Requires understanding of accounting, budgets, spreadsheets; good computer skills. Salary \$400-\$500/month, commensurate with skills. Send resume to P. Andy Dakin, Secretary, South St. Landry Community Library District, P.O. Box 387, Sunset, LA 70584.

Children's Librarian

Lafayette Parish Library – Lafayette

Plan, execute programs for children, parents, caregivers; select children's material, reference reader's advisory. \$2,371/month. Requires ALA-accredited MLIS; familiarity with current children's material. To obtain application, visit <<http://www.lafayettela.gov/>>. Send resume to Lafayette Consolidated Government, Civil Service, P. O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502; fax to 337/291-8349 or via e-mail <sboswell@lafayettegov.com>.

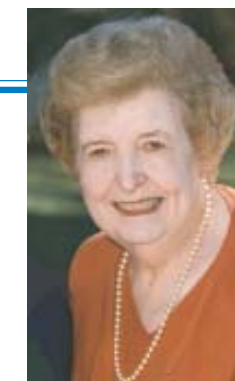
Reference Librarian

Ascension Parish Library – Gonzales

Coordinate, supervise reference, technology activities and implement promotional, publicity, technology projects at branch level. Requires ALA-accredited MLS. Reference services experience preferred. Salary \$30,000 up, dependent upon experience. Available Aug. 1. Send resume, 3 references to Angelle Deshautelles, Library Director, Ascension Parish Library, 708 South Irma Blvd., Gonzales, LA 70737.

Profile

Patricia Preis



Patricia Murray Preis has served on the State Library Board of Commissioners since 1988. She has been actively involved with the Tensas Parish Library for over 20 years and served as a trustee on the Tensas Parish Library's board for many years. She is also active in civic and public affairs.

Preis was a member of the Tensas Parish Welfare Board and the Tensas Parish Tourism Committee. She is past president of the Newellton Parent and Teacher Association and a previous recipient of the PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. She also received the Outstanding Citizen of Tensas Parish Award presented by the Rotary Club.

Preis was a member of the board of the Tensas Parish Arts Council and served as district repre-

sentative on the North Louisiana Arts Council. She was a member of the board of St. Joseph's Orchestra and currently serves as a member of the committees that publish the Newellton Garden Club Cookbook.

An elder in the U. S. Presbyterian Church, Preis is a board member of the Newellton Union Church, where she also served as president of the Ladies' Auxiliary. A lifelong Louisiana resident, she was born in DeQuincy and resides in Newellton. Preis is a graduate of DeQuincy High School and attended Louisiana State University. She and her husband, Edwin, have three children.

Spotlight on Success

A two-week **Bookmobile Blitz** outreach effort by the **Natchitoches Parish Library** in May was a huge success. The campaign generated a whopping 76 percent increase in both weekly bookmobile visitors and bookmobile circulation, reported library director Bethany Ponder. To inform rural patrons of bookmobile stops and free services available for both informational and recreational reading needs, library staff followed the bookmobile to each of 30 stops around the parish. In groups of two, they went from door to door, leaving packets for area residents that included a magnet listing the bookmobile schedule, information about the 2004 Summer Reading Program *Buggy About Books*, details on how to obtain a children's library card and a library brochure.



Library volunteer Terry Marshal reads to a group of children attending storytime on the bookmobile at Natchitoches' Bloomin' on the Bricks. The bookmobile's presence at the festival was part of an ongoing outreach effort to raise awareness of the many free services provided by the bookmobile and the library.

Send us your library's news & success stories!

Libraries are invited to share details and photographs of successes, accomplishments and milestones; new or innovative events and programs with potential for use or adaptation by other libraries; community partnerships; friends group activities; and changes in board members and staff, including new hires, promotions and job openings. Information for publication must be submitted in advance (by August 1 for the September/October issue) to Catherine Carlock Simpson, State Library communications director (csimpson@state.lib.la.us or 225/342-9713).

NEWS BRIEFS

The **New Orleans Public Library's Alvar Branch** joins two other Louisiana public libraries as recipients of the **We the People Bookshelf Awards** presented by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The library will receive copies of 15 classic books, posters, bookmarks and other promotional materials from NEH through the American Library Association. Courage is the theme of this year's bookshelf. The selected titles inspire readers with stories of real and fictional characters who exemplify personal courage in difficult situations and uncertain times. The libraries will organize programs and events aimed at raising awareness of these classic books and engaging young readers.

Port Allen Elementary School Library received a \$5,000 grant in May from the **Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries** to buy books. Grant application team members included Judy Boyce, **West Baton Rouge Parish Library**; Ecca Tate, Port Allen Elementary librarian; and Virginia Gough, retired principal and supervisor. The library was one of 136 applications selected from over 1,200

submitted by schools across the U. S. Other Louisiana recipients were **Scenic Alternative High School** and **Park Elementary** (Baton Rouge) and **E.B. Williams Stoner Hill Elementary** (Shreveport). The foundation, launched in 2002, supports education by providing funds to update, extend and



*One of the summer's most spectacular sights is a four-foot-tall beehive built by a swarm of the **West Baton Rouge Parish Library's** busy staff and volunteers to promote Buggy about Books, the 2004 Louisiana Summer Reading Program. They also made a 30-foot-long anthill and a mural of a garden from an insect's viewpoint. Pictured with the hive are staff member Linda Collins and volunteer Leonard Desmond, a Southern University architecture student.*

diversify book and print collections in America's school libraries. The awards are based primarily on need.

The **State Library** unveiled a **redesigned web site** June 17 that makes it easier to find and access information about programs and services. Although the content and web address (www.state.lib.la.us) remain the same, the improved site now focuses on customer needs rather than organizational structure. The change reflects a global shift by organizations and government from a traditional print-based approach to the use of web sites as a primary communications tool. The update may change URLs for specific State Library web pages, rendering previous bookmarks and links unworkable.

The **Ouachita Parish Public Library** achieved distinction recently as the first U.S. library to provide online public access to special collec-

tion archives. The digitized collection includes over 450 rare photographs.

State Librarian Tom Jaques and LLA President Terry Thibodeaux represented Louisiana May 3-4 at the 30th annual **National Library Legislative Day** in Washington, D.C. Over 400 librarians, trustees and library

advocates from 49 states met with their representatives and senators to lobby several key issues: appropriations, copyright, the Patriot Act and privacy concerns. Specific requests included an appeal to fund the Library Services & Technology Act at \$232 million—\$12 million over the amount proposed by the administration—and the Improving Literacy through School Libraries program at \$100 million. They also sought co-sponsors for the Digital Consumer Media Rights Act (HR 107), which would alter the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act to preserve free educational use, and for the bipartisan Security and Freedom Ensured (SAFE) Act (S 1709), aimed at amending the Patriot Act to protect the privacy of reading records. The annual Capitol Hill trek was sponsored by ALA, the District of Columbia Library Association and several state library associations.

People & Places

The **Lafayette Public Library** celebrated the grand opening of the **Youngsville Branch's** new location in Twin Oaks Plaza on Lafayette St. with a ribbon cutting



ceremony June 9. Left to right are Peggy Thibodeaux, interim head of extension services; Elizabeth Blomquist, interim librarian; Katie Martin, branch assistant; Carita Pearce, Romero-Pearce law firm; Joey Durel, city-parish president; Bruce Conque, city councilman; and Brenda Burley, Youngsville council representative. The new 2,500-square-foot library is more than double the size of the old branch, a converted house on Iberia St. that opened in 1985. Interim library director Sona Dombourian expects circulation to increase as customers of neighboring businesses visit the library.



Angela Cinquemano was hired in March as manager of the **State Library's** Louisiana Voices audiobook recording studio. She previously worked at LSU's College of Art as a digital arts librarian and manager of the Visual Resources Library.

Ted Landry, assistant director of the **Iberville Parish Library** for the past 15 years, accepted a position as assistant director at the **Acadia Parish Library**. He is succeeded by **Caroline LeBlanc**, who previously served as technical services director.

Sandi Suire was promoted to coordinator of children's programs for the **Beauregard Parish Library**. She previously managed the Ragley Branch.

Faith Johnson of the **Rapides Parish Library** was honored by the Alexandria Human Relations Commission Feb. 20 for her timely suggestion to hold a library fair showcasing the library's services. With tireless

work by the library staff, the fair helped generate voter support for a library tax renewal.

State Library early childhood services consultant **Rose Anne St. Romain** received three national awards for her 2003 book *Moon's Cloud Blanket*, a Louisiana Native American tale published by Pelican. The book was selected for *Children's Choices for 2004* by the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council; as a 2004 *Notable Social Studies Books for Young People* by the National Council for Social Studies and the Children's Book Council; and the 2004 *Storytelling World Honor Award* presented by the Storytelling World Committee of 50 professional storytellers. In her spare time, Rose Anne is working on her second book, another Louisiana tale.

May 14 marked the grand opening the new **Bayou L'Orse Branch** of the **Assumption Parish Library**. The facility is located in a beautiful setting on Hwy. 662 at the edge of a shaded walking trail.

An open house was held March 25 at the expanded **Ponchatoula Branch** of the **Tangipahoa Parish Library**. The 3,900-square-foot addition was constructed with financial support from Elmer's Candy Co. just across the street. It includes a new children's center and more computer space.

The new **Zachary Branch** of the **East Baton Rouge Parish Library** at 1900 Church St. was dedicated May 4, replacing the E. Mae St. location. Located on a four-acre tract of land, the 20,000-square-foot facility has an enclosed courtyard, an extensive gallery area and a 100-seat meeting room that can be divided. It houses 16 public-access computers and a VTEC print-enlarging viewer for patrons with low vision.



In Memoriam

James Rice, author and illustrator of more than 60 children's books, died in early June at age 70. His first book, *A Cajun Night Before Christmas*, was published in 1973.

Clifton Michael Acosta, 53, who worked in Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the State Library for 33 years, died earlier this year. He retired in 2003.