



THE PLACE d'ARMES

Laid out by Bienville in 1718. From left to right are: Cabildo, St. Louis Cathedral, Presbytery, Pontalba Apartment, with Jackson Square and Monument in foreground.

New Orleans— Most Interesting City

IT is not without good and forceful reasons New Orleans, the place of meeting for the Spring convention of the American Oil Chemists' Society, has been called "America's most interesting city." It is one of the few cities that have resisted the remorseless standardization that has swept over America for the past twenty or thirty years. History and historical association hold New Orleans in their arms like persistent lovers, and she has been faithful even to the tune of rivet hammers and the puff of power shovels.

The chamber of commerce of New Orleans is proud, and well proud, of the new skyscrapers, the modern hotels, and other evidences of progress. But they also know that the charm of the city is due to that intangible association of the past, and these have been preserved as an enticement to visitors.

The Old Absinthe House, the Cabildo, the St. Louis Cathedral, the air of romance—of grilled balconies—almost the echo of clashing swords, of thrilling, pulsing life, and sharp, sudden death. All in a setting that is beautiful, and to Northern visitors, unusual.

Delegates will find much to interest them. The Place D'Armes, in the heart of the Vieux Carre, was the central stage upon which much of the historic action in the pageantry of the city's colorful past took place. It was here, where the flags of Spain, France and the United States fluttered in the breeze. It was here that the Louisiana Territory, constituting most of the Mississippi Valley, was transferred three times—from France to Spain, from Spain to France, and finally, with the Louisiana Purchase, to the United States, by representatives of Thomas Jefferson and Napoleon.

The building in which the Purchase took place stands today. The Cabildo, for more than a century was the seat of government. Adjoining it is the St. Louis Cathedral, erected on the site selected by Bienville, the city's founder, in 1724. It was the first brick church in the south. Adjoining it stands the Presbytere, which was built originally as the house of the Capuchin priests.

There is also the Old Absinthe House. It is here that absinthe dripped onto the marble bar until it wore a depression two inches deep. This

famous old drinking place, founded in 1789, was once the rendezvous of Lafitte, called pirate by some, but pardoned of his "mistakes" by the government after his splendid participation in the Battle of New Orleans against the British in 1815 with his band of wild fighters from the Barataria country—every last one of them suspected of piracy.

Nearby is the tile roofed house of Spanish architecture of the eighteenth century, where, the story goes, a raid on the sun-worshipping Natchez Indians was planned. Religion played an important part in the early days of New Orleans, and many strange and sometimes gruesome rites were performed. Among the more outstanding of them was Voodooism, a form of pagan superstition brought from the African Congo by slaves, and is still practiced in secret by some of the more ignorant negroes in New Orleans. In the days when Voodooism held sway more or less openly, the center of this activity was in Congo Square, now known as Beauregard Square. The queen, Marie Leveau, a mulatress, led the mystic cult to probably its greatest heights of frenzy. She lived at 1036 St. Ann street, where she is supposed to have kept the "Great Zombi," a serpent whose food was children. The weird and repulsive rites of the Voodoo queens were enacted until 1900.

Delegates doubtlessly will be impressed with the type of cemeteries in New Orleans, with the above-ground burial policy carried on even today. The Old St. Louis cemetery provides the last resting place of many of the leaders in the historic past of the city. Even the walls of this cemetery are tombs, three tiers high.

Rue Royale, whose name has been shortened to Royal street, is probably one of the most European streets in America. It is the main connecting link between the old and the new city. It is one of the narrowest streets in the city—scarcely twenty-five feet from curb to curb—with old buildings and their wrought-iron balconies towering on either side.

Liberty Monument, at the foot of Canal street, marks the spot where "carpetbagging" days ended in New Orleans, with a battle between the metropolitan police and a small body of citizens. The monument was erected in mem-

ory of the fourteen Orleanians who were killed there.

The Mint Building at Esplanade avenue and Chartres street, is the oldest mint building in the United States. It was built in 1821, on the ramparts of Fort General Jackson, from the ramparts of which Andrew Jackson reviewed his troops in the war of 1812. A monument has been erected in the Place d'Armes in honor of General Jackson. It is a famous equestrian statue, the work of Clark Mills in 1856. It was set up at a cost of \$30,000.

Then, there is the "haunted house," the old New Orleans Theatre, the house built for Napoleon who, the story goes, was to be rescued from St. Helena. There are countless other points of interest in which delegates will doubtless find much to admire.



Washingtonian Palms in Audubon Park

The Vieux Carre is studded with rare gems of ancient architecture. The old section of the city, nestling in the heart of New Orleans, presents the same views that it did in the days of

Baron de Carondelet and the Louisiana Purchase.

There is another side to this interesting city. It is the modern and larger section of the Crescent City. Outside the boundaries of the Vieux Carre, a city that whispers of the past, reminiscent of days of luxury and langor, is the New Orleans that business men think of when contemplating expansion programs. This is the city that is known as the Nation's Second Port; whose steamships ply the seven seas, carrying the merchandise of every part of the United States to every port in the world.

The "new" section of New Orleans (which is new only by comparison to the Vieux Carre), presents every possibility for the conduct of business and every facility for the expansion of trade.



The Nuchar Cup



*"JACK" HARRIS
Chairman of the Golf Committee*

The Annual Golf Tournament

The Golf tournament has become an annual event that is looked forward to by all of the members of the Society attending the convention at New Orleans every spring, and the competition has become so keen within the past few years that this event has become a real sport classic.

In addition to the Nuchar Challenge Trophy Cup, picture shown herewith, the winner will receive a handsome permanent trophy, and the other prizes, as usual, will be well worth competing for. In fact it has become traditional that the prizes offered are the best of any competition of similar size.

But all outside of this matter of prizes, this afternoon of relaxation, out in the open, with a bunch of good fellows, interested in the same things and working towards the same ends as you are is well worth your while, and some-

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