

# The Laffite Study Group Newsletter

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The Laffite Study Group was formed in 1975 to unite persons with an interest in Jean Laffite's role in history, folklore, and literature. A non-profit educational organization, the study group publishes the **Newsletter** and a series of occasional papers entitled **The Life and Times of Jean Laffite**. Membership in the LSG is open to all. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and libraries (\$15 outside the U.S.), \$200 for life memberships. Queries concerning membership dues, subscriptions, etc., should be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, 2570 Kevin Lane, Houston, Texas 77043.

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## THE LAFFITE NETWORK

Compiled by Robert C. Vogel

Professor Tom Watson of McNeese State University recently came across a juicy bit of Laffite treasure lore in the pages of the old New Orleans **Daily Picayune** of 20 December 1844. The gist of the story is that Jean Laffite supposedly buried a ton of gold somewhere in the neighborhood of the Arkansas Post in 1814 to keep it out of the hands of the British invaders. The newspaper reported on the efforts of treasure seekers to dig up the forgotten bullion; alleged sightings of Laffite at the Arkansas Post are also included in the newspaper account. It is interesting to note that Jean Laffite did in fact visit the Arkansas Post in 1815 while a secret agent in the Spanish service employed on a frontier reconnaissance with the engineer A. L. Latour. [See the article by Hodges in the **Arkansas Historical Quarterly** XXX (1947).]

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Jean Laffite, a Mississippian? That's the story, according to Hodding Carter and Anthony Ragusin's **Gulf Coast Country** (New York, 1951). "Then of course, Jean Lafitte was born on the very land which the Pascagoula Beach park now occupies. If you don't believe it, ask the people who for many years have dig holes around the big oak trees in the park looking for his treasure." (pp. 58-59)

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A bibliography note: "Take Pity on our Glory: Men of Champ D'Asile," in the **Southwestern Historical Quarterly** LXXXVII (1984), pp. 241-268, by Kent Gardien. Gardien, a self-styled

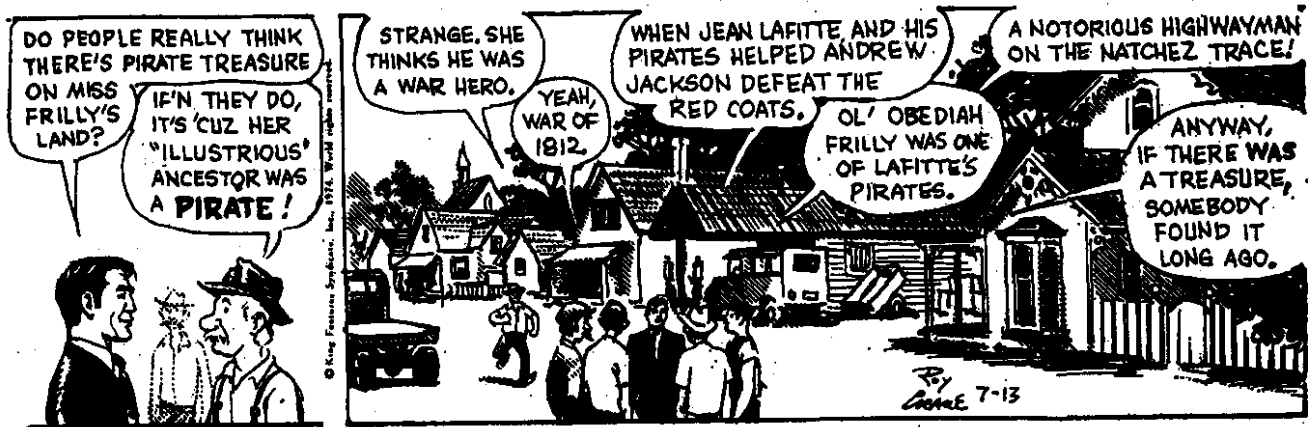
"grassroots" historian living in Cuernavaca, Mexico, has attempted to write a serious article about events in Galveston in 1818 without a single reference to either of the Laffites.

Remember the old television show, "The Adventures of Jim Bowie" (ABC)? The show, which was more or less based on Monte Barrett's book, **Tempered Blade**, aired during 1956-1958 and starred Scott Forbes as the Louisiana planter-adventurer. The TV Bowie hung around with Andy Jackson, Sam Houston, and Johnny Appleseed and in one episode met up with Jean Laffite. The show co-starred Robert Cornthwaite as Bowie's pal, John James Audubon. I wonder, does anyone know where I might get my hands on a tape of the "Adventures of Jim Bowie" Jean Laffite episode, or at least a story outline?

I was rumaging through an old file of uncataloged newspaper clippings the other day and ran across the newspaper comic strip (undated, but ca. 1975) reprinted below. This one will have to go into the category, "Jean Laffite as a Minor Character in Fiction & Verse." I checked, but could not find Obediah Frilly's name mentioned in the **Journal of Jean Laffite**...

Buz Sawyer

By Roy Crane



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