2019

North Central Louisiana Folklife Project Collection

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

Items from the North Central Louisiana Folklife Project and Susan Roach-Lankford; pictorial representations of contemporary North Louisiana folk-culture, arts and crafts, including mounted photographs, exhibit information, catalogs, and folk life survey forms. 12 boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX</th>
<th>FOLDER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>&quot;Gifts From the Hills- North Central Louisiana Folk Traditions,&quot; flyer announcing exhibit of the photographs; flyer announcing &quot;A Celebration of Black Folk Tradition of North Louisiana.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>002</td>
<td></td>
<td>Survey form/questionnaire- Louisiana Folkways Society.</td>
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BASKETRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>003</td>
<td></td>
<td>Willard Barham, Hico, shaves white-oak splint with pocket knife.</td>
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<tr>
<td>004</td>
<td></td>
<td>Willard Barham, Hico, tightens weave of white-oak basket; a tight basket weave is aesthetically valued.</td>
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<tr>
<td>005</td>
<td></td>
<td>Willard Barham, shows detail of a white-oak sapling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>006</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lonnie Gray, Bernice, shaves white-oak splint with draw knife.</td>
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<tr>
<td>007</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sidney Reed, Pine Hill, selects a white-oak sapling for splitting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>008</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sidney Reed, Pine Hill, begins to weave basket bottom on ground.</td>
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<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sidney Reed, Pine Hill, bends ribs to form sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010</td>
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<td>Sidney Reed, Pine Hill, bends ribs to form sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>011</td>
<td></td>
<td>Azzie Rowland, Marion, works on his porch with basket materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>012</td>
<td></td>
<td>Azzie Rowland, Marion, lays out the basket ribs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013</td>
<td></td>
<td>Azzie Rowland, Marion, puts small block under the ribs to form a bowed center.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BASKETRY cont.

002 001 Jim Rowland, Marion, with white-oak hamper with hinged lid.

002 The late Rev. V.L. Westbrook, weaves basket side using form, an innovation of his own which has also been used by other basket makers.

BLACKSMITHING

003 Homer Eaves, Simsboro, starts fire in forge for blacksmith work.

004 Homer Eaves, hammers plow sweep on anvil to sharpen the edge.

BONNETS AND HATS

005 Mittie Weldon, Bernice, models two styles of bonnets; the one she wears is a dress bonnet, while the other is used more for everyday gardening.

006 Leola Simmons, Downsville, plaits corn shucks to make a hat.

007 Leola Simmons, sews the plaited corn shuck to fashion the hat crown.

BROOMS

008 Lucille Bayles, Point, sweeps her kitchen with a sedge brush broom.

009 Annie Rene Harris, sweeps the back stoop with brush broom; husband Walker Harris, who bottoms chairs with cowhide, rests on the porch.

010 May Owens, Point, sweeps away debris with brush broom.

CHAIRS AND CHAIRBOTTOMS

011 Jimmie Gray, Bernice, prepares hickory for making chair bottom.

012 Nonie Waters, Shady Grove, twills corn shucks into rope for bottoming a chair.

013 Nonie Waters selects corn shucks for making corn shuck rope.
Nonie Waters weaves chair bottom with cotton cord, a commercial alternative to homemade cord.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Watson, Marsalis, sit in their swing on the porch of their bungalow, a favorite relaxation spot in the region.

GOURDS

Lonnie Gray, Bernice, prepares gourd martin house for hanging.

Jake Martin's gourds, Friendship, are grown on a dead tree; note the aluminum cans in the truck collected for recycling. A modern phenomena, can collecting follows the "waste not" philosophy practiced by area farmers.

Gourd birdhouses in Landscape (Union Parish).

Clem Wright, Gourds (not part of original exhibit)

NEEDLEWORK

Leola Simmons, Downsville, copies embroidery design with the traditional technique of placing cloth over the design to be copied and then.

Leola Simmons rubbing a snuff box over the cloth and design.

Ruth Dudley, Spearsville, tats lace edging.

Mittie Weldon, Bernice, tats lace.

Iska Walker, Farmerville, in a living room making hairpin lace.

Minnie Lee Graves, Hico, quilting "double wedding ring" quilt on frame suspended from ceiling.

Rosie Jackson, Chatham, on her front porch with some of her common quilts used for cover.

Opal Madden, Simsboro, adjusts clamps on her quilt frame which sits on horses, another way of setting up the frame.

Nova Mercer, Jonesboro, piecing "double wedding band" quilt.

Detail of piecing "double wedding band" quilt top.

Neil Roach draws quilting designs on her "dutch doll" quilt.
Jossie Sheldon, Haynesville, puts this star quilt together with a variation of the "drunkard's path" pattern.

NEEDLEWORK cont.

Rosie Whaley, Pin Hill, pieces an "around the world" quilt top from polyester knit.

Maybeth Wilson, Linville, quilts in her bedroom on frames suspended from the ceiling.

Leola Simmons, Downsville, crochets an afghan from a pattern copied from neighbors.

SOAPMAKING

Mary Gray, Bernice, stirs cracklings and lye together to make soap.

Annie Rene Harris, Homer, pours water through white-oak ashes in barrels to make lye for soap making.

Not Identified

WOODCRAFTS

David Allen, Homer, strips bark from hickory to make a walking stick.

David Allen carves a variety of spirals, clovers, and other designs on his canes.

David Allen varnishes the canes after the carving is finished.

David Allen has passed on his art to his neighbor Bennie Holyfield.

David Allen stands in his front yard with cane

Hugh McGee, Spearsville, a retired carpenter, whittles small objects to pass the time.

E. J. Ware, Haynesville, retired carpenter, builds martin houses to attract the mosquito-eating birds.
Abbie Colvin unhitches horse from plow.
Abbie Colvin, Dubach (Lincoln), plows up potatoes while family members pick up the crop.
Sally Aulds, Ruston, uses a hoe to dig the remaining potatoes after the plow has gone down the bed four times.
Inez Sharp, Ruston, spreads potatoes out in a storage shed; lime may be sprinkled on them to keep them.

Annie Rene Harris, Homer, uses sticks for running beans in her garden.
Harmon Martin, considered to be one of "the best plow hands in the country" gets the rows ready for setting out onions for a winter garden.
Mr. and Mrs. Clonie Otwell, Dubach, pull up the last of the snap bean vines to pick the last of the crop.
Victor Tabor, Spearsville, sorts through his wide variety of farming gear.
Victor Tabor, Spearsville, has built a number of barns on his farm. This one was disassembled and moved to his farm where he rebuilt it.
Victor Tabor, Spearsville, and his neighbors attempt to help a cow with calving difficulties. After trying to "pull" the calf with a rope tied to its feet and having no success, they had to resort to the skills of a veterinarian, which unfortunately came too late to save the calf.
Victor Tabor, Spearsville, uses his bullwhip to herd the cows to the barn for milking and feeding.
Victor Tabor, with help from his neighbors, harnesses his ponies for a Sunday afternoon ride, a traditional Sunday pastime.
Victor Tabor takes off in his homemade wagon.
The Sunday afternoon ride stops abruptly when the ponies, still being trained to pull the wagon, plunge into the ditch and
break the wagon tongue. Victor has to walk the ponies home and return for the wagon with the tractor.

014 Richard Bryant, Dubach, milks his cows in the barn.

015 Richard Bryant strains the milk after milking.

016 Richard Bryant raises a variety of chickens, ducks, guineas, and banties in his traditional homemade coops.

017 Richard Bryant and family relax on the front porch at twilight after the chores are done. The granddaughter takes care of the perpetual fly in a traditional fashion, a task usually assigned to children.

FARMING AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY cont.

006 001 Clonie Otwell, Dubach, cleans his donkey's hoof.

002 Clonie Otwell, Pearidge, tells a donkey's age by examining its teeth. The more slanted the teeth, the older the animal. Animal husbandry information such as this is learned growing up on a farm.

FISHING, HUNTING, TRAPPING

003 Gibson family, Homer; bank fish with cane poles and rod and reel on lake Claiborne, a traditional family activity.

004 Vessie Gibson, Homer, removes a "bream" from her hook. The fish will be taken home and fried.

005 Howard Henry, Wilhite, hangs his homemade hoop nets in a tree to dry out after a fishing trip. The nets, along with trammel nets and fishing.

006 Howard Henry, Wilhite, unpacks a trammel net.

007 Howard Henry, Wilhite, places his catch in a holding cage in his pond to keep them alive until they are sold.

008 Truett Moore, Ruston, smoothes cow horn with a rasp to make a blowing or hunting horn.

009 Squire Pearson, Litro, with his hunting dog Penny which he trained for squirrel hunting.
Roy Bayles, Point, scrapes a raccoon hide with a draw knife.

Roy Bayles takes his frozen hides from the freezer, where they are stored until marketing. Bayles, a buyer of hides-fur trader-gets his hides from farmers and hunters who trap as a sideline.

Clonie Otwell (Pearidge) and his grandson set a steel trap for trapping mink, coon, etc.

Sarah Albritton pulls corn from Jewel Davenport's garden which has purple hull peas planted in his field corn, a traditional practice.

Jewel Davenport, Grambling, loads okra in his truck along with cornstalks he will feed to his horse.

Hill country pastures of Murphy and Cooper families near Hico (Lincoln).

FISHING, HUNTING, TRAPPING cont.

Phil Robertson, Luna (Ouachita) calls ducks in the Union Parish swamp with his self-designed and patented Commander duck caller. Duck hunting has become a popular as well as traditional hunting sport. In the past, handmade callers were used, but decoys were not common to this area.

Lestar Martin coaxes his pet pig to beg for food; farm animals frequently become pets.

Harmon Martin plowing.

FOLK ARCHITECTURE

Obed Ware, Haynesville, rives boards from Cypress for roofing.

Obed Ware, Haynesville, puts new roof on his new well shed.

Log dog trot in Dubach, built ca. 1848, features square notching.

Sheet iron and sign covered barn (Simsboro) built by Homer Eaves in 1920's.

Single crib log barn built by Homer Eaves, Simsboro, in 1920's.
Hay barn built by Homer Eaves (Simsboro) in 1920’s.

Rat proof barn (crib) built by Homer Eaves.

Traditional pig pen structure built by Mr. and Mrs. Walker Harris, Homer (Bethlehem Community).

Potato house (cellar) and Clay Colvin farm (Dubach).

Outdoor Toilet on Colvin farm (Dubach).

Clonie Otwell and his new jack beside his Grandfather Otwell’s double pen log house with dove tail notching.

New Freedom Church of Faith, Ruston; Bungalow home adapted to church building.

Shotgun house at Pine Hill community.

May Owens, Point. Bungalow with screened porch note traditional yard with clean swept yard free of grass and random flower beds.

Pyramid house near Calhoun.

W. R. Henry's general store in Marsalis.

Community members visit in Henry's store around wood stove.

Water well on back porch, Homer Eaves, Simsboro.

Bedstead gate for chicken yard, Victor Tabor, Spearsville.

Richard Bryant Chicken Coop.

Annie Rene Harris with her chicken house (used for penning chickens at night). Homer, La.

Homer Eaves, Simsboro, log blacksmith shop.

Sarah Albritton, Ruston, cooks dewberries in water to release juice for jelly.

Sarah Albritton strains the juice.

Sarah Albritton adds sugar to the juice.
Sarah Albritton checks to see if it has thickened before skimming off the foam.

Sarah Albritton wipes the jar rims to make the filled jars look pretty.

She processes the capped jars, a new step popularized by home extension service.

Inez Sharp, Ruston, tops filled jelly jars with melted paraffin to seal jelly, an alternative to sealing with new jar lids.

Mary Gray, Bernice, packs white-oak picnic basket with huckleberry pie, peas, and fried chicken for community dinner.

Mary L. Gunn, Ruston, shells purple hull peas on back porch.

Mary Gunn (detail), shells peas.

Michael Greenfield, Litroe, uses net to skim fallen may haws from water.

James Robertson, Luna, and Grandson Jess gather may haws in the north Union Parish forests.

Detail of a may haw, a small red apple-like berry.

Michael Greenfield in the Ouachita River backwater shakes may haw tree to release berries into the water.

Phil Robertson and sons with friend Michael Greenfield wade in knee deep backwater to gather may haws floating.

Annie Rene Harris, Homer, in kitchen with milk which will be churned into butter.

Annie Harris, removes salted down ham from box in smokehouse.

Annie Rene Harris dips out lye soap from soap barrel.

Annie Rene Harris draws water from back yard well.

Water well shed of Walker and Annie Rene Harris.

Mattie Webb, Homer, snaps string beans.

Charlotte Houck, Hico, prepares biscuits (made by mother, Viola Houck), and sausage.

Alvia Houck, Hico, hangs ham for smoking in smokehouse.
Alvia Houck builds fire with hickory and sassafras for smoking hams and sausage.

FOODWAYS cont.

Alvia Houck and grandchildren outside smokehouse.

Pat Otwell, Pearidge Community, removes a bottle of pickled peppers from cupboard where other canned goods are stored.

Maxine Otwell, Pearidge Community, mixes dough for may haw cobbler, first she makes a well of flour and adds oil.

Maxine Otwell places biscuit on baking sheet.

Maxine Otwell rolls out dough to be cut into strips and placed over may haw juice.

Maxine Otwell places crust on may haw cobbler.

Truett Moore, Ruston, picks apples from tree with homemade apple picker (can on a stick), a traditional tool.

Leola Simmons, Downsville, with her string beans.

Elvie Lou Westbrook, Ruston, peels turnips.

Elvie Lou Westbrook cooks turnips and greens.

Elvie Lou Westbrook checks boiling pork back bone, a meat traditionally served with turnip greens.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Colvin family members (Lincoln Parish) make a traditional Sunday afternoon visit to one of the small family cemeteries prevalent throughout the area.

Members of the Clay and Eva Colvin family gather around the table for Thanksgiving Day prayer.

Family members gather at home following a funeral for food and visiting.

Oil and gas well drillings are important community events which draw whole families to observe the activity.
The extended Colvin family, one of the largest clans in North La., gathers at their family pavilion at one of the Colvin Centers (Unionville) for their annual family reunion with "dinner on the grounds."

Older Pisgah Community (Union Parish) members calling their group "keenagers," have a monthly gathering to play music and share a meal featuring such traditional foods as purple-hull peas.

Purple-hull peas served at Keenagers meeting.

MUSIC

Jimmy and Jane Ball and son Bobby, Ruston, play old time country and gospel music in their home.

Fred Beavers (fiddle), Tracey Tyler (guitar), Lesley Raborn (mandolin), and Doc Chipman (rhythm guitar) gather at Beaver’s home in Choudrant to play old-time country music.

Lawrence Rippertoe, Homer, plays harmonica with Johnny Beavers seconding on guitar.

Lawrence Rippertoe and Johnny Beavers play country music for family and friends.

Roy Beckham, Hico, old time country fiddle.

Charles Ellis Dawkins, Farmerville, plays harmonica blues, gospel, and country music on his front porch.

Henry Holde (piano) and Hugh McGee (guitar) and Lonnie Gray (fiddle) play gospel and country music at monthly community gatherings.

Clonnie Otwell, Dubach (Pearidge Community), plays harmonica and dances for his family.

Mitchell Sheldon, Haynesville, sings and plays blues on his electric guitar.

Mitchell Sheldon is joined by his wife Jossie for a gospel song.
O. A. Houck, Hico, and children Johnny, Rickey, and Cindy Hockenjos, is a favorite area family gospel quartet provide a song service for Saint Rest Church (Lincoln Parish).

Rev. Onez McCarty, Chatham, pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church, delivers a "message in song" after his Sunday morning sermon.

The Shady Grove Children's Choir and pianist director Judith McConnel wait for Sunday service to begin.

Bluegrass musicians jam at the Vienna town hall. Many of the musicians such as "Pappy" Booth (guitar), "Pete" Brontley (fiddler), and Lesley Raborn (mandolin) also play old-time country and country-western music as well as bluegrass.

Bluegrass Festival at Quitman, Benefit for bluegrass musician.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church Building, Reidheimer (Natchitoches).

Primitive Baptist preacher, Hilton Mercer, Jonesboro (Pumpkin Center Community) behind Oak Grove Primitive Baptist service by leading the song.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES cont.

Hilton Mercer, after his sermon has begun paces back and forth in the pulpit which punctuates the rhythm of his speech.

Elder W. D. Godwin, Goldonna (Winn Parish) sermon at Oak Grove Primitive Baptist service.

Elders Mercer, and Godwin lead song before communion for which church members have gathered at the front of the building.

The elders break the communion bread.

Women members on the church begin the foot washing service which follows the communion. Each woman will "gird about the waist" a cloth and wash the next woman's feet, which will in turn, ash the next woman's feet.

The male members also wash each other's feet.
After the communion and foot washing the members conclude the service by singing a song and then walking out.

Following the service, members gather for "dinner on the grounds," with members and guests providing a wide variety of traditional foods.

Family and friends gather at Ruston Funeral Home chapel for a wake after a death in the community.

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church (Chatham), church doors with black mourning ribbon which marks the recent loss of their new pastor, Rev. Omez McCarty.

Mt. Moriah pulpit and pastor’s chair are also draped in mourning.

Johnny McCarty, Quitman, and his family give a special choral performance at the unveiling ceremony for Mt. Moriah Church.

Following a five month mourning period, an unveiling service is held to remove the mourning draping.

Wesley Chapel Church (Methodist), Claiborne Parish.

Tulip Methodist Church, rebuilt in 1872 is the location for the annual Tulip Memorial Day.

The interior of the church features traditional divided pews for men ‘and women.

TRADITIONALLY INSPIRED ARTWORKS

DeCinter Farley, Vienna, who tells stories of her youth spent on a traditional North La. farm, illustrates her memories of this time in her painting of traditional farm activities.

Jake Martin, Friendship, with his own creation of yard art of found bottles, fans, light bulbs, and other objects. Yard art such as this might be said to follow traditional structures such as bottle trees.