

Walter Parker's home at 924 Moss St., on the shore of Bayou St. John circa 1951. He was among the waterway's greatest advocates.



JULIA STREET



WITH POYDRAS THE PARROT

A MONTHLY PURSUIT OF ANSWERS TO ETERNAL QUESTIONS

Hi Julia,

The Dumaine Street bridge that crosses Bayou St. John has a plaque on it indicating that it was built in 1951 as "The Walter Parker Memorial Bridge." Who was this guy Walter Parker, and what did he do to get a bridge named after him? I am told that in addition to the bridge, the house at 924 Moss St., which I have always heard referred to as "The Sanctuary" was also once called "The Walter Parker House." I would love to know more about this person who was apparently

rather influential in the early days of the development of Bayou St. John.

Maryjo Webster
NEW ORLEANS

Walter Parker was an economist, a journalist, an expert on the cotton industry and an authority on waterways development. In the first decade of the 1900s, he headed the Louisiana Boat Owners Association. In later years, Parker was a prominent member of the Association of Commerce, helped organize the Mississippi Valley Association and fought for flood control. In the early '60s, Parker's home, which had been built in the late 1700s, became home to the Sanctuary School.

Walter Parker lived on the shore of Bayou St. John and was among the waterway's greatest advocates. He was one of the first people to pressure the city to address the issue of sewage flowing into Lake Pontchartrain and Bayou St. John. Parker actively promoted beautification and encouraged community pride for neighborhoods fronting the Bayou St. John. →