Margaret Earthman
1934-2005

Her spirit and energy live on in our memories and thoughts of the Margaret we knew. She was a compassionate woman with a big heart. She always was eager to share Eibands and her home for special events and even her lunch if she thought you hadn’t eaten. Margaret loved to shop and loved to see others get what they wanted as well.

I met her through fellow Laffite members Bill and Bernadette Foley and later worked for Jim and Margaret Earthman for 2 ½ years managing Eibands Antique Gallery previously a historic Galveston landmark, the Eibands department store. The Earthmans renovated the building and in December of 2005 we opened the largest antique store on the Island and in our years together we helped to re-define the ArtWalk events by furnishing food and spirits and became the social gathering place for the, as Doris Sutton would put it, Galveston café society.

Eibands was home to the Laffite Society after our formative meetings at Diane and Dale Olson’s home on Sealy. We used the beautiful conference room at Eibands for our monthly meeting and many parties. The Earthmans were eager to share the 16,000 square foot Gallery to host many charitable events such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Strand Theatre fundraisers, wall space for the Galveston art league, our grand opening and our anniversary parties. Margaret’s open door policy with the Antique business helped us get acquainted with some of the finest people. Margaret and Jim were always in attendance and as Jim Earthman used to say, “You have to eat somewhere.”

My fondest memory of Margaret besides the drive to San Miguel de Allende with she and Jim and the many buying trips to Dallas Market to purchase new items for the store was the Laffite field trip to Grand Isle- Grand Terre.

Margaret distinguished herself as a trooper, leading the beach gang in search of treasure, from Ft. Livingston across the partially flooded, snake infested Grand Terre to the sandy beach to search for pottery shards. Meanwhile the wild life and fisheries guide and I led a less discriminating group through the alligator and snake infested marsh to the small shell middens on the back side of the island. The spirit of adventure and the love of history are just some of the bonds shared by the Laffite Society members on that memorable trip with Margaret.

She will always be missed and she will always be present!

Jim Nonus