Laffite Society’s Christmas Party

Jean Epperson

The Laffite Society’s Christmas Party gala was held on December 10, 2006 at the 1866 Jockusch Building 21st Street of the Strand on Galveston Island. Some eighty-five members, friends and notables attended in formal and semi-formal attire.

The pre-dinner reception featured an open bar on the third floor Maco Bakery room. An American version of the famous French Sazarac cocktail was featured and was enjoyed by the more adventuresome attendees.

An excellent buffet dinner was served in the Buccaneer Room, catered by Bistro Le Croy. Individual tables, tastefully decorated, circled the large room.

President, Jim Nonus, began the ceremonies with opening remarks and introduced Edward Jamison the Society’s archivist. An annual tradition, Ed had the pleasure of recognizing all of the attendees with a few special comments and plaudits.

Introducing the evening speaker, Jeffery P. Modzelewsky, a past president of the Society, was made by R. Dale Olson, the Society’s founding president. Jeff gave a brief summary of the Laffite brothers history and journeys for the uninitiated Laffite buffs. He also concentrated on the J.L Rubio Mane book Los Piratas Lafitte. This book was written in Spanish in 1927 and had never been translated into English. An important source of Laffite material, it was only available to those who understood Spanish. Jeff gallantly undertook the time consuming task of translating the book into English. An excellent and meticulous translator, Jeff has an advanced degree in Spanish and spent two years in Spain during his schooling. With help and encouragement from Dale Olson, Dorothy Karilanovic and other members of the Society, a book of Jeff’s translation of Los Piratas Lafitte has been published.

The highlight and conclusion of the evening came when a copy of the book was given as Christmas present to each of those attending the party.