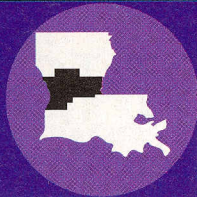


around Louisiana

Central Louisiana



FORK IN THE ROAD Standing guard

As a native New Orleanian fortunate enough to grow up in the waning era of drug store fountains, I have fond memories of K&B's nectar sodas, wonderful chicken salad sandwiches, hamburgers, fries and rich, thick, chocolate malts delicious enough to break your heart. It's wonderful to know that a drug store with a breakfast and lunch counter still exists in the state of Louisiana.

For 30 years, Sentry Drug Store in Alexandria has withstood the onslaught of chain drugstores. In keeping with tradition, the apothecary houses the Sentry Grill that sizzles with home cooking by Chef Linda. Satisfied patrons have called Miss Linda's breakfasts the best to be had in Alexandria. Large, round, light pancakes resemble crowns resting on your plate as butter melts and syrup trickles, collecting into a delicious maple pool at the base of the stack. Plates are covered with generous portions of eggs cooked to your liking and rounded out with bacon, toast or biscuits and sausages. Other traditional breakfast sides include fragrant ham, hash browns, grits and jelly.

Nostalgic lunches abound. Miss Linda's burgers are jaw-achingly generous and the old-time club sandwiches are perfectly layered triangles complemented by crispy bacon and cheese. Swiss or cheddar



Sentry Drug Store

cheese oozes delightfully in Sentry's renowned patty melt. Lunch specials travel further into the realm of old-fashioned home cooking: Fried Catfish, Smothered Steak, Baked or Fried Pork Chops, Fried Chicken, Red Beans and Sausage, Shrimp Baskets, Meat Loaf and Chicken and Dumplings are offered on given days, with choices of Rice and Broccoli Casserole, Fried Squash, Green Beans, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Yams, Crowder Peas, Lima Beans, Cabbage and Macaroni and Cheese. Finish your lunch with a helping of homemade Peach Cobbler.

Sentry offers homemade comfort food that's a big help when you drop in for relief of a headache or cold, or if you just decide to take a break from the streets of Alexandria. A visit to the Sentry Grill is a tonic for what ails you — a slip in the time-space continuum when drug stores were oases where you could rest and recuperate without paying a doctor's fee. *Sentry Grill, 1002 Third St., Alexandria; (318) 442-4475.*

NEWS BRIEF Southern by the grace of God

In a recent survey conducted by *Crisis Magazine*, the Catholic diocese of Alexandria ranked fourth in the nation based on its high number of active priests, ordinations and adults who choose to join its faithful. This relatively small diocese ministers to the Central Louisiana Parishes of Avoyelles, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, Franklin, Grant, LaSalle, Madison, Natchitoches, Rapides, Tensas, Vernon and Winn — covering an area that reaches from Bayou des Glaises to the rivers Mississippi and Cane. Compared to 176 other dioceses in the U.S., Bishop Ronald P. Herzog is pleased at the high ranking, but not very surprised.

"In the two years I have been here," states Herzog, "the general faith of the parishes has been inspirational." He also credits his predecessor, Bishop Sam Jacobs, for much of the fine results he inherited. But the real strength of the Alexandria diocese, in his opinion, rests

with the true faith he sees in the fellowship of the churches he visits. "You find people here very dedicated to their faith," he declares. In addition, a vibrant Catholic education system combined with youth programs has succeeded in drawing youngsters into the fold.

Of the top five diocese listed in the survey, four were based in the South. The executive director of the Washington-based Morley Institute for Church and Culture, Deal Hudson, who contributed to the *Crisis* article, observed that, like Alexandria, the other high scorers were both small and southern based. Hudson reveals that, similar to Protestant churches south of the Mason-Dixon line, Catholic churches in Dixie tend to be stronger than houses of worship found in other geographic regions of the U.S.

LOUISIANA GROWN The jujube tree

Cane River country is a fertile, rich and rolling land. The river itself was once the main channel of the Red River →

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