



Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

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Fall 1997



Groundbreaking Ceremony: pictured are (left to right) Warren Perrin, President of CODOFIL; State Representative Sydnie Mae Durand; Janie Bulliard, Vice President Acadian Memorial Foundation; Robert Barras, Project Architect; State Senator Craig Romero; Mayor Eric Martin; J.C. Dugas, Dugas Construction Co. (Contractor for the work); Curtis Joubert, Director of Franco-Fête; Patricia Resweber, President Acadian Memorial Foundation; Leonard Resweber Jr., Acadian Memorial Building Chairman; and Jolene Adam, Curator/Director Acadian Memorial.

National Day of the Acadians

The Acadian Memorial is quickly moving forward since its opening last year and it is literally moving upward as well.

On August 15, 1997, the Acadian Memorial celebrated the "National Day of the Acadians." The day of remembrance included an early morning flag raising ceremony at 6 a.m. at St. Martinville City Hall. The international flag of the Acadians and the United States flag were raised. Following was a groundbreaking ceremony for the

construction of the Acadian Memorial twin towers - which will have an elevator on one back corner and a staircase on the other. This will allow entry to the second floor which will house the multi-media history and genealogy center.

From 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. admittance to the Memorial was free. At 4 p.m. Dana David, a local researcher, spoke on *traiteurs* or "treaters" and students from St. Martin Parish French Immersion classes performed musical selections. The *Tintamarre*

formed at the Memorial at 5 p.m. and proceeded to St. Martin de Tours Church in a demonstration of Acadian pride followed by the 5:30 Mass in celebration of the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. After Mass, at the Acadian Memorial a short skit was performed portraying Olivier Theriot. Theriot was responsible for recruiting 1,600 Acadians to come to Louisiana from France. A reception given by the Acadian Memorial Foundation ended the day on the banks of the Bayou Teche.

From the President

I am pleased to announce that the membership campaign has been opened and memberships are coming in from around the county. The application in this newsletter may be copied if you wish. To help with the drive you may invite your family and friends to join us.

It is exciting to inform you of our newest committee. The Coporate Campaign committee. It is chaired by Mr. Charles Richard, owner of

Bayou Bouef Electrical of Amelia, La. and member of the Board of Governors. Serving with Mr. Richard is Mr. Jim Olivier of Lafayette, television celebrity and new Acadian Memorial Director. Also serving are Mr. Eddie Richard and Mrs. Peggy Hulin, long standing Board members. The purpose of this committee will be to develop plans to create a Foundation trust fund. Be looking for the activity developed by

this important committee.

I am happy to welcome Mr. Jim Olivier of Lafayette and Mrs. Julie Bernard Regard of New Iberia to the Acadian Memorial Foundation Board of Directors. Both have expressed their pride and enthusiasm in being asked to serve. I look forward to having them help accomplish the mission of the Acadian Memorial.

Du bureau de la directrice

Bon Christmusse et Bonne Année! On the heels of St. Martinville's first *Tintamarre*, another Acadian tradition comes to the Memorial. On Wednesday, December 10 at 7 p.m. will be our first *Ratatouille*. Not to be confused with Julia Child's eggplant stew, this is a pre-Christmas *veillée* (evening visit) to sing *cantiques* (religious songs) as well as ballads and drinking songs in French. Bring some handiwork or whittling, or keep your hands free to sing along using the lyric sheets that will be provided.

The Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Raymond Chrétien will come to the Acadian Memorial in early December! He is visiting Louisiana to learn more about the state's Acadian heritage.

President Liane Roy and Director René Légère of the *Société Nationale de l'Acadie* visited the Memorial on September 16. The SNA is seeing to renovations of the Grand-Pré National Historic Site and sought our input on interpreting Louisiana.

Teachers of French and history in St. Martin Parish will be invited

to a reception in January 1998. We will discuss ways that the Memorial can support teaching Acadian history in the classroom.

St. Martinville and Mandeville secondary students who visited the Memorial this fall were deported! They took part in a new activity that allows them to learn about the Acadian exile from the point of view of one of three individuals-- Elizabeth Thibodeau Brasseur, Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil or Olivier Terrio. Students came away with a personalized understanding of historic events and the courage of these individuals. The exercise also serves as a fun introduction to research and documentation. Student groups who visit the Memorial may now request this activity as part of their visit.

The Louisiana Association of Museums chose the Acadian Memorial to be part of a feature in the Fall 1997 edition of *Cultural Vistas*, published by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The Memorial also appears in the latest edition of the Acadian magazine *Ven'd'Est* as well as a recent issue of *La Lettre* published by

Bretagne-Acadie and *France-Amérique*.

All we want for Christmas is...funding for the new history center's multi-media archive! The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities has received our request to help expand the Wall of Names into an on-line multi-media format. We appreciate your donation to help us match these funds as required by LEH.

Construction is underway! In the new history center above the Acadian Memorial, workers are now painting and hanging plaster and wood trim throughout the computer and conference areas. Renovation is scheduled for completion at the end of January.

Thank you for the books! Mitch Conover donated genealogy books and CD-ROMS on the Broussards and Trahans. Elizabeth Nell Dubus donated a copy of her novel, *Cajun*. Gregory Wood donated his book, *Acadians in Maryland*. The Cathedral Carmel High School Class of 1936 donated *Remember Us* by Lucien and Melba Martin, in memory of their classmate, Louis Estillette.



The Tintamarre is a noisy procession that dates back to the days when Acadians were discouraged from speaking their native tongue. Acadians rebelled and marched en masse in a show of pride and defiance. On August 15, 1997, Tintamarre participants in St. Martinville marched with painted faces, carrying noisemakers such as pots and pans, whistles, rattles and spoons. They departed from the Acadian Memorial clapping, clattering and shouting for three blocks to St. Martin de Tours, the Mother Church of the Acadians in Louisiana. There they celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, patroness of Acadians.



Micmac Nation of Bouctouche - During the celebration of the twinning of cities of St. Martinville, Louisiana and Bouctouche, New Brunswick, Jolene Adam, Curator/Director of the Acadian Memorial and Patricia Resweber, President of the Acadian Memorial Foundation Inc. were presented a CD-ROM on the history of the Micmac First Nation by Mrs. Carol Peters, Tourism Coordinator for the Bouctouche Micmac Band. The First Nation's friendship with the Acadians contributed to their survival long ago. On behalf of Chief William Sanipass and Spiritual Elder Gilbert Sanipass, Mrs. Peters presented three baskets weaved in three different styles used by the Micmac.

70 reunions planned

Some seventy family reunions are now being planned for *Congrès Mondial Acadien* to be held in Louisiana in 1999, and the Acadian Memorial Foundation will play an active role.

The Memorial represents a common thread which the reunions share, uniting them with common bonds of history and ancestry. Descendants can visit the Eternal Flame and be reminded there of who they are and from where they come. Above the Wall of Names an inscription reads, "Pause friend, read my name and remember." In the stunning mural, "The Arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana," they can recognize the features of the Acadian/Cajun people of Louisiana. At the Memorial history center, they will be able to explore their heritage in greater depth and document their ancestors.

Through these commemorative elements, the Acadian Memorial accomplishes the greatest desire of exiled Acadians - to reunite their families.

The Acadian Memorial Foundation is contacting all CMA family reunion organizations and looks forward to collaborating with them as 1999 approaches, so all can learn more about Louisiana's Acadian legacy.

Calling All Cajuns Calendar

Wednesday, December 10, 1997,

Ratatouille (Song Fest)

7:00 p.m. Acadian Memorial

April 18, 1998

Unveiling of Wall of Names

Opening of Research Center

Calling All Cajuns Newsletter

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

This will be your last issue of *Calling All Cajuns* newsletter if you have not yet joined the Acadian Memorial Foundation Inc. See enclosed form! Join today!

WAYS YOU CAN BE PART OF THE ACADIAN MEMORIAL!

See Inserts:

Acadian Memorial

Product Order Form

Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Membership letter and Application Form

Acadian Memorial on the internet!

Website address:

(<http://www.pwcweb.com/usapages/acadian/>)

Home Page courtesy of O.P. Ditch, Woodbridge, VA

e-mail to: mbarras@worldnet.att.net

The Acadian Memorial is open daily 10-4

Admission:

5 & Under - Free • 6-18 - \$1 • 19-60 - \$3* • 60+ - \$2*

* Call 318/394-2233 for special rates for school groups & adult tour groups.

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