



# Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, La

Vol. 7, No. 2

FALL 1998

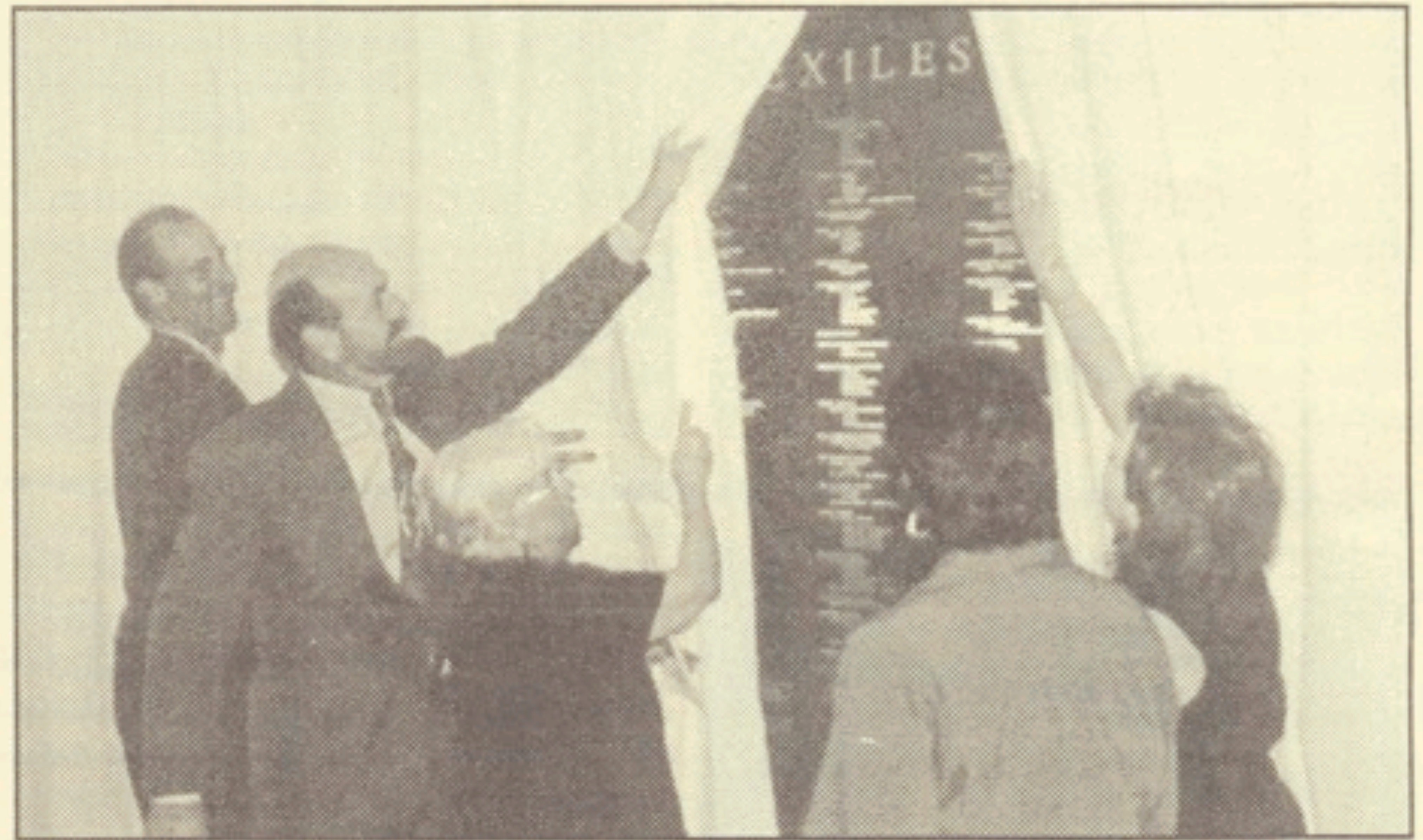
## Wall of Names unveiled

Sunday, May 31, 1998 was a significant day in the annals of the building of the Acadian Memorial. On that day, the end of several years' work was revealed as a curtain slowly opened and the public glimpsed, for the first time, the reason for this memorial to Louisiana's Acadian legacy. Here was a compilation of the names of the men, women and children torn from their Canadian homes in the mid-eighteenth century and labeled as outcasts and refugees before arriving in Louisiana.

Thunderous applause rose from the standing room only audience as the twelve bronze plaques that displayed 3,000 names across twenty five feet of the south wall of the memorial were fully revealed. Some wept as they realized that this truly was the symbolic reunion of all Louisiana Cajuns, past and present.

For a moment, everyone gazed in silence at the expanse of bronze on the wall of the Acadian Memorial located on the banks of Bayou Teche in St. Martinville. As the crowd moved forward, cameras began to flash and people approached the wall, pointing to and then touching the names of ancestors some known and some forgotten until now.

In a talk preceding the unveiling, Jane G. Bulliard, Wall of Names chairman, said that for many years the legendary Evangeline was an icon, seen as the only positive model of an Acadian revered by an intolerant English-speaking world. "We no longer have to look to a literary figure for a hero," Bulliard said. "Inscribed on the wall are names of real heros-resistance fighters, men and women



*From left: Mayor Eric Martin, Sen. Craig Romero, Jane G. Bulliard, Rep. Sydnie Mae Durand and Rachelle M. Dugas*

who fought back as the English tried to drag the Acadians into an international fray with the French."

The day began with Mass at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church and a processional of flags bearing Acadian surnames. The unveiling took place at 10 a.m. and was followed by brunch for 400 prepared under the guidance of Chef Marcelle Bienvenu. The brunch was served to the accompaniment of Cajun music by Les Frères Michot under a tent that stretched from sidewalk to sidewalk.

On the first six plaques, the names arranged in alphabetical order represent Acadian names found in Louisiana from 1764 through 1815 not including the manifests of the seven ships that arrived from France in 1785. The spelling of those surnames follows that used on the sur-

names plaques at Grand-Pré National Historic Site in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The listing of the passengers on the seven ships that arrived from France in 1785 begins on plaque number six and is not alphabetical.

The manifest from each ship was used as a guide to the names and was edited by Gérard Braud and Monique Hivert-le Fourcheaux of Nantes and Rennes, France, respectively.

A guide to the Wall of Names has been produced and is available for \$10.00 + shipping. The Acadian Memorial is open daily from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. and docents are on hand to answer questions or serve as guides. For more information call 318/394-2258.

## From the President

The unveiling of the Wall of Names was truly one of the great events to have witnessed in the building of the Acadian Memorial! The whole day proved worthy of its magnitude as it was attended by a large crowd of people and everything was beautiful--hot and humid, but, beautiful! I hope that everyone reading this was able to attend.

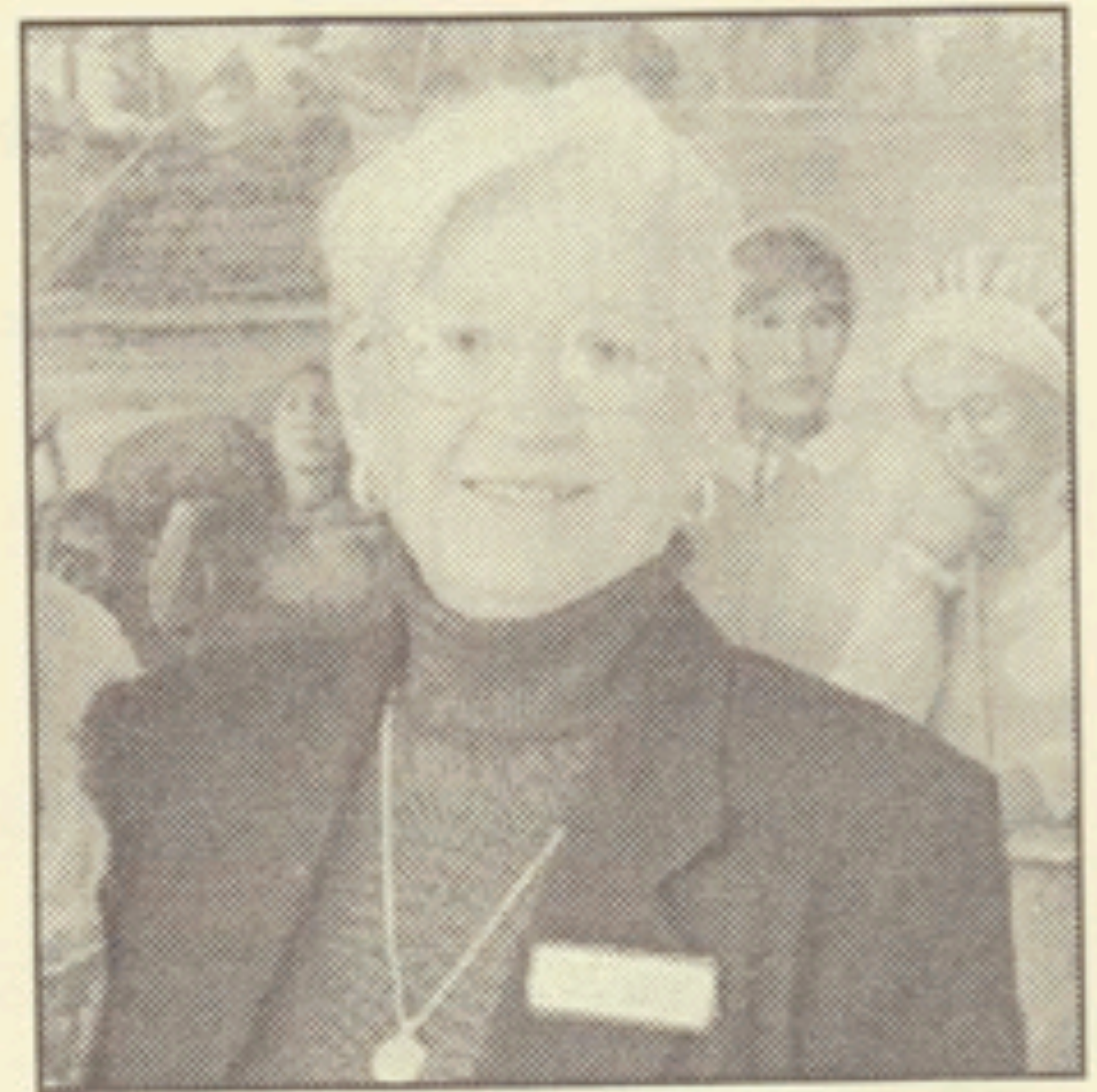
A host of dignitaries was on hand--Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco was present as was Congressman Billy Tauzin, Senator Craig Romero, Representative Sydnie Mae Durand, Mayor Eric Martin and Dr. Carl Brasseaux who introduced the opening of the History/Research Center. The construction of the Center on the second floor of the Memorial building was funded through a State Capital Outlay Grant for which we thank these officials.

"Cajuns, Cousins & Cuisine III" was a successful affair and we thank everyone who helped make it so. A highlight of the day was the

procession into St. Martin de Tours, the Mother Church of the Acadians, of persons carrying banners with the names of the *Congrès Mondial Acadien 1999* family reunion associations. Afterwards, the banners became part of the street decor around the big food tent and were a wonderful sight to see. The Trahan Family had the most members present and so received the prize of a signed and numbered print of Robert Dafford's Acadian Memorial mural.

Our new fiscal year began July 1 and the Foundation introduces a new slate of officers: President: Jane G Bulliard; President-Elect, Peggy Hulin; Secretary, Patricia Resweber; Treasurer, Larry Comeaux; Parliamentarian, Judge E.L. Guidry, Jr. With Mr. Charles Richard as chairman of the Corporate Campaign Committee, we are continuing the goal of a \$1,000,000 interest-bearing trust fund into which was recently deposited \$5,875.

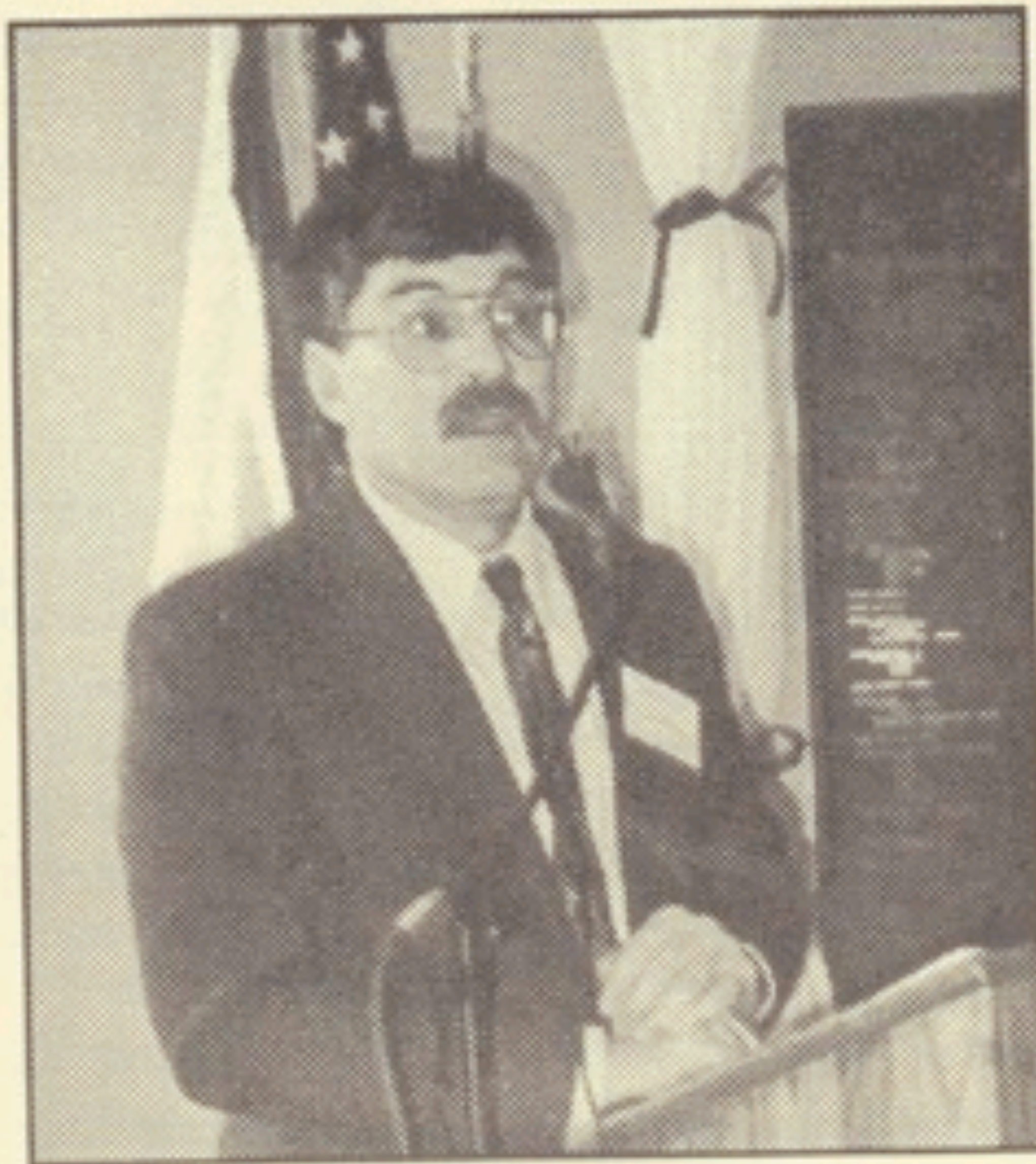
Welcome to all our new members,



Jane G. Bulliard

our new VIP volunteer group and thanks to those of you who have renewed membership, I hope all of you are able to visit during the coming year and participate in activities at the Acadian Memorial and History Center.

A bientôt



**Dr. Carl Brasseaux**, Professor of History and assistant director of the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, made a forceful address inaugurating the history center on the second floor of the Acadian Memorial building. In describing the multimedia program which he developed for the center, Dr. Brasseaux pro-

nounced it "the most important public history project in the '90's on the Gulf Coast." He continued, "it was a major undertaking and it will have a major impact."

He was referring to "Ensemble Encore--Together Again," a project funded by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and the Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc., for which Brasseaux compiled genealogical and historic data on persons represented on the Wall of Names. Chris Allain, owner and president of Vidox, Inc., of Lafayette, LA, prepared the interactive software.

"This is cutting edge technology, and there's nothing comparable to it," Brasseaux said. "It's a really innovative program." Previously unused and unavailable information researched by Dr. Brasseaux from the Spanish period will highlight biographic sketches of the Acadian exiles and in essays shed light on their

response to the relocation of their culture to Louisiana.

He noted that the impact of the Acadian Memorial, with its Wall of Names, 30-foot mural by Robert Dafford, the eternal flame and the interactive media center on the second floor, all located just steps from the Evangeline Oak, will have a permanent effect on both St. Martinville and on Cajun culture.

In conclusion, Brasseaux said, "There's nothing much about the Cajun experience even in Louisiana history textbooks. As a result the man on the street knows little about our background. This will change that."

"Ensemble Encore--Together Again" will be operational January 1, 1999. Presently, the history center is opened for limited computer and library research daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 318/394-2258 for more information.

# Du bureau de la directrice

The Acadian Memorial has been on the move! In August we began moving our offices to the newly renovated second floor of the Memorial, where the multimedia history center is now open to the public on weekdays from 8 to 4. A small library of books and CD roms are available for public use. As of press time we are wrapping up the construction punch list and eagerly waiting Internet service for the public access computers. We will be expanding our hours and our collections in the coming weeks.

In July, docent Ed Laviolette and I traveled to old Acadie in the Canadian Maritimes to visit our sister site at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site. We observed operations and spent five days in the surrounding region. Thank you to Donna Doucet and her staff, *Les Amis de Grand-Pré*, *La Société de Promotion de Grand-Pré*, and Richard Laurin for the fabulous hospitality. The warm welcome was continued by genealogist Stephen White and archivist Ronnie Gilles LeBlanc at the *Centre d'Études Acadiennes* at the University of Moncton; Neil Boucher at the *Centre Acadien* and Jean-Douglas Comeau at



L - R: Donna Doucet, Superintendent of Grand-Pré National Historic Site; Ed Laviolette, Acadian Memorial Docent; Jolene Adam, Acadian Memorial Curator/Director; and Leonard Resweber at Grand-Pré this past July.

*Université Sainte-Anne's* French immersion program; friends and colleagues at the City of Bouctouche, *Pays de la Sagouine*, and First Nation Mi'kmaq Reservation in Bouctouche; folklorist Georges Arsenault in Prince Edward Island; and Joe Cottreau with Nova Scotia Tourism.

This past month I spent two weeks in France, on the occasion of the opening of a milestone exhibit in the City of Nantes called *Tolérance et Intolérance*, focusing on immigrants (including Acadian exiles) to the city of Nantes. Thank you to Gérard

and Maryannick Braud and members of *Brétagne-Acadie* for their generous welcome and helpful information, and to Mme Claude Seyse, *Maire Adjoint* and everyone with the City of Nantes for their overwhelming kindness. The unforgettable experiences continued with Mme Maryvonne LeGac and *Les Amitiés Belleiloises* who brought me to Acadian descendants and sites on Belle-Ile-en-Mer; with my cousins M. and Mme Henri Benoit at *La Ferme Acadienne* near Archigny; with Mme Michèle Touret at *Le Musée Acadien* in Loudun; and with the *Institut Francophone de Généalogie*, the *Musée du Nouveau Monde*, and the *Médiatheque* in La Rochelle.

These are only some of the dedicated people and associations in Canada and France who work to promote Acadian history and heritage. Contact me at the Acadian Memorial and I will be glad to provide you with information on the people and places abroad who share in the Memorial's mission to honor the Acadian legacy.

Sincèrement,

Jolene Adam



L-R: Gérard Braud of Brétagne-Acadie, Nantes, France; St. Martinville Mayor Eric Martin; M. Gildas Lescop of Nantes, France; Jolene Adam, Acadian Memorial Curator/Director; and Madame Claude Seyse, of Nantes, France in front of the acadian mural on rue des Acadiens in Nantes.

# Calling All Cajuns Calendar

**Tuesday, November 10, 10 a.m.**

Cardinal Pio Laghi of Rome, Italy, Prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education will bless the Acadian Memorial Wall of Names

**Saturday, November 21, 1, 2 & 3 p.m.**

Mural vignettes

**Friday, December 11, 7 p.m.**

*Ratatouille* (Gather to sing holiday songs in French)

**Sunday, December 13, 1 & 3 p.m.**

Mural vignettes

St. Lucy Festival of Lights on St. Martin Church Square

## NEW GROUP FORMING

A.M. V.I.P.

Acadian Memorial Very Important Person

Sign up NOW to volunteer as:

- a docent or guide in the Memorial
- an aide in the History Center
- an actor in the mural character vignettes
- an office assistant

Yes; I want to join! Put my name down for the area I have circled above. Contact me at:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: ACADIAN MEMORIAL, P.O. BOX 379 DEPT. AM, ST. MARTINVILLE, LA 70582 PH: 318/394-2258

Acadian Memorial on the Internet!

Website address:

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

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

New e-mail address: [info@Acadianmemorial.org](mailto:info@Acadianmemorial.org)

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.

Ticket purchase is good for one year admittance

### Produced by:

Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 844  
St. Martinville, LA 70582  
318/394-6634

### Newsletter Committee:

Jolene Adam  
Jane G. Bulliard  
Kathy Gerami  
Henri C. Bienvenu

### Published By:

*The Teche News*  
St. Martinville, LA

## National Day of the Acadians celebrated at the Acadian Memorial

This year's National Day of the Acadians celebrated on Saturday, August 15th, was a festive occasion. The day began with a flag raising ceremony at daybreak followed by a French Mass at St. Martin de Tours Church, the mother church of the Acadians. August 15th is the Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption, patron saint of the Acadians.

A meeting of the membership of the Acadian Memorial Foundation was held after a filling *petit-dejeuner* of Cajun *cush-cush* and *café au lait* prepared by Sonny and Shirley of Thibodeaux' Cafe and

Peggy Hulin of La Place d' Evangeline, respectively.

This year, the Foundation honored two members distinguished for their contributions and service to the Acadian Memorial Foundation: Margie Laws Luke was awarded a Lifetime Membership for her 1998 membership contribution of \$500 and Clifford Durand, Jr., was awarded Honorary Membership for his volunteer efforts in creating a ten year photographic history of the building of the Acadian Memorial.

A colorful and noisy *Tintamarre* concluded the morning activi-



ties while the afternoon program consisted of mural vignettes in French and free visitation at the Memorial. Approximately 200 Memorial friends and visitors participated in this celebration of Acadian/Cajun heritage.