



Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

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Fall/Winter 2001-2002

August 15, 2001 - La Bonne Fête

For some, the morning of August 15 began at 5 am at the Acadian Memorial, as "Passe Partout" aired its morning show flanked by Robert Dafford's mural and the wall of names as the sounds of local musicians "The Romero Brothers" filled the hall with old Cajun folk songs. Broadcasters and Memorial workers, along with visitors, educated the local viewing area on the importance of August 15 to Acadians, including the plight of deportation in 1755 and the eventual arrival in Louisiana. A televised sunrise ceremony at City Hall in St. Martinville raised the Acadian Flag to fly alongside the American Flag. A variety of morning show segments highlighted Cajun art, culture, cuisine, history and music through interviews with diaspora and dignitaries. Channel 10-KATC continued their live coverage throughout this full and eventful National Day of Acadians.

Just after lunch, visitors gathered in Evangeline Oak Park under St. Martinville's famed *arbre de chêne* to open a time capsule that was planted in 1976. Kirby Jambon eloquently recited a poem he had composed for the occasion. State

Representative Sydnie Mae Durand inspected the

contents of the time capsule alongside Mayor Eric Martin to a full house at City Hall.

At 3:30 pm, the Acadian Memorial Museum, located in St. Martinville's Cultural Heritage Center, was unveiled. Acadian Memorial Foundation President, Christy Maraist, welcomed visitors and invited them to tour the new facility featuring articles of Acadian life, exhibits about Acadian culture, and a history of the deportation. Acadian Memorial Co-Founders, Patricia Resweber and Jane Bulliard, commented on the forward moving progress of the Acadian Memorial

Foundation over the past several years. Guests enjoyed delicious cakes bearing the "Acadian Memorial Crest", one cake decorated in French and a second one in English, provided by Albertson's -Broussard.

Crowds overwhelmed the new museum and were escorted to St. Martinville City Hall

as the Opening Ceremony continued. Christy Maraist delivered a speech reflecting memories of her youth. She recalled the harsh punishment often meted out to those who spoke French at school. Her eloquent reminiscence brought murmurs of acknowledgement from many attendees as well as tears to the eyes of most. Mayor Eric Martin delivered a likewise stirring tribute. He thanked all who supported this great day, including local merchants.

(Continued on page 2)



Descendants show Cajun Pride by displaying Acadian Flags outside St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church just before Mass

La Bonne Fête - Continued

A spirited discussion on Cajun Liberation led by Board Member Elaine Clément and AM Directrice Jolene Adam was the perfect compliment to the opening ceremony. John Allen LeBlanc, Acadian Craftsman, presented to the City of St. Martinville a replica of St. Charles de Mines Church. Board Member Shirley LeBlanc explained the reason and purpose of the replica to the group in attendance at City Hall.

The eventful day was only gaining momentum as Acadian Family Association representatives gathered to collect and carry banners depicting their Family Name. The *Tintamarre* procession began between City Hall and the Acadian Memorial and gained momentum as it reached the entrance to St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church. A French Mass was celebrated by Rev. Austin Léger in honor of the "Feast of the Assumption" featuring the *Congrès Mondial Acadien Chorale*.

Following the Mass, many stayed to enjoy St. Martinville fare at various dining establishments on the Town Square. The evening meal was a delightful way to conclude a wonderful day of remembrance. The day's events yielded the participation of Acadian descendants from throughout Louisiana, Canada and Europe. What a marvelous reflection of Cajun pride!

Acknowledgements: A very special thanks to Mello Joy Coffee for providing all with coffee from 5 am till the late closing, to the Meche family for donuts in the morning, and to Music Mountain Water Distributorship for their support in providing beverages and banners.

John Allen LeBlanc was instrumental in preparing the Acadian Memorial for its big day. Thank you, John.

Note: *A Photographic Tour of the August 15th Celebration can be found on pages 4 - 5.*

Dafford's Troubled Paradise Now Available On-Line

Artist Robert Dafford, whose mural graces the Acadian Memorial, released a new print in his *Grand Dérangement* series on Saturday, February 16, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. Titled, "Acadians in the Islands: 1764", the new print is taken from a work that recalls Acadian resettlement in present-day Haiti and Santo Domingo.

"I painted it as hell with the sky on fire," said Dafford. "It was far from being a tropical paradise for them." Lured by the promise of food and land, Acadians left their ports of exile on the East Coast to start a new life on the island. But when promised provisions failed to arrive, a scene of death from tainted water and hunger ensued.

"Acadians in the Islands: 1764" is one of nine paintings in the *Grand Dérangement* series, which depicts the exile and resettlement of Acadians in various regions along the Atlantic rim. The series began when Acadian Village commissioned a painting about the exile in 1978. Dafford realized there was a lot he didn't know about the subject and began doing research.

"I met with Carl Brasseaux when the Center for Louisiana Studies was just getting started. He gave me some things to read, and it was like a bomb going off in my head. I realized this wasn't one painting but a whole series, a life's work." Painting the *Grand Dérangement* series strengthened Dafford's research skills and helped launch an international career in historical murals. He also started a library of reference works on historical clothing, architecture and weapons that continues to grow.

The print can be ordered from the Memorial's on-line boutique at www.acadianmemorial.org or by phone at (337) 394-2258. Proceeds benefit the Acadian Memorial Foundation, whose sole mission is to support the Memorial.

Biography of an Ancestor...

The Acadian Memorial Endowment Fund is delighted to name three newly sponsored mural characters. The Endowment honors all sponsored mural figures in *Calling All Cajuns* by providing a historical background to its readers.

Angelique Pinet (Pinel) - Not long ago the Richelieu-Léger Family Association, Inc. sponsored Angelique Pinet (Pinel). Angelique was the Widow of Michel Léger dit Richelieu. She traveled to Louisiana aboard the French ship "Le Bon Papa" and arrived on July 29, 1875. She was accompanied by two of her three sons, Louis and Jean Baptiste. Her oldest son, Michel Prospere, met them upon their arrival at the Port of New Orleans. Our Acadian mother suffered untold misery on her long journey during the Acadian expulsion. Her travels began in 1760 in Louisbourg, continued to Ile Royale (Nova Scotia), to La Rochelle, France and then back across the ocean to Miquelon Island in 1764, only to return to La Rochelle in 1767. Finally, after twenty-five years of exile, the deaths of her husband and three of her children, she sailed from Nantes, France to Louisiana. She settled here with her three surviving sons in the Opelousas area.

Esther Comeaux Howard recently honored her ancestors by sponsoring two mural characters, Pierre Vincent and Charles Comeaux.

Charles Comeaux - Charles Comeaux was born in 1745 at Chipoudy, Acadia. At the age of 10 years Charles and his parents, along with many other Acadians, would be forced from their homes, fiercely battling for survival in their quest to find new homes in other lands. Charles was separated from his parents at some point during their journey. He made his way to Opelousas, Louisiana. In 1765 he married Anastasia Savoy. They raised a family of eight children before his death in 1805.

Pierre Vincent - Pierre Vincent, also was born in 1745 in Acadia. Like Charles Comeaux he found his way to Louisiana, arriving between 1765 and 1766. He became established in the Parish of St. James, Louisiana by 1769.

The Endowment and the AMF Board welcome the addition of these individuals to their "Place of Honor" on the mural. We are proud to announce the most recent sponsorship of a mural figure by the Thibodeaux Family Association. Look for a historical account of this ancestor in our next issue.

There are still 10 mural figures waiting to be named and sponsored. Their struggles should be recognized to keep their enduring spirit and history alive. We recommend that all family associations and Acadian descendants seriously consider honoring their ancestors through sponsorship. Those interested in obtaining the requirements for entry should contact Jolene Adam, the Director of the Memorial, at (337) 394-2258 or Christy Maraist, President of the Acadian Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, at (337) 264-6090. What better way to remember your Ancestor, or to pass on to your descendants the gift of Heritage and History?

Saviez-vous...(Did you know...)

that you and most Americans have the capability to assist the schoolchildren in your area by donating labels and box tops? Many are totally unaware of their potential to do so. Companies participating in such programs are Campbell Soup, General Mills, Community Coffee, and various cake mixes contain "Box Top for Education" stamps. Examine your purchases, save the labels/box tops from these items and donate them to a school in your area. Likewise, when making purchases at Target Stores or K-Mart Stores, advise the store that you support (name of the school), and these retailers will donate a percentage of the sale to that school. Take advantage of these opportunities to support schools in Acadiana !

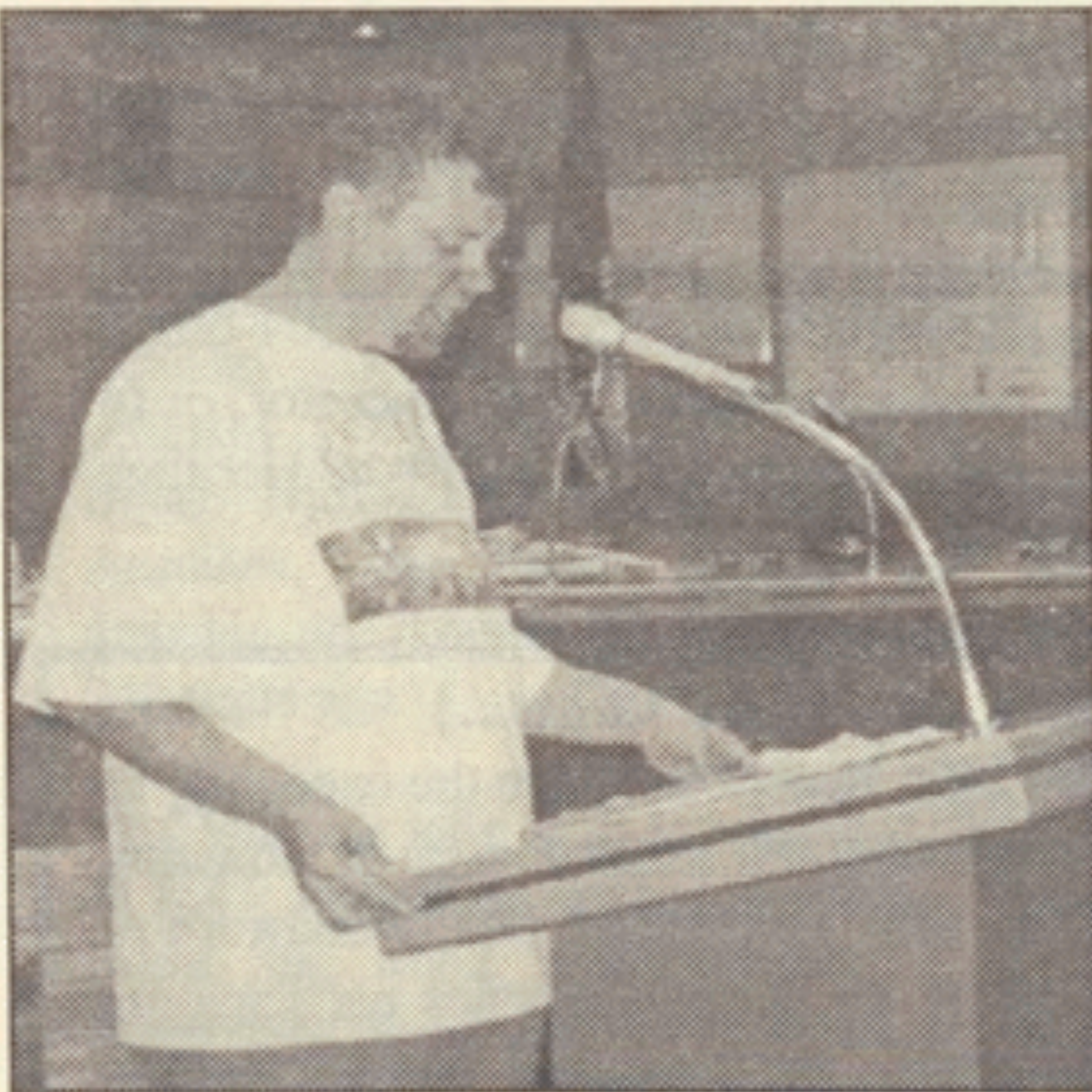
Acadian Remembrance Scrapbook August 15, 2001



*Jolene Adam, AM Curator, salutes as
Wiltz Bienvenu raises the Acadian Flag*



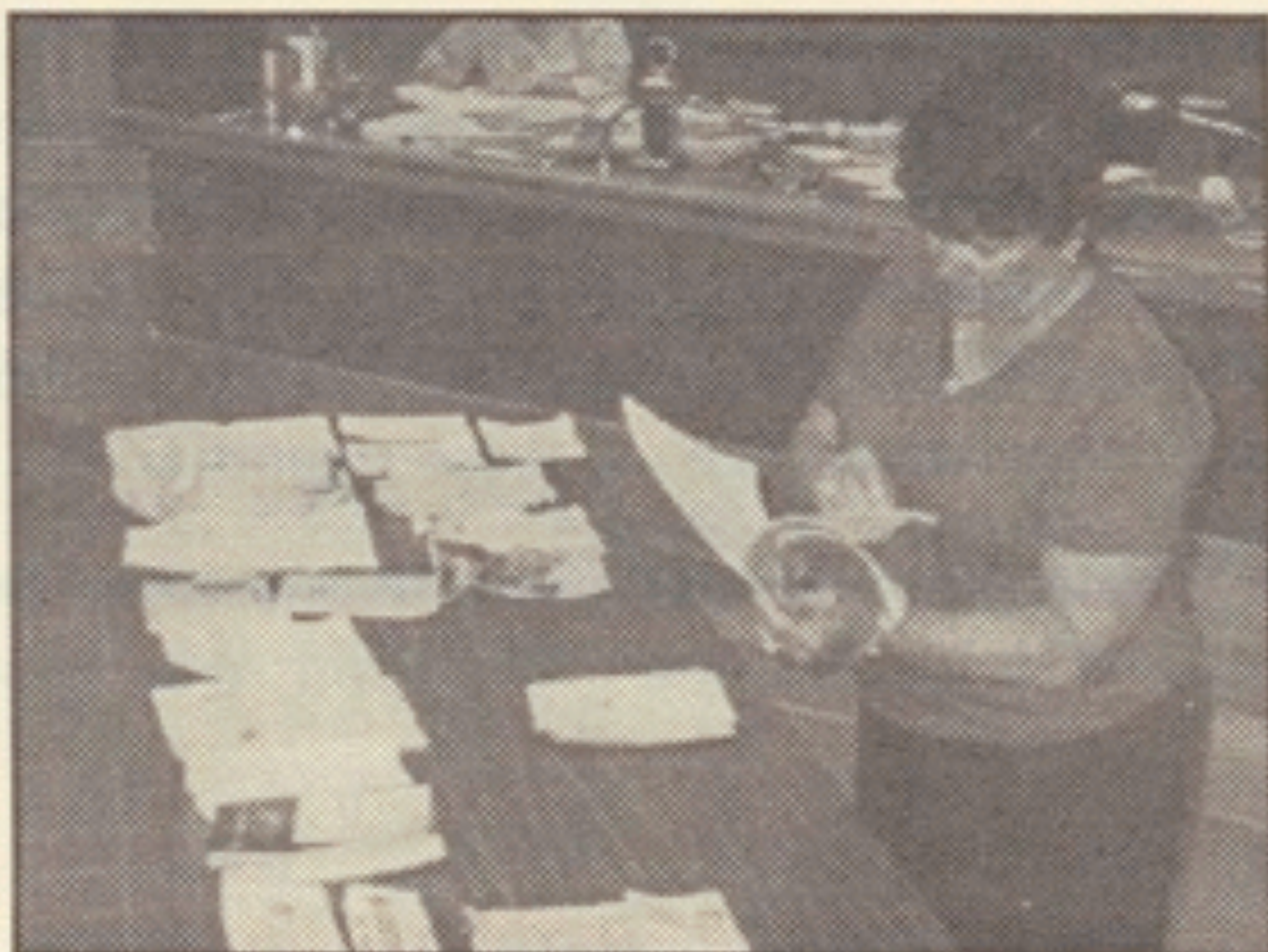
*Mayor Eric Martin is interviewed by Passe Partout's Gary Arnold as a
crowd gathers for the sunrise flag raising ceremony*



*Kirby Jambon recites a poem he wrote for the
occasion at the time capsule opening*



*Above: City of St. Martinville employees excavate the time
capsule in Evangeline Oak Park as onlookers anxiously wait*



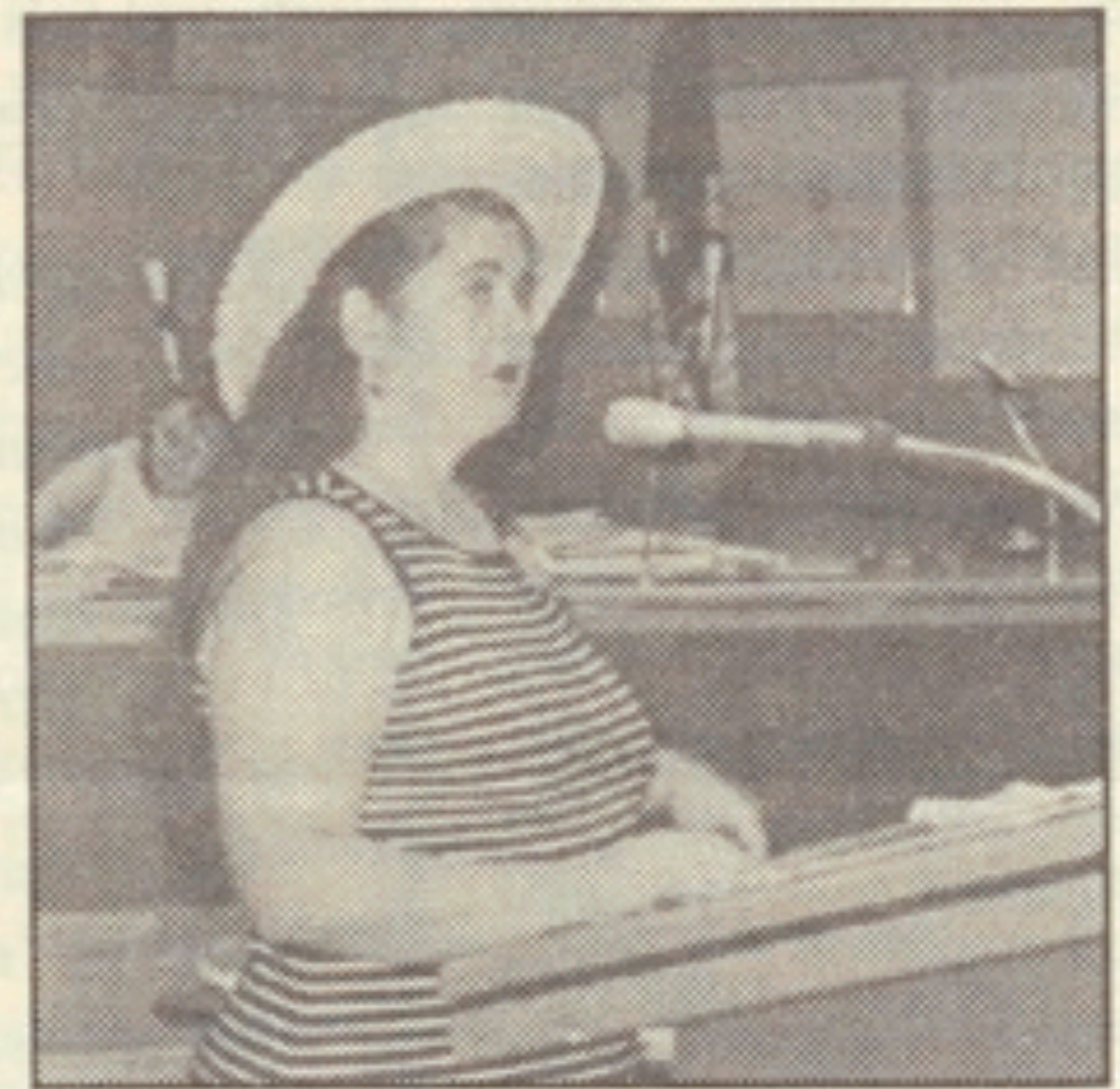
*Left: State Representative Sydnie Mae Durand inspects the
contents of the time capsule at the St. Martinville City Hall*



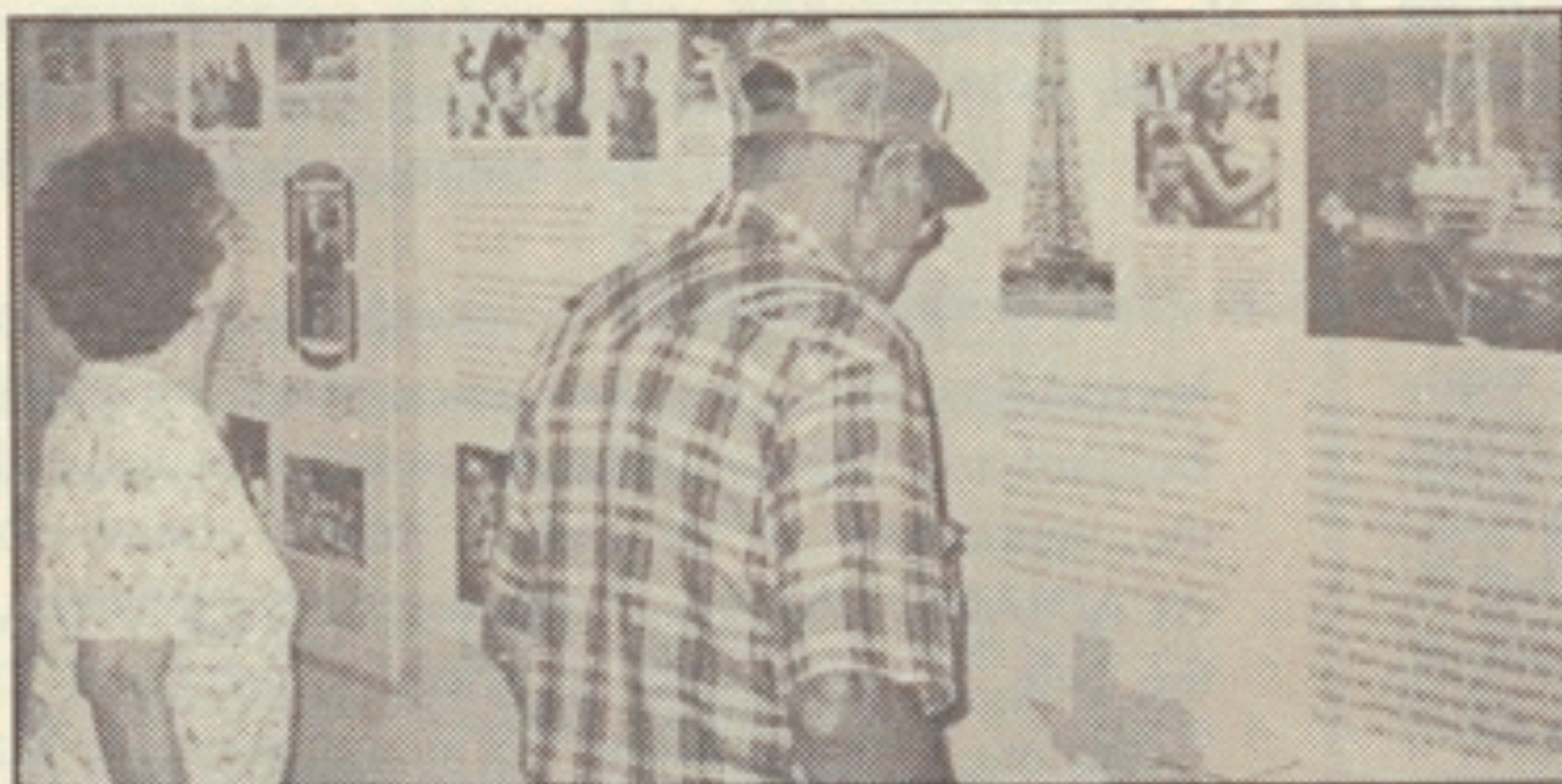
At the Museum unveiling, Co-Founder Jane G. Bulliard, Curator Jolene Adam and Co-Founder Patricia Resweber cut a cake bearing the Acadian Memorial crest (left to right)



AMF President Christy Maraist addresses a full house at City Hall during the Opening Ceremony



AMF Board Member Elaine Clément leads a lively discussion about Cajun Liberation



Left: Visitors tour the Museum of the Acadian Memorial



Below: Acadian descendants assemble in front of St. Martin de Tours Church for the Opening Procession of Family Name Banners at the French Mass

Opening Ceremony...Museum of the Acadian Memorial- August 15, 2001

The Speech as delivered by AMF President, Christy Maraist

While campaigning for Governor of Louisiana, Huey Long stood under the Evangeline Oak in 1927 and said: "...it is here, under this oak where Evangeline waited for her lover, Gabriel, who never came. This oak is an immortal spot, made so by Longfellow's poem, but Evangeline is not the only one who has waited here. Evangeline wept bitter tears, but it lasted through only one lifetime. Your tears in this country, around this oak, have lasted for generations."

Huey Long was referring to the schools, roads and financial security that the Acadians awaited. For generations, Acadians had remained isolated, clinging to the French language and the customs of their ancestors. Today, in the shade of that same oak, the Museum of the Acadian Memorial officially opens—a fitting tribute to the Acadians, who began arriving in Louisiana 240 years ago.

The Museum tells of those who kept their story alive. In 1847, Longfellow wrote *Evangeline*. Because of this poem, the whole world learned of the Acadians. Longfellow mentioned St. Martin and Grand-Pré, and to this day, they are the two best-known Acadian tourist sites. According to local tradition, Emile E. Simon, a student at Harvard, was a factor in the mention of St. Martin and the Teche in the poem.

Evangeline was not for the Acadians of my great-grandparents generation. They were those Acadians who waited for schools. They never learned to read; they never read *Evangeline*....*It didn't matter.*

In 1907, Judge Felix Voorhies wrote *Acadian Reminiscences*. Now, it was the generation of my grandparents, who couldn't read the story of Emmeline

Labiche and Louis Arceneaux....*It wasn't important.*

My parents had Mr. André Olivier telling the tale of Evangeline/Emmeline in his run-down store on Bridge Street. Tourists searching to hear of this "affection that hopes, and endures, and is patient", wanting to visit the place known for the beauty and strength of Evangeline's devotion, found St. Martinville, the Oak and Mr. André. My parents did not go to hear his recitations....*They were not interested.*

English became my first language, but I continued to speak French at home. It would have been embarrassing for me to speak French in public. My generation had finally learned to read, but in the process

of becoming educated, we had also learned to...*be ashamed of our heritage.* And as a result, the next generation, my own children, do not speak French.

Huey Long referred to the generations of Acadians waiting under the Oak. Waiting... until *it MATTERED*, until *it was IMPORTANT*, until *we could be PROUD.*

Fortunately for St. Martinville and for Acadians everywhere, Jane Guillory Bulliard and Patricia Ditch Resweber saw the need and the importance of erecting a fitting tribute to the ACADIANS. With sheer willpower, determination, and the help of many, they provided a memorial to the Acadians. With the support of our progressive Mayor, Eric Martin, and the City Council, St. Martinville has become the rightful site of the Acadian Memorial and the Museum of the Acadian Memorial.

Jolene Adam, who is an Acadian Scholar, has worked tirelessly on the creation of this museum, making the Museum of the Acadian Memorial a great educational tool for all the teachers and students of Acadiana. The Museum is a source of pride and affirmation for everyone of Acadian descent.

*If Evangeline captured the imagination of the world,
If thousands came to St. Martinville to look at a tree,
If Mr. André attracted tourists to his shrine to Emmeline,
If Huey Long won votes when telling a truth which stirred hearts,
then we can only imagine how much more this museum will do for St. Martinville and for all throughout the world who are of Acadian descent.*

Board Meeting Scheduled

The next Board Meeting of the Acadian Memorial Foundation has been set for Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 5 PM in the second floor meeting room of the Acadian Memorial. The meeting is open to all persons desiring to attend.

Special Thanks for Gifts, Grants

The Acadian Memorial has recently received endowments from several sources. A grant application submitted to the St. Martinville Wal-Mart Store by Board Member Patricia Resweber was awarded by Manager David Savoy to the AMF in November 2001. The funds are intended to complete the Native Plant Garden the St. Martinville Garden Club donated to the Foundation early in 2001. The garden enhances the bayou-front promenade and educates visitors walking from the Memorial to the Museum about the beauty of our native plants. Grant monies will purchase placards, which label the native plants. Additionally, the St. Martinville Garden Club will produce and publish a take-home brochure identifying the history of native plants found in the garden. The Garden Club graciously earmarked funds from their recent Christmas Tour of Homes and Photo Exhibition at *La Maison Duchamp* for this purpose. Thanks again to St. Martinville's Garden Club and Wal-Mart Store for their support of the Acadian Memorial Foundation.

Special thanks to members of the Gaudet family for their gift of park benches to the Acadian Memorial. The benches are given in memory of Woodrow Theriot. They provide a place for quiet reflection while viewing the eternal flame. The benches are a lovely addition to the garden and will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Thanks go out to Acadian Craftsman John Allen LeBlanc for donating a replica of *St. Charles aux Mines* Church at Grand Pré. Mr. LeBlanc made two identical replicas of the Church, one for City of St. Martinville and the other for the Grand Pré

National Historic Site. The replicas were presented on August 15, 2001 and June 8, 2001 respectively. Thanks to John and Shirley LeBlanc for preserving this Acadian monument for future generations.

Calling New Members

If you enjoy your Acadian heritage and history, why not become a member of the Acadian Memorial. Existing members, tell your friends and neighbors about the benefits of Membership.

<i>Membership Category</i>	<i>Annual Dues</i>
Family Membership	\$25
Individual Member	\$15
"Of Acadian Descent"*	\$100
Lifetime Member*	\$500
Corporate Sponsor*	\$1000

Membership includes your subscription to *Calling All Cajuns*. Those memberships indicating an asterisk (*) also receive an Acadian Memorial Foundation Certificate, with the Acadian Memorial Logo, signifying your support. Don't wait. Join today!

Coming Attractions.....

In the next issue of *Calling All Cajuns*....

- Feature story by Architect/Board Member John Albert Landry on Acadian Architecture
- Meet the newest Acadian ancestor recently named on the mural
- Insights defining the mission of the Acadian Memorial gleaned from Strategic Planning Conference held November 15-17
- Induction of new Foundation Board Members

Beginning with the next issue of *Calling All Cajuns*, the newsletter will be published on a bi-annual basis with the first issue due in April 2002. Articles, information, or events that pertain to Cajun culture or meet the Memorial's educational objectives can be listed in the newsletter. Send suggested inputs to Publisher of *Calling All Cajuns*, c/o Acadian Memorial Foundation, PO Box 379, St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582.

Acadian Memorial Souvenirs



Mural T-shirt - full color mural on 100% white cotton. Acadian Memorial name in English on front, *en français* on back. Youth M or L. Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL. **\$18**

T-Shirts



Cajun T-shirt - "Cajuns of Acadian Descent". Lists some Cajun surnames on the back and Memorial logo on front. **\$15**

TO ORDER: Visit our on-line boutique at www.acadianmemorial.org OR call (337) 394-2258

Pins / Épinglettes



Acadian descent pin

Acadian Descent Pin - lapel pin dark blue with gold Eternal Flame logo "Of Acadian Descent/ *De descendance acadienne*". Wear it in memory of your Acadian ancestors. **\$ 5**

Flags / Drapeaux



Acadian national flag



Acadiana flag of L.A.

Acadiana Flag of Louisiana

- a. 3ft x 5ft nylon with grommets **\$30**
- b. 3in x 5in nylon on mini-pole **\$ 3**

Acadian National Flag from Canada

- a. 3ft x 6ft with hanging sleeves and loops **\$30**
- b. 4in x 6in on wooden pole **\$ 5**

If you have an * or your label is high lighted it's time to renew your membership.

The Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.
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