



Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

May 2004

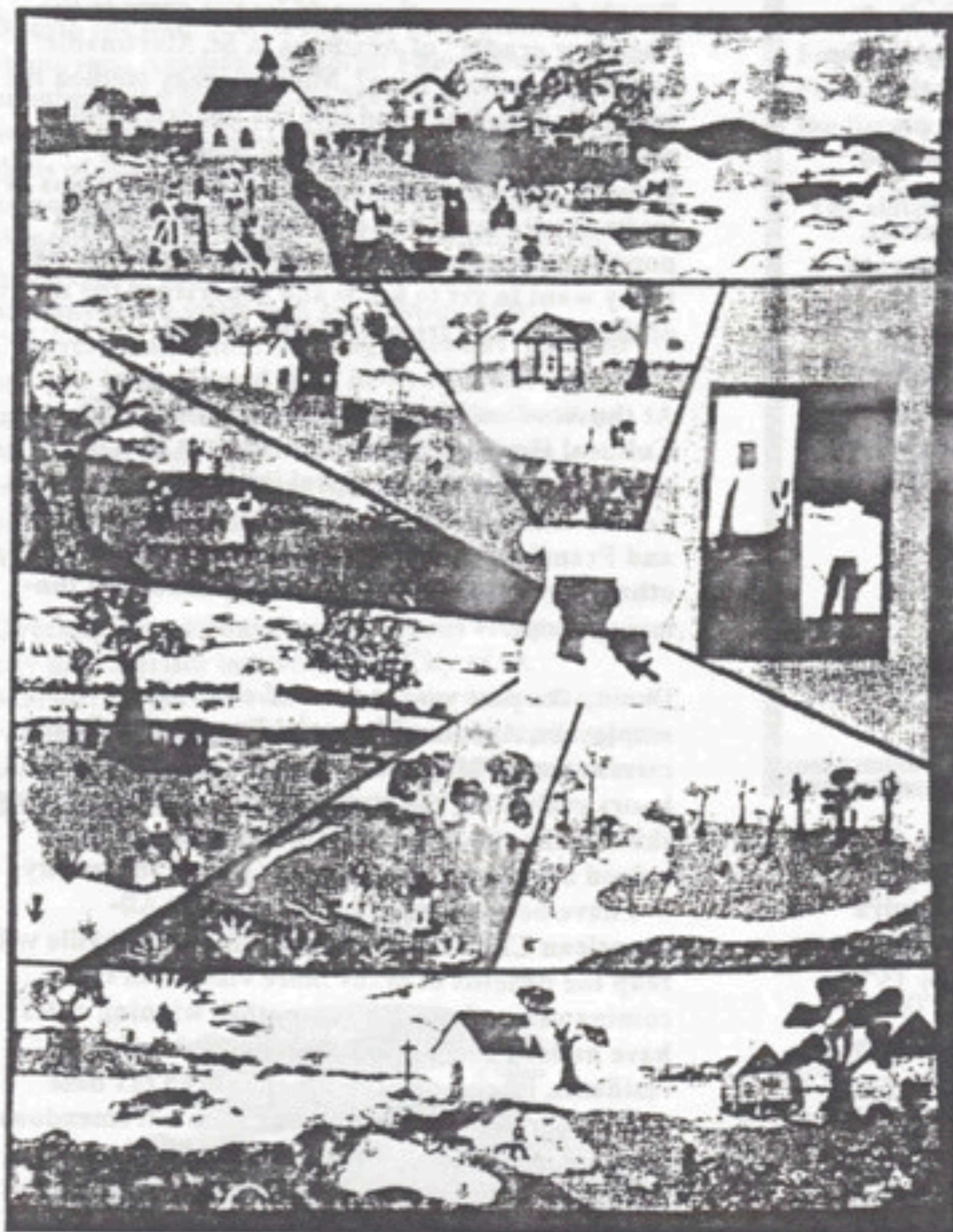
Acadian Odyssey Quilt

Couverte Piquée de l'Odysée Acadienne

MONUMENT
ACADIEN



ACADIAN
MEMORIAL



Grâce à / Courtesy of

**Acadian Memorial
Foundation, Inc.**

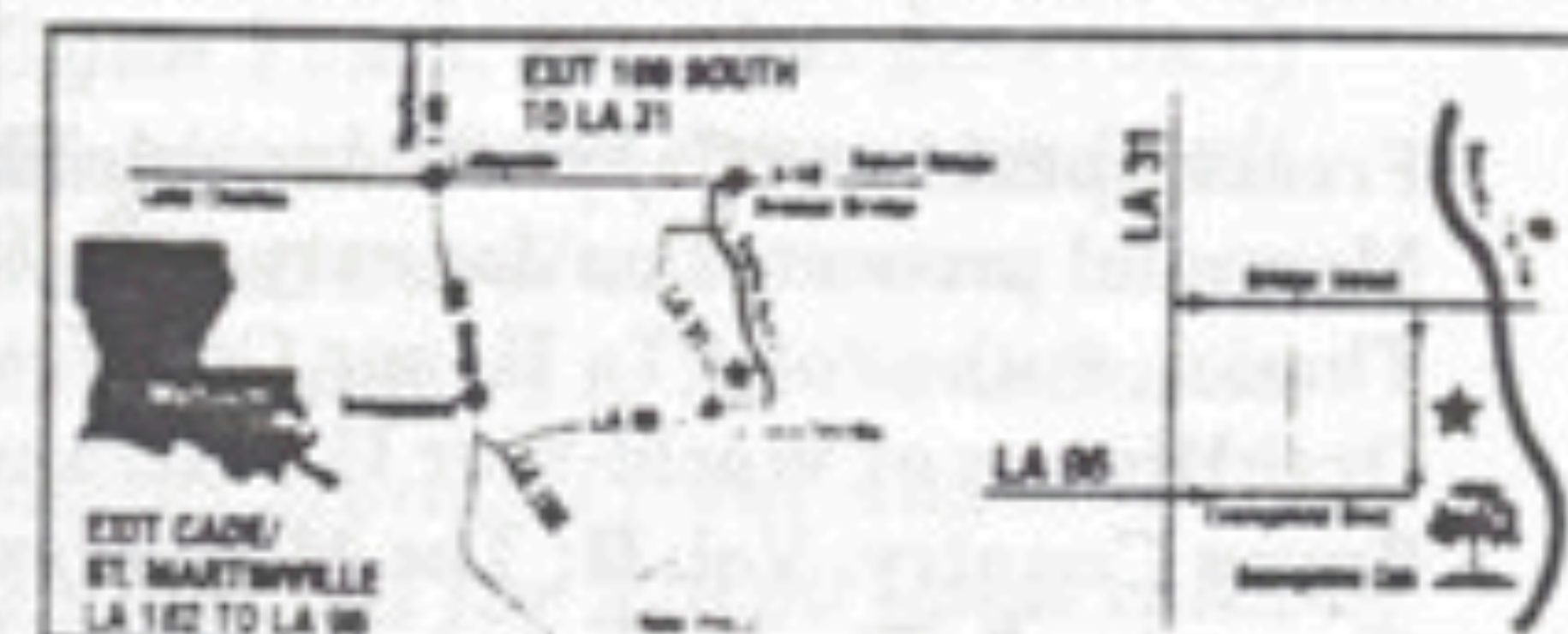
**International Center
of Lafayette**

Quilters' Guild Acadienne

St. Martin Bank & Trust Co.

**St. Martin Parish
Tourist Commission**

Ouvert tous les jours de 10h00 à 16h00



Une exposition au / A display at
Museum of the Acadian Memorial
St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center
St. Martinville, Louisiana

Open Daily 10am-4pm
120 South New Market Street
St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582
(337) 394-2258 • Fax (337) 394-2260
www.acadianmemorial.org



Bonjour to all my Acadian Cousins,

I look forward to our visit in August and hope to meet many new Acadian friends. Donna Doucet, Curator/Director of Grand-Pré National Historic Site and I have created a day for us all to get to know each other better.

The City of St. Martinville Evangeline Oak Park and Nova Scotia Grand-Pré national Historic Site are joining together to create a special day for the CAJUNS to meet the ACADIANS during the Congrès Mondial in Nova Scotia. Join us on August 9th at Grand-Pré from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a "Cajun Connection" / "Connexion Cadien" day of music, dance, food, discussions, lectures and a twinning of reconnection between the Evangeline Oak Park and Grand-Pré.

Anyone interested in participating and helping with cooking, playing music (jam sessions), skits, theatre, art displays and etc or just joining in the fun, please call the Acadian Memorial (337) 394-2258.

LET'S MAKE THIS A GRAND PARTY!

Impassioned by our history,
Brenda Comeaux Trahan
Curator/Director
Acadian Memorial

"Atchafalaya - America's Largest River Swamp" - a presentation by Sandra Thompson, Executive Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program, was presented on January 15th.

Tommy Warder, staff photographer, showed slides of all our great projects including the "Welcome Center and Operation Outpost".

French speaking "Cajuns" honored. The Acadian Memorial presented on January 18th, Jason Theriot, author of "To Honor Our Veterans: An Oral History of World War II Veterans From the Bayou Country. Vol. II; The Mediterranean Campaign." The book recognizes and honors our French speaking Cajuns who served in World War II. This second volume in Theriot's three-book series is available at the Acadian Memorial.

Valentine's Day celebration "Cajun Style" February 13, 2004 greeted lovers as they returned to romance under the "red" moss laden Oak tree and hear the poem of Longfellow's "Evangeline".

Many marriage proposals and marriages happened under the boughs of this famous and magnificent oak tree. The couples told about their reasons for coming to this romantic town and famous tree to propose or join hands in marriage. Couples received gifts and were honored with a toast.

Evening study of Longfellow's poem, "Evangeline" by Christy Maraist, Acadian Memorial Foundation Board President, was presented on February 19th and 26th.

Why Do Tourist Visit?

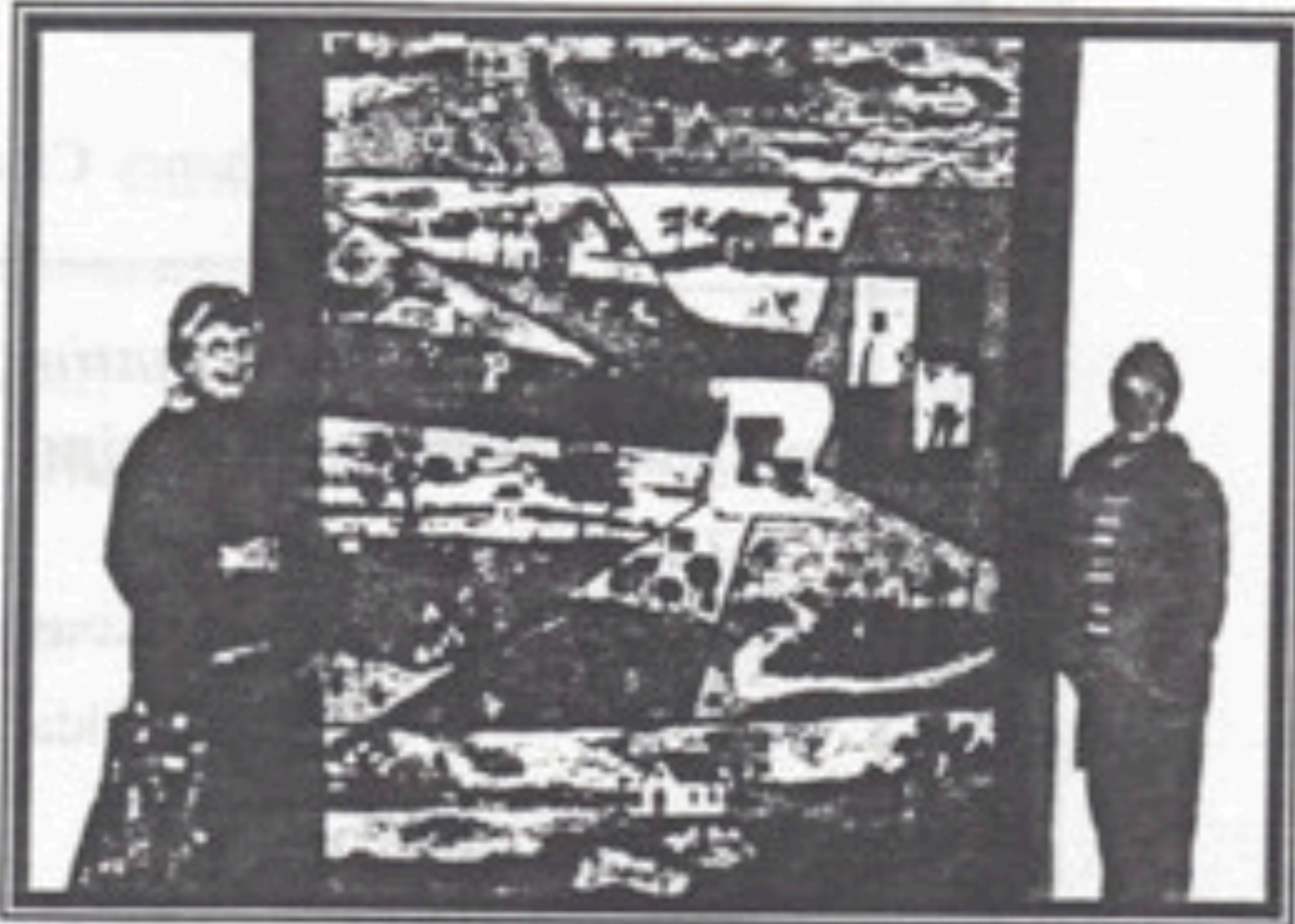
People from across the world love to come to the "heart or cradle" of Acadiana in St. Martinville! What brings them here? Most say they studied the poem "Evangeline" and love the historical story and moving romance between Evangeline & Gabriel. Some state they want to find their roots or learn about a nation of people who have gained popularity because of their music and cuisine, and many want to get to know and experience the affect of the warm and friendly Cajun people.

At the Acadian Memorial and St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center, the docents give our tourist just that touch! Speaking the beautiful old French is a favorite discovery for many Canadian and French tourists! Whatever we do to reach others certainly gives us great reputations as fun-loving people!

During the past year, a team of city volunteers, employees, Acadian Memorial Foundation Board members and Mayor Eric Martin spent many long hours evaluating the strengths and problem-solving skills of the city of St. Martinville. That process helped bring a most prestigious award to our city. We have been honored by winning the All-American City Award Finalist. St. Martinville will reap the benefits of many more visitors in the coming year. Concrete gains other winning cities have noticed are new business and jobs, new residents, increase in grants, enhanced tax base and higher rating. Most cities notice a tremendous increase in tourism. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have more visitors spending time in our city and at our Memorial and Museum?

Overall, this will have a tremendous effect on our city and tourism industry. The City of St. Martinville invites everyone to join us for the final round in Atlanta, Georgia as we celebrate "Cajun style" and work to bring the top 10 All-American City Award home.

Acadian Odyssey Quilt Wins "Best of Show" In France



L-R. Phyllis Tabbert, Quilter's Guild Acadienne and Brenda C. Trahan, Curator / Director, Acadian Memorial

The French say, "Le Prix du Public!" In English, "The People's Choice Award!" The "Acadian Odyssey Quilt", was displayed at the Quilt Pictave Exhibition in Poitiers, France, at "La Chapelle Saint-Louis", an ancient chapel.

Over 1,800 guests, visited the exhibit of 48 quilts coming from Germany, Romania, Portugal, Italy, United States, and France, voted the Acadian Museum quilt as the preferred quilt in the exhibit!

Lafayette Quilters' Guild Acadienne's work of art was indeed a smashing hit during the exhibition. It came home winning this most honorable international award!

The connection between Acadiana and France has been tighten. The "Acadian Odyssey Quilt" played its part to assisting with this tie in the international quilt exhibition in Poitiers and also for "Louisiana Week" in Nantes, France. The quilt is a moving representation of the history of the Acadians from the artwork of its makers, the Quilters' Guild Acadienne. It, gave our French neighbors an incredible visual understanding of our culture and legacy. The quilt was also selected as a feature month in a 2004 Quilt Pictave calendar, which was sold during the exhibit. This calendar has been taken home to visitor's respective countries, which in turn provides additional visibility and promotion for our city.



This was an excellent opportunity to market and promote our Museum and Memorial as well as the city of St. Martinville, Evangeline Oak Square, Longfellow Evangeline State Park and St. Martin Parish. Seldom do I have the chance to meet with such large groups that are already very fascinated with our culture and are hungry to learn more about who we are.



Ray Trahan, Jacques Santrot, Mayor of Poitiers, Brenda Trahan & D'Michel Touchard

Our historical sites and attractions in St. Martinville are the heart of the story of the Acadians settlement and it is important to seize the opportunity to draw a targeted audience to our most educational and historical region. Many of the people I encountered in France wanted information about south Louisiana to learn about Acadians and their life as it has evolved from earlier times. The "Acadian Odyssey Quilt" as a viewpoint of the Acadian saga, gave me the opportunity to share our story and encourage visits to our attractions as a must-do for tourist!



L-R front-Philippe Gustin, Brenda Trahan
L-R back-Ray Trahan, Christine Duhon

The internationally famous "Acadian Odyssey Quilt" has safely returned to it's home in the St. Martinville Heritage Cultural Center after this most grand visit! It prominently awaits visitors from our community as well as across the country to visit and experience a true glimpse into the heart and soul of Acadiana. Bring your guest's for a tour and celebrate the newly selected "Le Prix du Public" Acadian Odyssey Quilt!



Historic Site Update...

Thursday, April 25th, Donna Doucet, Executive Director of the Société Promotion, Grand-Pré National Historic Site and Claude DeGrâce, Senior Advisor with Parks Canada Historic Sites, New Brunswick North

reported that the Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada after major renovations which included a new interpretive center and main entrance as well as a trail to the Deportation Cross has been completed and is ready for the Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004 and other upcoming celebrations in Nova Scotia.

The Acadian Odyssey Quilt: The Story

Panel A portrays the exile of the Acadians from Nova Scotia by the British in 1755.

Panel B shows the deep religious faith of the Acadians. Churches were among the first public buildings and Acadian parents were extremely proud to have a son or daughter enter religious life.

Panel C shows the ingenuity of the children in finding amusement, a reflection of the industry of their parents.

Panel D stereotypes the Acadians and their manner of dress often used commercially to promote various products as well as the people of Acadiana.

Panel E shows the *joie de vivre* of the Acadians at a family gathering where accordion, fiddle and *ti-fer* were played at dances held in homes or sometimes in a yard. Children slept while their parents danced and from this custom came the term *fais-dodo*.

Panel F shows the original area settled by the Acadians. They have migrated to other parts of the state, taking with them the Acadian influence that is an important element of Louisiana's unique culture.

Panel G depicts Acadian skill at growing cotton to weave and sew into clothing and linens. Dried palmetto was woven into hats and baskets and clay was used for pottery, bricks, and bousillage for construction. These skills were passed down through generations. The products and skills of Acadian craftsmen are highly prized today.

Panel H shows the intriguing Spanish moss as a valuable resource for the Acadians. After drying, it was used to stuff mattresses and was an important ingredient in the bousillage used in construction. Later, it was used to upholster buggies and autos.

Panel I emphasizes hunting as an essential part of the Acadians' way of life, as it often provided food for the table. Over the years, hunting has become a major source of recreation.

Panel J represents life carved out of the land by the hard work and industry of the Acadian People.



Le Grand
The

(A) Noemie Chaney Charleville Edr

(B) *Dimanche matin*
Sunday Morning (C)

(E) Hazel LeRoussel Alleman
Wilda Hebert Pepper

Joie de vivre
Joy of Living

Ann Thompson
Noemie Chaney Charleville
Judy St. Amand

(G) *Au travail*
At Work

Carolyn Koontz
Sherry Moore

(H) *Ramassez
mousse esp*
Spanish Moss

Phyllis Tabbert Juanita Bras

(J) *Enfin! - la*
Home

Joan Fontenot Marylin M



**Dérangement
Expulsion**

Turler Guilbeau Kathleen Stevenson

**Jeux d'enfants
Children at Play**

Carole Gaubert

**La Louisiane
Louisiana**

Thibodeaux Miller
Mary Florstedt
Hazel Allen

(D)

**Fille et garçon
acadiens
Acadian Boy
and Girl**

Shirley Miller Borel
Betty Freeland-Salassi
Cassia Mick
Irene Foux Thompson

1999

(I)

**La chasse
The Hunt**

Eleanor Bourgeois
Genevieve Bourgeois

de
sole
SS

aux Rivette

**Nouvelle Acadie
Not Last!**

rvant Hazel Delahoussaye



**Couverte Piquée de
l'Odyssée Acadienne: Historique**

Carré A dépeint l'exile des Acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse par les Britanniques en 1755.

Carré B honore la foi catholique des Acadiens. Les églises étaient parmi les premières bâtisses des communautés.

Carré C démontre combien les enfants acadiens savaient s'amuser, une réflexion de la créativité de leurs parents.

Carré D stéréotype les habits de l'ancienne Acadie, utilisés en publicités contemporaines pour promouvoir le peuple et produits de l'Acadiana.

Carré E accentue la joie de vivre des Acadiens à un rassemblement familial. Accordéon, petit fer et le violon résonnaient dans les bals de maison et cours. Les enfants dormaient tout près pendant que les parents s'amusaient. De cette pratique évolua l'usage du terme « fais-dodo » pour parler d'un bal.

Carré F signale la région originale colonisée par les Acadiens. Depuis, ils se répandèrent en d'autres régions de l'état, gardant auprès d'eux des éléments de leur culture acadienne.

Carré G remarque l'habileté des Acadiens à faire les textiles: cultiver et traiter le coton, filer, tisser et coudre. Aussi, le latanier se tissait en chapeaux, paniers, et tapis. L'argile s'employait dans la poterie, la briquetterie et le bousillage. Ce sont des métiers passés de génération en génération.

Carré H montre la valeur de la mousse espagnole chez les Acadiens. La mousse sèche s'employait à faire les matelas et le bousillage, un mélange de boue et de fibre utilisé dans la construction. De plus, on l'utilisait pour tapisser les calèches et les voitures.

Carré I valorise la chasse, une activité importante de la vie quotidienne des Acadiens qui leur a permis de se nourrir. Aujourd'hui, cette activité est un sport.

Carré J représente la vie sculptée de la terre par le travail dur du peuple acadien.

Acadian Memorial Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2004
5:00 P.M.

Acadian Memorial
120 South New Market St.
St. Martinville, Louisiana

To: General Membership

From: the Acadian Memorial Foundation

Unveiling of Family Crest Mosaic Art

You are cordially invited to the

Dedication of the New Mosaic Acadian Family Crests

Presented at the
Annual Membership Meeting of the Acadian Memorial Foundation

Refreshments compliment of the Carl Breaux Cooking Show

**Please extend this invitation to all members of your Family and Family
Organization.**

**These crests, some ancient, some recently designed by families, are symbolic of the
families' history and origins, and were funded jointly by a grant from the
Acadiana Arts Council and the Acadian Families.**


**Acadiana
Arts Council**

Why Do Tourist Visit?

People from across the world love to come to the "heart or cradle" of Acadiana in St. Martinville! What brings them here? Most say they studied the poem "Evangeline" and love the historical story and moving romance between Evangeline & Gabriel. Some state they want to find their roots or learn about a nation of people who have gained popularity because of their music and cuisine, and many want to get to know and experience the affect of the warm and friendly Cajun people.

At the Acadian Memorial and St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center, the docents give our tourist just that touch! Speaking the beautiful old French is a favorite discovery for many Canadian and French tourists! Whatever we do to reach others certainly gives us great reputations as fun-loving people!

During the past year, a team of city volunteers, employees, Acadian Memorial Foundation Board members and Mayor Eric Martin spent many long hours evaluating the strengths and problem-solving skills of the city of St. Martinville. That process helped bring a most prestigious award to our city. Winning the All-American City Award Finalist has honored us. St. Martinville will reap the benefits of many more visitors in the coming year. Concrete gains other winning cities have noticed are new business and jobs, new residents, increase in grants, enhanced tax base and higher rating. Most cities notice a tremendous increase in tourism. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have more visitors spending time in our city and at our Memorial and Museum?

Overall, this will have a tremendous effect on our city and tourism industry. The City of St. Martinville invites everyone to join us for the final round in Atlanta, Georgia as we celebrate "Cajun style" and work to bring the top 10 All-American City Award home.

New Crest additions



CALLING ALL CAJUNS

For The Annual Meeting of the Acadian Memorial Foundation the slate of Officers will be elected for the fiscal year 2004-2005.

The slate presented by the nominating committee:

President – Christy Maraist
President Elect – Shirley LeBlanc
Treasurer – Larry Comeaux
Recording Secretary – Kathy Gerami
Parliamentarian – Patricia Resweber

Board of Directors up for election:

Larry Comeaux
Kathy Gerami
Raymond Hebert
Christy Maraist
Shirley LeBlanc
Marcelle Bienvenu S.
Eddie Richard
Patricia Resweber

Re: All-American City Award Fund Raiser

Contact: Brenda Comeaux Trahan

Acadian Memorial

394.2258 or 394.2233

The city of St. Martinville, preparing for the All-American City Finalist presentation and Civic Fair in Atlanta, Georgia will be selling raffle tickets to defray expenses for the trip. Vermilion Cajun Tours, Inc. has generously donated a complete bus trip for one and half the cost of a second travel companion. The tour will take the winners to the Nova Scotia, Canada Congrès Mondial from August 2-21, 2004. Tickets will sell for \$20.00 (total value of \$2,698) Questions about the trip can be directed to Vermilion Cajun Tours at 893.2663.

Calendar of Events

June 10, 11, 12, 2004 – All American City final presentation in Atlanta, GA-seeking corporate sponsors.

June 15th - Acadian Memorial Foundation Annual Membership Meeting / Celebration
Acadian Memorial

September – Lecture by Dr. Mark Rees / Archeological Dig of St. Martin Parish / Acadian region / Bayou Teche, Acadian Memorial

October – Weekly Lectures / Theatre, Folkways, Tales of Acadians & Catahoula Cajun traditions and livelihood, Acadian Memorial

November - All Souls Day Ceremony at the Acadian Memorial Garden Cross Replica, Acadian Memorial

December – Christmas Celebration Cajun Style / Acadian Memorial Choir
Acadian Memorial, St. Martinville
2005 Monthly Events to Commemorate the Deportation:

The Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.
121 Market St.
P. O. Box 844
St. Martinville, LA 70582

January 19th – Opening & Dedication of Louisiana Acadian Governors' Acadian family mosaic crest, Governor K. Blanco invited, Acadian Memorial

January 19th – Opening & Dedication of Louisiana Acadian Governors' Acadian family mosaic crest,

January 19th – Opening & Dedication of Louisiana Acadian Governors' Acadian family mosaic crest, Governor K. Blanco invited, Acadian Memorial

Governor K. Blanco invited, Acadian Memorial
January 19th – Opening & Dedication of Louisiana Acadian Governors' Acadian family mosaic crest

February 11th – Calling All Lovers, Valentine Day Celebration Cajun Style/
Evangeline & Gabriel Day / "Romance Under the Oak", Evangeline Oak Square

March 19th – First Annual Acadian Memorial Festival – 2005 Theme, "Commemoration of the Acadian Deportation", Evangeline Oak Square