



# Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

Vol. 4, No. 1

Spring 1995

## Jaycees pledge funds for Memorial flame

by Christine Touchet

The Acadian Memorial's eternal flame moved one step closer to becoming a reality in April.

Martha Hebert, program chairman for the St. Martinville Jaycees, presented a \$2,500 check to Teddy Eastin and Ben Breaux, members of the Eternal Flame committee, and Mayor Eric Martin at a city council meeting back in April.

Hebert said the remaining \$2,500 will be collected from other Jaycee clubs around the state who want to help sponsor the flame.

She said the St. Martinville Jaycees will ask other clubs to pledge money so that the eternal flame could be sponsored by Jaycees.

"This (the flame) will memorialize the efforts of those who didn't make it," said Mayor Martin, referring to Acadians who lost their lives traveling by ship from Nova Scotia. "Those Acadians will be remembered through this eternal flame."

"It's nice to see the people giving back to the community," the Mayor added.

The project also includes a mural which depicts the heritage of the Acadians and is expected to generate an increase in tourism throughout the parish.

According to Mayor Martin, the Acadian Memorial could become another "Evangeline Oak" for St. Martinville.

The Acadian Memorial is a commemorative project honoring Acadians who were exiled from Nova Scotia in 1755 and found refuge in Louisiana.



*Ben Breaux and Teddy Eastin (left) members of the Acadian Memorial Project's eternal flame committee, go over plans for this component of the Memorial with Martha Hebert of the St. Martinville Jaycees and Mayor Eric Martin. The Jaycees presented a \$2,500 check representing half the cost of this phase and have pledged to raise the balance through donations from other Jaycee chapters throughout the state. The flame will be located at the rear of the Memorial building on the bank of Bayou Teche and will feature an oval slab of 4" thick polished granite on a low pedestal. The granite will be etched with a map of the Atlantic rim depicting the flight of the Acadians from Nova Scotia and their various destinations. (Teche News Photo)*



## Sonnier figure added to mural

A consolidated effort by members of several branches of the Sonnier family resulted in the representation of their common ancestor, Joseph Sonnier, on the Acadian Memorial mural. The mural figure is a composite of the children of Basile Sonnier, Sr., as they appear in a family photograph dated 1898.

Eddie Richard, who spearheaded the donation effort, presented a \$2,000 check on behalf of Catherine Mouton, Annette A. Mouton, Nelwyn P. Babineaux, Woodly Credeur, Verdie S. Guidry, Hector Sonnier, Louise Sonnier, Mildred S. Arceneaux and Floyd Sonnier of Scott; Saul Sonnier, Nellie Broussard, Patsy Sonnier and Gladys P. Thibodeaux of Lafayette and Rosalie R. Meaux of Abbeville.

This joint donation is representative of the true Acadian spirit of working together to preserve the culture and heritage of their ancestors.



Jane G. Bulliard (2nd from left) and Mayor Eric Martin (rear) are pictured receiving a donation from members of the Sonnier family for the Acadian Memorial mural. From left, are Eddie Richard, (Bulliard) Mildred S. Arceneaux and Hector Sonnier of Scott, and Robert Sonnier of Abbeville.

## Mural figure sponsored as memorial

The Acadian Memorial mural committee has received a contribution to sponsor another figure and others are still available according to

chairperson Carole Lancon.

The family of Una Blanchard Felterman had sought a lasting memorial for her since her death in

1979 and sponsoring the figure of Anselme Blanchard was the answer to their search. Mrs. Felterman, whose parents died when she was twelve years old, was raised by a brother but always thought of herself as an orphan.

A granddaughter's idea of researching and compiling a family tree for her led to the discovery of Mrs. Felterman's lineal descent from Anselme Blanchard, an Acadian refugee who arrived in Louisiana in 1767. Through the years Blanchard became a respected citizen and in 1785, when other exiles arrived, he was engaged to represent the Spanish government in settling them. He also served as a captain under General Galvez in the American Revolutionary War.

Mrs. Felterman's great pride in being recognized as a descendant of Anselme Blanchard at the 1976 dedication of a plaque in the state capitol made sponsorship of the mural figure an obvious and appropriate choice.



Members of the Felterman family of St. Mary Parish, pose by the Acadian Memorial mural next to the figure of Anselme Blanchard which the family sponsored in the name of their mother, Una Blanchard Felterman. Left, is Alfreda Felterman Laws, her brother, Ernest L. Felterman and their half brother, Roy Blanchard. Mural artist Robert Dafford is next to Mr. Blanchard. Other family members who are not shown are Mercedes Felterman Versaggi and Fulton.C. Felterman, Jr.



# Mural figures...

## Who's sponsored and who's not!



### Who's sponsored:

Pierre Richard is sponsored by Des Richard de Partout organization; Marguerite Martin by Dolores G. Respass; Joseph Sonnier by the Sonnier family; Anselme Blanchard by the Family of Una Blanchard Felterman and, a Dugas figure has been sponsored in the name of Mr. Clet Dugas by Christy D. Maraist.

### Who's not:

Pierre Louis Arceneau  
Marie Aucoin  
Olivier Benoit  
Elizabeth Brasseur

Alexis Breaux  
Firmin Breaux  
Honore Breaux  
Joseph Beausoleil Broussard  
Magdelaine Broussard  
Fr. Jean Francois de Civray  
Joseph Gravois  
Pierre Guidry  
Joseph Landry  
Jean Mouton  
Marin Mouton  
Salvador Mouton  
Martin Navarro  
Pierre Pitre  
Elizabeth Richard

Marguerite Richard  
Marie Richard  
Genevieve Robicheau  
Magdelaine Robicheau  
Jean Baptiste Semer  
Joseph Semer  
Olivier Terriot  
Ambroise Terriot  
Olivier Thibodeau

Each figure has a sponsorship value of \$2,000. Another ten figures, already painted on the mural are available to be named and sponsored. All donations will be prominently and permanently displayed.

### Purchase an item below and help build the Memorial!

Qty

\_\_\_\_\_ Mural Squares, 6" x 6" @ \$50 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Posters @ \$15 each + 3.50 tax/ship

\_\_\_\_\_ Photo card of Acadian Mural at Nantes, France @ \$4 ea + \$1 tax/ship (Available by July 1995)

\_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirts @ \$15 each + 3.50 tax/ship

\_\_\_\_\_ Mural figure @ \$2,000 each (see list above)

Remit in U.S. dollars to: Acadian Memorial Project  
P.O. Box 379A Dept AM  
St. Martinville, LA 70582

Enclosed is my check/M.O. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation IRS 170 (c)(1)

List name for memorial below or name and address for gift.

Memorial \_\_\_\_\_

Gift \_\_\_\_\_



## Calling All Cajuns Calendar

**Saturday, May 20, 1995**

SWLA Genealogical Society, Lake Charles, LA  
Acadian Memorial Project presentation

**Thursday, May 25, 1995**

Acadian Memorial meeting, 6:30 PM  
La Place d'Evangeline, St. Martinville, LA  
Building will be open before the dinner meeting.  
Contact: Peggy at 318/394-4010.

**Wednesday, June 7, 1995**

Initial meeting of "Action Cadienne"  
To promote French immersion programs  
4 pm, CODOFIL office, Lafayette, LA  
Contact: Dale Guillory, 318/989-8316

**Saturday, June 10, 1995**

Fr. Donald Hebert Genealogy Workshop  
Church of the Assumption, Mire, LA  
Contact: Fr. Hebert, 318/873-6574

**Tuesday, August 15, 1995**

Feast of the Assumption of The Blessed Mother -  
Patroness of the Acadians  
Evening Memorial Mass at St. Martin de Tours in  
St. Martinville, the "Mother Church of the Acadians",  
honoring Acadian refugees depicted on the mural.  
Regular quarterly meeting after Mass - TBA.  
Patrons Party tickets go on sale.  
Contact: Hilda, 318/394-2230.

**Saturday, October 26, 1995**

Patrons Party - Unveiling and premiere showing  
of the Acadian Memorial mural - TBA

Produced by:

Acadian Memorial Project  
P.O. Box 379 Dept. AM  
St. Martinville, LA 70582  
318/394-2230

Published by:

The Teche News  
St. Martinville, LA

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*A crew works below the rear of the old St. Martinville city hall to shore up the nearly 100 year old building that is being renovated to serve as the Acadian Memorial. Work was begun with a "bricks and mortar" award of \$15,000 from the Governor's Office of Rural Development sponsored by State Representative Sydney Mae Durand. This was followed by capital outlay of \$75,000 for the project by the City of St. Martinville. (Teche News Photo)*

### *The Acadian Memorial Project*

*P. O. Box 379, Dept. AM  
St. Martinville, LA 70582*