

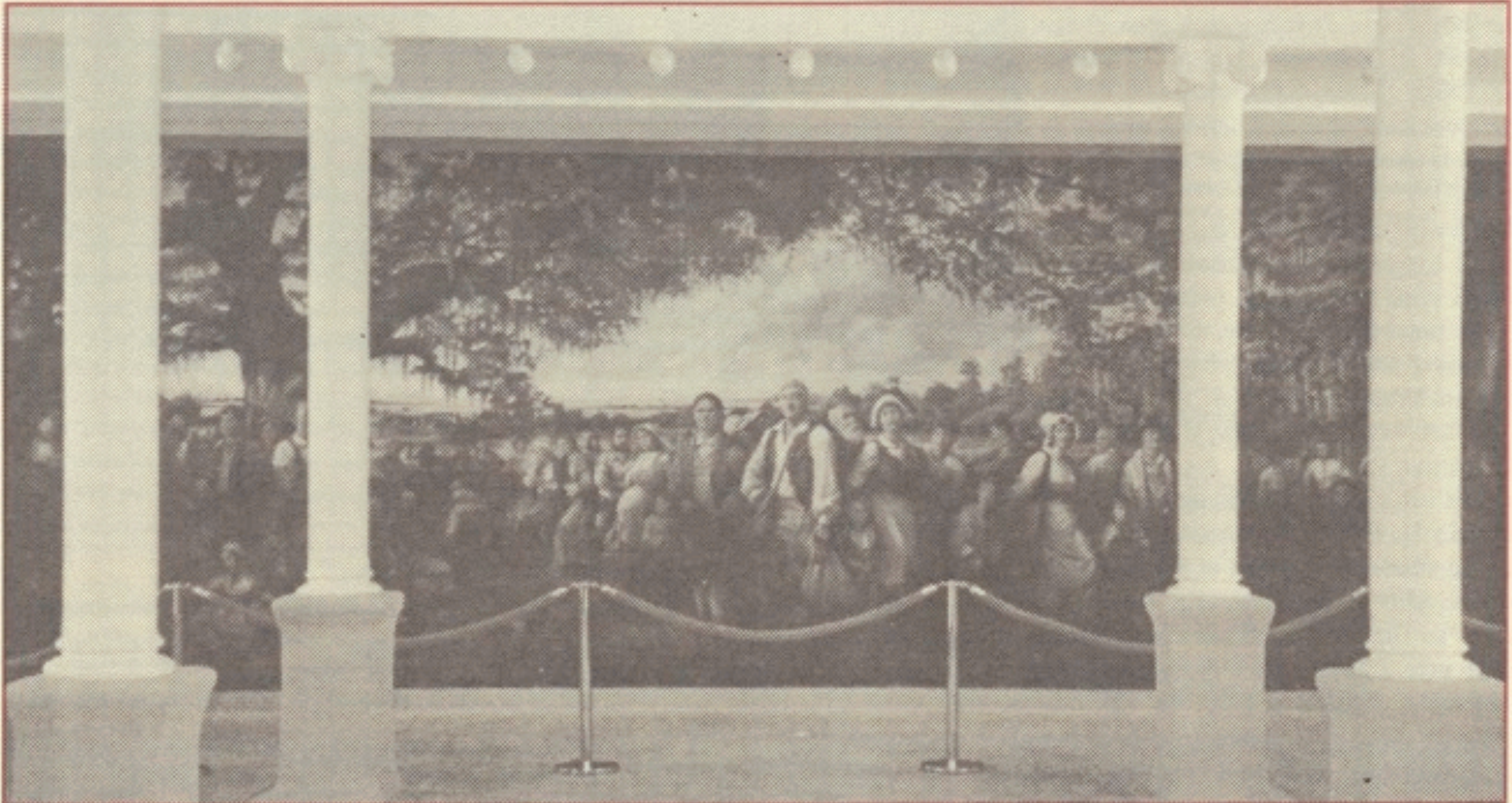


Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

Vol. 5, No. 1

Spring 1996



"The Arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana" as viewed through the columns of the old market place, recently renovated to house this element of the Acadian Memorial, glows with brilliant color underscoring the potential of a determined people.

Crowd thrilled at first view of Acadian mural

The long-awaited unveiling of the Acadian Memorial mural, on October 28, 1995, evoked "oohs and aahs", along with vigorous applause, from the officials and mural figure sponsors who were among the first to view the 12' x 30' work of art.

World-renowned muralist Robert Dafford of Lafayette, Louisiana, who has painted numerous murals in the United States and abroad, said that he was very personally involved in this particular project because: "This represents the culmination

of over 15 years of research I've done into Acadian history." He also observed that this project was essential to establishing a permanent and comprehensive monument to the Acadian legacy.

Financing of the \$35,000 commission fee was made possible through donations received from persons across the United States, Canada and France including a number of sponsors for specific individuals portrayed in the mural. The balance was funded by grants from the

Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Acadiana Regional Arts Council.

The unveiling ceremony was the highlight of a gala "Cajuns, Cousins & Cuisine" event which attracted over 200 people for an evening of good food, French music and friendly conversation. A good time was had by all!

A schedule of the ribbon cutting ceremony, which will formally open the Memorial in April, 1996, appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lighting of the Eternal Flame

The lighting ceremony for the Eternal Flame was held Sunday, December 10, 1995, in a specially designed courtyard located along Bayou Teche at the rear of the Acadian Memorial building.

Lt. Gov.-elect Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Lafayette and Louisiana Jaycee President Mike Johnson transferred the flame from a vigil candle carried in a procession from St. Martin de Tours Church to the Memorial.

The Louisiana Jaycees and area chapters in St. Martinville, Parks, Breaux Bridge, New Iberia, Lafayette and Baton Rouge provided the financial support to install this second element of the Acadian Memorial.

The flame rises from the center of a polished granite oval whose surface is inscribed with the outline of the Atlantic rim and marked with the major settlement sites of the Acadian refugees.

Carved into the sides of the granite slab are the words "Un Peuple sans passé est un peuple sans futur - A people without a past are a people without a future."

Patricia D. Resweber, event chairman, explained that the element of fire is traditional to the rituals of the Catholic Church, "so the Eternal Flame represents the deep attachment of the Acadian exiles



Lt. Gov. Kathleen B. Blanco (right) and Louisiana Jaycee president Mike Johnson light the Eternal Flame at the Acadian Memorial during special ceremonies. Looking on in the background are Fr. Keith DeRouen, pastor of St. Martin de Tours, who blessed the monument, Mayor Eric Martin (right) and Martha Hebert, president of the St. Martinville Jaycees.

to their religion. It burns in memory of all exiles, and, through the constancy of its flame symbolizes the ability of a culture to rekindle itself despite immense

hardship."

The Eternal Flame monument and garden were designed by Lafayette architect Robert Barras.

Memorial to house unique Acadian history paintings



Members of the Acadian Memorial Foundation are shown with two of the six art reproductions which will soon be housed in the Memorial building in St. Martinville. From left are Foundation members E L "Bubba" Guidry of St. Martinville, Dianne M. Landry of New Iberia, Eddie Richard of Scott, Russell Gaspard of Abbeville, and Mayor Eric Martin.

Members of the Acadian Memorial Foundation have announced that Vermilion Parish Clerk of Court Russell Gaspard has agreed to a long term loan of six reproductions of original paintings depicting Acadian life in Nova Scotia at the time of the exile.

Gaspard had obtained permission to reproduce the paintings, created by artist Claude Picard, from Canadian Heritage Historic Properties in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1994 and they have since been on display in the Vermilion Parish courthouse.

The paintings titled "The Harvest", "Taking the Oath", "Reading the Deportation Order", "Embarkation", "Burning and Laying Waste" and "The Migrations" were commissioned by Canadian Heritage for the Atlantic Region's Grand Pré National Historic Site and will be used at the Memorial to tell the story of the Acadians and

(See HISTORY PAINTINGS, Pg. 4)

Ways in which YOU can support the Memorial

Signed and numbered commemorative prints of the mural are now available as well as t-shirts featuring the completed mural. A brand new product is a unique black enamel pin which features a golden flame and proudly declares "Of Acadian Descent". It is packaged on a wallet size card with place for you to fill in your name and the name of an Acadian ancestor. Also, the Louisiana Acadian flag design is available in a 3/4" lapel pin (no city designated) and in a 4" x 6" flag. **Donations are still being accepted for 6" x 6" squares of the mural.** All donations are deductible under IRS Code 170(c)(1).

•Commemorative print

25-1/2" x 12" four-color lithograph, limited edition, signed & numbered

includes key to mural figures _____ @ \$65

20" x 10" four-color lithograph poster (no mural key included)

_____ @ \$10

•Mural T-Shirts

Completed mural with the saying "arrête toi ami, lis mon nom et souviens toi/Pause friend, read my name and remember"© M____;L____;XL____;XXL____;XXXL_____ @ \$18

•Pin - "Of Acadian Descent" - _____ @ \$5

3/4" black enamel, oval shape, pin inscribed
in gold around gold flame

"DE DESCENDANCE ACADIENNE/OF ACADIAN DESCENT"©

•Louisiana Acadian flag design: _____lapel pin or _____flag @ \$3

••Mural Squares _____ @ \$50 each. Total \$_____.

Gifts & Memorials program: The 'Mural Donor' list, names the sponsor of each mural square and the sponsor is entitled to add the names of no more than two deceased persons to be memorialized (ex., Alfred Joseph Breaux, Alida Menard Breaux by Ivan Breaux). Sponsor can 'gift' a square to a living person which is indicated thus: Jacob Gaudin from Mark Gaudin. Provide name & address of person receiving gift. For gifts or memorials to married women, please provide both maiden and married name.

a. _____ b. _____

••General Donations \$_____

All sales, U.S. \$ only. Prices include
USA shipping and handling.
Add \$5 for delivery out of the country.

Subtotal - \$ _____
7% sales tax •items only - _____
Total - \$ _____

Ck____M/O____VISA/MC#_____Exp. date_____

Name on card _____(and for acknowledgement)

Address _____

Name/address of gift recipient: _____

Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. Mail to: Acadian Memorial, PO Box 379 Dept AM, St. Martinville, LA 70582

Calling All Cajuns Calendar

Monday, April 29, 1996, 2:00 PM

Ribbon cutting ceremony for the formal opening of the Acadian Memorial

Guest of honor: Jocelyne Marchand
Superintendent, Grand Pré NHS
Nova Scotia, Canada

Refreshments:

La Maison Duchamp

Call 318/394-6158 or 394-2233

Tuesday, August 15, 1996, TBA

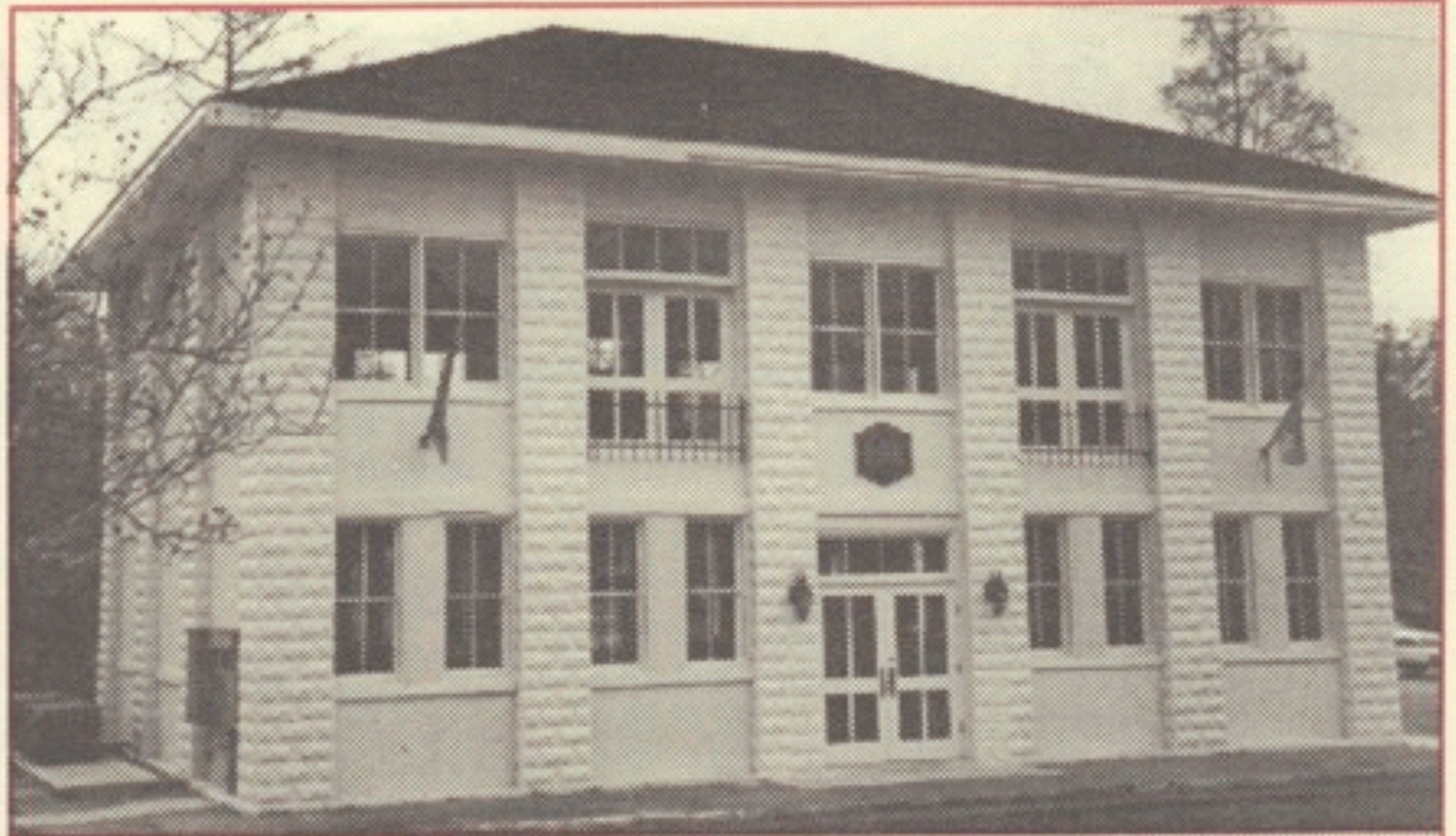
Acadian National Holiday

second celebration of Mass at

St. Martin de Tours

Catholic Church

the "Mother Church of
the Acadians"



Acadian Memorial after completion of Phase I renovations and installation of the mural and eternal flame. The wall of names is still in progress.

History Paintings

(Continued from Pg. 2)

of the exile.

The reproductions will be ready

for viewing by the public after the formal opening in April. The foundation is grateful to Mr. Gaspard, and the Canadian Heritage, for allowing them to be displayed here.

"...They (Acadian exiles) are now being reborn in Louisiana, and, if they are helped a little, they will accomplish wonders."

Aubry to Choiseul-Stainville, New Orleans, May 14, 1765. Quest for the Promised Land by Carl A. Brasseaux.

Acadian Memorial on the internet!

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

Home Page courtesy of O P Ditch, Woodbridge, VA

ACADIAN MEMORIAL ADMISSIONS

Under 6 - Free 6-18 -- \$1 18-60 -- \$3 60+ -- \$2

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

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