DISCUSS FRENCH STUDY - Fifty-two Louisiana French teachers, four of them from Lafayette, studied for six weeks in France this summer under a program sponsored by the Council for Development of French in Louisiana and the French government. Participating locally were (left to right) James Domengeaux, CODOFIL chairman, Mrs. Ruth Bradley, former Paul Breaux High teacher; Mrs. Malcolm Burleigh, Lafayette High; Sister Perpetua Louviere, Cathedral Carmel Elementary; and Robert Arceneaux, supervisor of adult education. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

By MARTHA AYCOCK
Advertiser Staff Reporter
Fifty-two Louisiana French teachers improved teaching skills and discovered the cuisine, beverages and attitude of the French people during a six-week study program in France this summer.
Sponsored by the Council for Development of French in Louisiana, local teachers were Mrs. Ruth Bradley, Mrs. Malcolm Burleigh, Sister Perpetua Louviere and Robert Arceneaux.

Daily contact with the French people taught that there is a high degree of interest in Americans and America in France. The average Frenchman wants to talk with Americans and there's little trouble in communicating with them. French is French, the teachers say, whether you learn it at a Louisiana university or in a Paris street.

Teaching French
Studying linguistics, literature, phonetics and composition along with students from other nations, the teachers saw a demonstration on teaching French to foreigners. The 52 state teachers were on scholarship to the schools they attended.

Twenty-five of the teachers attended the Catholic University of the West 20 studied at Besancon and four went to Montpellier.

Mrs. Burleigh, a Lafayette High School teacher, said the tours were helpful to her because she visited places she only knew from books. Actually seeing the cathedrals and museums will help her communicate the excitement to her students.

Mrs. Domengeaux, CODOFIL chairman, says a new program is planned for next year.

Contacts were also made with young French students, says Mrs. Bradley who taught at Paul Breaux High School last year. Entire classes from state schools may correspond with French classes in France.

Arceneaux, an adult education supervisor commented that adults were anxious to correspond with Americans also and want to come to the United States to travel and to study.

English is taught in French schools, the teachers found, starting at the sixth grade level. Grammar is taught for several years but conversation is not stressed. Therefore, many parents send their children to England to practice the language.

English Words
English words have infiltrated France. "Le Self-Service" has become a popular method of shopping "but if you don't see the sign, don't touch the merchandise," says Mrs. Burleigh.

The teachers stayed in dormitories during their trip and they say the food is marvelous. "It's the idea of being served in courses," one said, "and just imagine choosing two wines a day." The tours were especially fun because "each region showed off its specialty dish." South Sea.

"If you don't eat the food, you can't motivate students by stating advantages of the goals set," making the class alive and interesting. Bringing in human interest items and having the contacts with the French people should help us do it," one teacher summed up the program.

James Domengeaux, chairman of CODOFIL, says a new program is planned for next year.