Abbeville Folklore Program

The Abbeville Dairy Festival folklore program of Acadian songs, dances, stories and handicraft will be directed by Miss Louise Olivier, field representative for the LSU General Extension Acadian Project since 1938.

The first program of its kind in Louisiana, it will be presented in two performances, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and at 3 p.m. Friday in the Mt. Carmel gym here. Mistress of ceremonies will be Miss Sarah Gertrude Knot of Washington, D.C., founder and director of the National Folk Festival.

AS FIELD representative, Miss Olivier supervises the work of 40 persons associated with the Acadian Project, which seeks to develop and preserve as a culture the Acadian crafts of Louisiana. Work for the project involves stimulating interest of rural craftsmen, arranging for suitable markets and quality control of the handicraft for sale.

Participating in the Daily Festival program will be school children, college students and adults from the Acadian areas of the state, including Kaplan, Meaux, Abbeville, Mamou, Broussard, Lafayette, Rayne and Esterwood. Prizes will be awarded to the best performers.

Judges for the event will be Reva Reed of Mamou, who has a program of Acadian lore on a Eunice radio station and who writes a column on Louisiana folklore; Dr. John Guilbeau, professor of French at Louisiana State University; and Mrs. James Guirard of Catahoula, who is the author of "St. Martinville: the land of Evangeline in Picture Story."

Opening the program will be a group from Evangeline parish who have performed in the National Folk Festival in Washington, D.C. and other areas.

Among the features of the program will be women instrumentalists playing the guitar and triangle; a harmonica player who accompanies his daughter as she sings; several harmonizing young wives; students from the University of Southwestern Louisiana; a guitar band; and "The Lancers," four couples dancing in costumes.

SONGS WILL be those of the descendants of the original Acadian settlers brought to Louisiana from Nova Scotia, and to Nova Scotia from France, Miss Olivier said.

Sample selections are "Les Maringouins Ouat Tout Mange Ma Belle" ("The Mosquitoes Ate My Girl Friend"); "La Delaissee" ("The Jilted One"); "La Douce et Triste de la Separation" ("The Sweet Sadness of Parting"); "Saut Brepoud" ("Jump Frog"); "La Petite Poule Blanche" ("The Little White Hen"); "Joli Blonde" ("Pretty Blonde"); "J'ai Passe Devant Ta Porte" ("I Passed in Front of Your Door"); and "Dance Colinda" ("Dance, Colinda").

Acadian handicraft, such as weaving and plaited basket braiding, will be featured in side exhibits.