The Acadian Parish Centennial marker was unveiled by three members of the Police Jury who are chairing this year's event. The mark will be placed on the south side of the parish courthouse. With the plaque are, from left, Dan Rogers, Joe Barret and D.J. Dupuis. (Post Signal Staff Photo)

**Resolutions**

By: Messrs: Dan Rogers and D.J. Dupuis

WHEREAS Acadia Parish will observe and celebrate 100 years of progress, 1886-October 11, 1986, and,

WHEREAS Acadia Parish will celebrate its 100th Birthday with planned festivities scheduled throughout the day, and,

WHEREAS the Centennial Celebration will be a memorable occasion for all citizens of Acadiana Parish, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Acadian Parish Police Jury on Special Session duly called this 24th day of September, 1986, hereafter provided for, be the day for the celebration of the CENTENNIAL of the Parish of Acadiana, Parish of Acadia Parish, State of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Acadian Parish Police Jury and the Acadian Parish Centennial Committee urge all citizens to join in Acadiana Parish's 100th Birthday Celebration festivities on October 11, 1986.

Adopted by unanimous vote. This 24th day of September, 1986.

Acting President: Joseph L. Babineau

Secretary-Treasurer: J. L. BARNETT, PRESIDENT

ACADIA PARISH POLICE JURY

**Centennial Marker**

The Acadian Parish Centennial marker was unveiled by three members of the Police Jury who are chairing this year's event. The mark will be placed on the south side of the parish courthouse. With the plaque are, from left, Dan Rogers, Joe Barret and D.J. Dupuis. (Post Signal Staff Photo)

**The Signal editor warned that the move for division would encounter opposition from Opelousas, also hit at the courthouse. The new parish of Acadia, comprised of a man of common sense can understand that all the interests of the people of Acadia and the people opposed to the division of the parish. If they now see anxiety to us, it must be because they fear a combination between us and the people of Washington. Why do they fear such a combination? It is that these gentlemen so suddenly manifest an interest in our behalf? It is because we are nearer the accomplishment of our purpose than we ever have been, or are ever likely to be again? The editor of the Opelousas Courier spelled it out. Washington, he said, sent a delegation to Rayne with the proposition: If Rayne would support Washington in its bid for the courthouse, Washington would support Rayne to secure a part of the territory of St. Landry to form a new parish. The Courier had reason to believe that the people of Rayne would fight Washington to keep the courthouse, but would be agreeable to granting land for a new courthouse, but would be agreeable to granting land for a new courthouse.
name "Nicholls" for the new parish. Father Joseph Anthonioz, first pastor of the Catholic church at Rayne, is credited with suggesting the name, Acadia Parish.

An event which was to shape the future for Acadia Parish took place two weeks after the governor signed the bill. The charter of the Southwestern Land Company was recorded in the St. Landry Parish courthouse.

The charter, dated July 12, 1886, was notarized by Gilbert L. Dupre. The articles provided that the corporation "is established for the purpose of developing the agricultural resources of Southwestern Louisiana; the promotion of immigration thereto and the purchase and sale of lands as real estate so as to provide home-steads or farms to persons immigrating thereto ..." The capital stock of the company was fixed at $250,000, represented by 2,500 shares at $100 each. Stockholders were G.W. Hudspeth, 10 shares; Joseph Block, 200 shares; C.C. Duson, 200 shares; Alphonse Levy, 200 shares; Julius Meyers, 200 shares; Henry L. Garland, 20 shares; W.W. Duson (per C.C. Duson) 200 shares.

Alphonse Levy was president of the board of directors. C.C. Duson was vice president. The other five stockholders constituted the remaining members of the board.

The president of the land company, Alphonse Levy, was an Opelousas banker and partner in a large mercantile firm with Julius Meyers. Joseph Block was also an Opelousas merchant. Hudspeth was the district judge, and Garland a prominent attorney. Gilbert Dupre was the attorney for the land company.

As provided by the enabling act, in July Governor McEnery called an election to determine the will of the people of St. Landry Parish concerning parish division. The election was set October 6, 1886.

Approximately one month before the election, on September 1, 1886, the Rayne Signal was purchased by W.W. Duson for a price of less than $1,000. The new owner offered a salutatory in his first issue. Promises, he said, were "easily given, more easily broken." The paper "would like to be judged by deeds rather than words." The main issue at hand, the division of St. Landry Parish, would be pursued "by all the power, reason, persuasion and other more potent means of politics that will toll and labor to this end." The new publisher stated that in politics the paper was Democratic, "however it is not to be ironbound even in that, for we can see defects even in that objects we love most. So must every true upright newspaper object at times to frailties and demagogism which are seen in party leaders. The greatest good for the greatest number is true democracy and true patriotism. That man who is not moved by this principle is not a true citizen. Such shall be the end and aim of this newspaper." The publisher promised a "good moral family newspaper ... pure and moral, heightened in its general makeup, worthy of your praise and support."

Voter registration was said to be "in excess of what was considered a full registration last time. Men 70 years of age who had not voted before came out so as to be able to cast a vote for the new parish." The newspaper also quoted a rumor: "We are reliably informed that James O. Chachere, our accommodating clerk at Opelousas, and C.C. Duson, the sheriff, are heart and soul for the new parish and will fulfill their pledges. Therefore all reports to the contrary are base falsehoods, fabrications of their personal enemies."

The October 6 election resulted in 2,516 votes for the proposition and 1,521 against, a majority of 995 for parish division. Acadia, the 59th Louisiana parish, was created by the will of the people.

Election returns from precincts within the new parish were: Mermentau, 109 for, 6 against; German Settlement, 1 for, 31 against; Prudhomme City, 28 for, 96 against; Pointe-aux-Loups, 64 for, 34 against; Plaquemine Bruelle, 124 for, 9 against; Church Point, 28 for, 228 against; Rayne, 658 for, 1 against.

Midland On Railroad Line

Midland, on the main line of the Louisiana Western (Southern Pacific) railroad about nine miles west of Crowley, was the point of intersection for the branch line of the Southern Pacific railroad.

MORSE, From Pg. 4A

region, the wooden houses were put up in imitation of the above-ground vaults in old cemeteries of New Orleans. Another reason given is that the houses may be a more elaborate modification of the fencing around individual graves used in many family cemeteries in rural areas, the purpose of which was to prevent animals, both wild and domestic, from treading on the graves.

The older grave houses are unpainted and unmarked. Many of the newer ones are freshly painted and well kep. Some of the earlier inscriptions show dates of the late 19th century.

(Editor's Note: The information contained in this special edition prior to the Centennial activities of Acadia Parish was reprinted with permission from Mary Alice Fontenot's book, "The History of Acadia Parish."