Acadian Ambulance Notes
Another Year Of Progress

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the third in a series on the growth and progress of Acadian Ambulance Service.

The membership year just ending saw some of the most remarkable advances in the program-filled nine year history of Acadian Ambulance Service. The following are highlights of the past membership year:

Richard Zuschlag, secretary-treasurer, received the Small Business Person of the Year Award for Louisiana and subsequently traveled to Washington for special recognition along with winners from other states. A ceremony was held with President Carter in the Rose Garden of the White House.

Acadian Ambulance was the first company to accept delivery of the “Olympian,” a light, weight modular aluminum ambulance with many new facilities for providing greater efficiency, as well as expected to be a notable savings in gasoline. A substantial internal reorganization program took place, in which the company expanded the number of service districts from four to seven. This permits closer local control, and was accomplished without an increase in manpower.

A comprehensive energy-savings program was launched at all levels of operation. The Paramedic program continued to grow, under the direction of Danny Lennie, who was named a district manager and placed in charge of the project.

The company’s satellite program was expanded to provide voice and telemetry coverage over a wider area, greatly benefitting patients being transported long distances.

Washington verified the year currently ending that “Squad 101,” the first response team, was instrumental in saving the lives of severely ill or injured patients.

Wilton Davis, EMT-Paramedic, received the award for EMT- Paramedic of the Year for 1979. During the year he was the recipient of two “Medic of the Month” certificates for reviving two cardiac patients with his medical expertise and life-saving drugs.

A contract renewal with Assumption Parish was consummated, possibly opening the ground for full emergency services in sparsely populated areas where the number of memberships would be insufficient to finance the program.

The construction began on permanent Acadian style stations in Houma (Main and Grand Galliano) and Thibodaux (La 21 and Cajeaux St.).

The new Direct-Dialing phone system was instituted to allow more efficient phone communications and faster access on both ambulance and business office calls.

Representatives from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians announced the initiation of a new level of training called the EMT-Intermediate, modeled after an identical program set up by Acadian Ambulance with the Louisiana Bureau of EMS. It will register members throughout the country as being qualified to administer life-saving IV fluids at the scene of the emergency — something Acadian Ambulance has been offering the residents of south Louisiana for over four years.

Another 15 senior medics have completed the 12 month 300-hour Paramedic Course. Thirty-seven medics were trained in the 120-hour EMT-Intermediate (IV) Course and 15 Acadian Ambulance personnel completed the 24-hour Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Course last year.

Safe driving awards went out to John Trahan, New Orleans, for five years without an accident, and to James Guarino and Gene Salaster, Lafayette, Chuck Dugas, Jennings, Louis Parenteau, Crowley, and Daniel Viole, New Orleans, for three years without an accident.

Acadian Ambulance Service gained national recognition with an article published in Emergency Magazine, one of the largest EMS trade magazines in the country, about the unique membership drive and the tremendous support it receives throughout the 12 parish service area.