Acadian Celebration Events Scheduled To Begin April 25

Aid Comptroller Ray H. Thibodaux, president of the Acadian Bicentennial Committee, announced today the inauguration of a series of events to commemorate two centuries of Acadian culture in Louisiana.

A program of the Acadian theme at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, April 25, at 3 p.m., will open the year's celebration.

Participants in the program at the French House will be the symbolic figures of the Acadian culture: the and the , who is an Acadian historian and will review his new book, "Acadian Genealogies," which became the Acadian culture of Louisiana, and the , minister of culture of Quebec.

The conference is planned and designed to present a full year's celebration of the cultural year. It will include the various schools to present student essays about Acadian history and literature in various Acadia books throughout the year.

It will issue honorary Acadian certificates, written in French, to those who adopt an official flag for the Acadians of Louisiana, based on historical and cultural influences upon the state.

Acadian festivals and celebrations also feature the Acadian culture in Louisiana. A speaker will be scheduled to discuss these and other organizations to speak on the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Acadian culture in Louisiana.

A statue of the patron saint of the Acadians, Our Lady of the Assumption, located on the site of St. Martinville, will be dedicated August 13, at the St. John Cathedral in Lafayette on the Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption. A barbecue and an Acadian folkloric performance will follow the dedication and Mass on that day at 4 p.m.

The committee will also cooperate with the State Parks and Recreation Commission to promote the presentation of an Acadian pageant in St. Martinville. This project, of course, is intended to attract all of the state's Acadians.

Other events will be planned throughout the year, also to commemorate and to inaugurate the beginning of the third century of Acadian culture in Louisiana.

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