Acadian Program Will Be Held at Abbeville Festival

Something new is going to be added to the Abbeville Dairy Festival scheduled for October 18-21. For the first time the annual event will include an Acadian folklore program.

At an organizational meeting of a select few, held Saturday night, Southwest Louisiana's best known Cajun Boy, State Comptroller, Roy Theriot, former mayor of Abbeville launched the idea.

Theriot told a handful of Acadian enthusiasts gathered at his home at Abbeville, that, "I think it about time people up North know what we have down here. For too long a time we have not promoted our Acadian heritage. It is about time that something be done about it.

"I for one, am a Cajun. I'm married to a Connecticut Yankee, I have three children, yet they hardly know anything about French. My wife can understand French, but neither she nor my three children can really speak it. I'm tired of reading in national magazine articles on Southwest Louisiana and Cajuns, how we have nothing down here but mosquitoes, alligators and snakes. Most of these articles are written by authors who still don't know what a Cajun is or anything about our Acadian folklore. It is almost too late to set this idea straight.

"I'M AS guilty as anyone in delaying so long. You people here tonight have all expressed an interest in promoting our Acadian heritage. Truly such a program should be launched in St. Martinville, or Lafayette, but since nothing is being done, Abbeville will start it with this year's dairy festival. I am hoping that once such a program is begun it will spread to adjoining areas and grow," explained Theriot.

The former Abbeville mayor and Dairy Festival official also said that the time was ripe for a film to be made on the Acadians which should be shown "all over the nation to set the matter straight on the Cajuns and what they are like."

Recently after he was elected to the office of State Comptroller, Theriot hosted a "Cajun" breakfast in Baton Rouge, featuring typical Acadian dishes such as "cush-cush."

At the organizational meeting a committee was formed with Miss Louise V. Olivier, of Arnaudville, named as general chairman. Miss Olivier is Director of Acadian Handicraft of Louisiana State University. Theriot will be general coordinator for the Acadian program to be held with the forthcoming dairy festival.

Vice chairman of the committee are Mrs. Leila LaBauve of Abbeville, director of the Acadianne...