Acadiana Assembly opens

LAFAYETTE, La. — Today will mark the beginning of a festive occasion in Louisiana called the Acadiana Assembly.Kicking off activities will be the Bayou Food Festival, slated from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. today in the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium. Homes and historical sites in St. Martinville, Lafayette, New Iberia and Abbeville will be visited during the Assembly.

Among the Louisiana Food Festivals represented today will be Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival, Mamuru Cochen de Lait, Gonzales Jambalaya Festival and Bridge City Gumbo Festival. Tickets will be available at the door and will include a book of coupons to be exchanged for food items at the various booths.

The first bus tour will begin at 9 a.m. Friday and visit the historical sites of St. Martinville, including the Evangeline Oak, Old Castillo Hotel, St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, Pointe au Chene Museum, St. Martinville Parish Courthouse, Tow House of Eugene Duchamp du Chalagane and an Acadian master house.

Saturday the buses will visit an Acadian Bazaar on the church green of St. Martin de Tours.

Among the St. Martinville homes to be visited Sunday will include the L'evret-St. John Plantation, Martin House, La Maison du Dimanche and Bienvenu House.

The second part of the Assembly will begin March 13 with a tour of New Iberia homes and places of historical interest, including the Shadows-on-the-Teche, the old Sugar Run house and the Jungle Gardens of Avery Island.

The grand tour of Lafayette, scheduled for March 14, will include the University of Southwestern Louisiana horticulture center, the French regency home, the Lafayette Planetarium and Natural History Museum, and the Art Center for Southwestern Louisiana.

The "Promenade des Jardins Creoles," slated for the evening of March 14 will include a visit to a Greek artemium, the French courtyard of a Greek Revival home and a formal garden.

On March 15, narrators will again take visitors on a tour of St. Martinville, escorted by women dressed in antique costumes.

The tour will go to Abbeville March 16 to visit the main square, and a second square the La Chapelle Square. Homes will include Grey Friars, old Netties House and the Wise House.

All tours will originate at the Northgate Mall on the Evangeline Thruway. Daytime tours begin at 9 a.m. and evening tours at 6 p.m.

The Bienvenu House in St. Martinville will be among those visited Sunday during the Acadiana Assembly.