Acadiana Day' Is Wednesday

Acadiana Mall will be the site of a special ceremony Wednesday when Lafayette observes the first annual 'Acadiana Day' to celebrate the rich Acadian heritage which remains an integral part of Lafayette and surrounding areas.

June's will be named 'Acadiana Day' by the Louisiana Legislature this year when it adopted a resolution proposed by Rep. Armand J. Brinkhaus and Sen. Edgar Mouton.

It was on that date in 1817 that the legislature officially designated a 25-parish French-speaking area 'Acadiana' at the request of the International Retalians Association of Lafayette. It was also the date in 1814 that allowed for the liberty of France.

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Acadiana parishes, primarily police jurats, will attend the ceremony, in addition to Brinkhaus and Mouton.

Brinkhaus will speak on the origin of Acadiana leading to the "Acadiana Day" celebration and Mouton will present an address about the significance of Acadiana as part of a diversified Louisiana.

Glen Conrad, director of U.L.'s Center for Louisiana Studies, will offer encephalitis three famous Acadians. Joseph Landry, Alexander Mouton and Joseph Braux. During the ceremony, brief three-minute lectures will trace the lives of these men.

Carl Braum, assistant director of U.L.'s Center for Louisiana Studies, will discuss the political career of Landry, who was appointed commendant of the Acadian coast by President Thomas Jefferson through Gov. W. L. Calberla in 1814.

Mellie Albin, a professor of French at U.L., will outline the career of Alexander Mouton, who was Louisiana's first governor from Acadiana.

Conrad will speak about Braux, the first Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court whose roots were in Acadiana.

A caution will perform during the ceremony which will go underway at 1 p.m. in the Central Plaza of the mall.

The resolution adopted by the legislature calls for all citizens of Acadiana to wear blue on June 6. It was the color of the French flag and when Acadians first arrived in Louisiana, they bided a blue indigo dye which they used to color their clothes. It also became the traditional color of that culture.

Lafayette police officer A.J. LeHunte is in charge of 'Acadiana Day' ceremonies.