ANNUAL ACADIAN
BREAKFAST HELD

Friends of Roy Theriot
Pay Tribute

By CLAIRE PUNKEY
(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

BATON ROUGE - Friends of the late state Comptroller Roy R. Theriot, hundreds of them, gathered in Baton Rouge Monday morning to pay tribute to his memory at the 14th annual Acadian Breakfast, an event which he had originated.

Dignitaries from Canada and France extended greetings and James Domengause, executive director of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODIFIL), dedicated the breakfast to Theriot’s memory.

Sheriff Eddie Delcambre of Theriot’s home parish of Vermilion, reigned as king of this year’s Acadians, and the queen chosen by Theriot a year ago, was Mrs. Audrey Babineaux George of Houma. Both rulers were crowned by James Fontenot, former assistant state comptroller, and this year’s host.

Mrs. Theriot and members of her family were present for the breakfast and the ceremony at the Bellemont. She expressed the hope that the breakfast would continue as an annual event.

Jean Charles Cantin, consul general of Canada with headquarters in New Orleans, in his address at the breakfast, noted the many things the United States and Canada have in common and discussed the present exchange of teachers and students.

Gerard Robichou, cultural attaché, French Consulate in New Orleans, brought a message from the consul general there stressing the close relationship between the French and Acadian people.

Leo LeBlanc, representative of the government of Quebec in Louisiana, was a guest at Monday’s function.

In presenting a testimonial plaque written in French and English to Mrs. Theriot, Domengause cited the unselfish devotion of Theriot towards the perpetuation and preservation of the Acadian heritage in Louisiana.

The testimonial was signed by Dr. Thomas Arceneaux, former dean of the University of Southwestern Louisiana College of Agriculture, as chairman of the committee in charge of Monday’s memorial event, and also by Fontenot.

Domengause made a plea for the preservation of the French language in Louisiana. The French language will be lost unless we can put it into the school schedule from the early grades upward,” he said.

Ernest Skillman, assistant to Baton Rouge Mayor W.W. Dupas spoke in welcome.

Louisiana Secretary of State Wade O. Martin noted that he and Theriot had worked closely together on the Tourist Commission and for many years in relation to Canada.

Clyde Foret, deputy register of the State Land Office, alternated with Fontenot as master of ceremonies. Songs composed in honor and memory of Theriot were played at the breakfast.