Books on Acadians displayed

Some 160 social science teachers from across the state, along with local and foreign dignitaries, gathered at Acadian Village Thursday to get a look at two new books to help students learn more about Acadian life.

Presented were a new curriculum guide on the Acadians of Louisiana and an illustrated history book of the Acadian Odyssey.

"We wanted to have a better monument than flags and plaques to celebrate the homecoming of the arrival of Acadians in Louisiana. This curriculum to teach our students the history of Acadians is a lasting monument," said Gerald Frey, executive director of the Lafayette Parish Tourism Commission and chairman of the Acadian Odyssey Bicentennial Commission.

Both books are to be used by the Commission, which was established by the Legislature last year to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Acadians.

The Acadian of Louisiana Curriculum Guide was prepared through a joint effort of the State Department of Education, the Acadian Odyssey Bicentennial Commission and the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CUDOFIL).

The guide is designed to give social science teachers at the 7th and 8th grade levels additional resources for the study of Louisiana Acadian culture and history.

It includes a concise account of Acadian history based on Truman Shuey's research, Louisiana French heritage, descriptions of Acadian culture, lifestyle features, exercises and a bilingual glossary.

It was written by a team of teachers including Harley Broome of Kaplan High, James Joubert of Jonas High, Amanda Lamer of Carencro High and Cynthia Maraviglia of Lafayette Middle School.

"'La Conquete de L'Odysee Acadienne de 1698 a 1798' is an illustrated history of the Acadian odyssey which tells the departed Acadians from Canada to France and to Louisiana where they settled after a 30-year exile.

Authored by Jacqueline Voorhies of New Iberia, it is a joint publication of the Commission and CUDOFIL.

The book will distributed in elementary classrooms.

Assisting in the presentation were Dr. Helen Brown, of the State Department of Education, Lafayette Mayor Duval Lastrappe, French consul Pierre Bollier and Quebec delegate Jean Goyer.