CODOFIL President's Newsletter

Warren A. Perrin  perrin@pliddo.com  September 15, 2003

Chers amis du CODOFIL:

INTRODUCTION

- We are attempting to locate past issues of the CODOFIL President's Newsletters for the following dates: April 1, 1998, December 15, 2000, and April 1, 2001. If you have a copy, please forward it to me for inclusion in the CODOFIL archives.
- If you know a person or group that would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please send their address to CODOFIL or E-mail jmmenard@bellsouth.net.
- If you want to provide any information to CODOFIL, please send an e-mail: dcheram@bellsouth.net.
- We invite you to visit the calendar on our website at www.codofil.org where Louisiana francophone and cultural events are updated every Friday. To publish your events, please send details at least one week in advance to Elaine Clément (337) 262-5810 or e-mail her at Elainefc@bellsouth.net.
- Please view our community bulletin board Astur TV on AOC Channel 98 weekdays from 7 to 9 am.
- We are saddened to announce the deaths of Sid Ory, the man who coined the phrase "Ragin Cajuns" for UL Lafayette; Geraldine "Gerry" Baudoin, long-time member of CODOFIL; Relie LeBlanc, a cornerstone of the Erath business, political and cultural community; Floyd Cormier, radio and television veteran whose French-language broadcasts endeared him to Acadiana's Cajuns died at age 79; Rita Fontenot, an artist and craftsperson well-known for her folk art houses, Edith Broussard, member of the Acadian Museum, and U.L. Professor Glenn R. Conrad, the man who scholars called when they had questions about Louisiana or Acadian history.
- On July 14th, Consul General of France, Patrick Rolot, hosted a gala reception for the annual Bastille Day event in New Orleans at the World Trade Center's Pimisol Club
- Kaplan continued its successful Bastille Day celebration in Acadiana.
- CODOFIL Fondation's president, Dr. William Arceneaux, hosted a Bastille Day celebration in Baton Rouge which also served as a Fondation fundraiser.
- We protested the inappropriate use of Cajun as follows: "Cajun Taliban" (April 8, 2002, Roger McQuinty, ABC News Radio), "Coonass" (March 10, 2003, CNN's "CrossFire" used in reference to James Carville), "Cajun Cutter" (April 2003 used by Times of Acadiana's columnist to refer to the Louisiana serial killer), "Cajun spammer" (May 28, 2003, Washington Post), and "Cajuns as racial group" (June 25, 2003, Diane Sawyer and Patricia Cromwell, ABC News "Primetime"), unfairly stereotyping people (TBS' "Red Water," 2003).
- Dr. David Cheramie was featured in an article by Marsha Englebrecht in "Lafayette LifeStyles: Ici, On Parle Francais" and Le Monde, the highly respected French daily.
- Philippe Gustin, Le Centre International, hosted a reception and dedication in honor of Codofil founder James Domengeneaux. The event was financially supported by Chantal Le Clère Dowty and attended by Consul général de France, Patrick Rolot.
- An excellent editorial in the Sunday Advertiser "Anger Should Focus On French Leaders, Not French People" did much to help quell "French bashing." Sadly, Representative Billy Tauzin pulled his French website, originally translated by Elaine Clément of CODOFIL, calling it a silent protest to France's opposition to the war on Iraq.
- I was a guest on Marc Lacouture's program Lagniappe on KRVS (Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. 88.7 FM).
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Dr. Maureen Brennan, director of Cité des Arts, hosted "Music and Bloody Marys" at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. Presenters included Sam Broussard, singer, songwriter and guitarist with Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, film maker Pat Mire ("Forever My Love"), and Dominick Cross ("In Tune," The Advocate) continued to do an excellent job of covering Cajun and Zydeco music.

St. Mary Parish's antebellum period was examined in an excellent exhibit at the Grevenberg House Museum (337-828-2092).
The project "Putting a Face on Acadian History" was funded by a Louisiana Endowment of the Humanities grant. Robert Dafford's mural was used as the backdrop of the project "Putting a Face on Acadian History," and Lewis and Clark: "The Food Journal of Lewis & Clark" and "The LeWIS & Clark Cookbook: Historic Recipes from..."

Dafford's mural was used as the backdrop of the upcoming 400th anniversary of Acadian history.

The Government of Québec hosted Euclide Chiasson, President of the Société Nationale de l'Acadie where he discussed activities for the next year's reunion in Poucht Antigonish County, Nova Scotia August 11 - 13, 2004. Author of "Three Hills Home," Alfred Silver and I will be making a presentation to the Broussard family on the family's role in Acadian history.

Donna Doucet, executive director, Grand Pré National Historic Site announced the third consecutive year of archaeological excavations at the site of the Church of Saint-Charles-des-Mines, founded in 1687 (ddoucet@grand-prc.com). Acadian culture was celebrated in grand style at Grand-Pré on July 19 and 20. On September 6, the new visitors' center opened at Grand Pré.

Danny Abel, New Orleans attorney, advises that his wonderful lodge in Nova Scotia, "Trout Point" is available for reservations (www.troutpoint.com).

The Red Stick Ramblers (Chas Justus, Ricky Rees, Josh Caffery, Joel Savoy, Linzy Young and Glen Fields) were featured in The Times Picayune and made a triumphant tour of Nova Scotia in August.

The excellent French student newspaper Le Tintamarre at Centenary College, continued, under the leadership of Dr. Dana Kress, to do excellent work; the recent edition included a story by Patrick Rolot, as well as a listing of important internet sites under the leadership of Dr. Dana Kress, who has made a nice recovery from a heart procedure and his staff continue to do an excellent job!

Using the book by Dr. Meg Marshall and Thomas Klingler "Dictionary of Louisiana Creole," students from Stanford University, Elise Brordes and Luc Baronian, are doing a field study on Creole french.

The French Education Project at LSU, in collaboration with the Cultural Services of the French Consulate in New Orleans, has developed a new web site for French Immersion: http://calvin.ednet.lsu.edu/~fil

Don and Jintana Guillaumin, owners of Pimmon Thai restaurant, were the subject of an article by historian Ryan Brasseaux entitled "Cajun Thai".

The bill by Representative Loulan Pitre of Cut Off won approval: foods sold in Louisiana cannot be labeled "Cajun" or "Louisiana Creole" if not made, processed or manufactured in Louisiana.

The French Giant Omelette Festival of Abbeville was featured on the Food Network (May 19th).

The John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University added a new Masters program.

Lafayette Chef William Menard of Evangeline Seafood and Steakhouse was invited to be a special guest chef in the Burgundy region of France.

Mary Tutwiler continues to write excellent culturally-based articles, including: "When We Ever Know Who Made The First Gumbo".

Cajun cook Lucy Zunbregenre does a good job with her popular LBP series "Lucy's Classic Cajun Culture and Cooking."

Café des Amis in Breaux Bridge continues to provide exquisite art, culture winning and dining under the tutelage of Dickie Breaux.

Toni Haynes opened a cookbook featuring Vermilion Parish cuisine "Simply The Best." Interesting new cookbooks include "Eula Mae's Cajun Kitchen: Cooking Through the Seasons in Avery Island," "Cajun Women's Recipes and Remembrances From South Louisiana Kitchens," and "The Louisiana Creole Cookbook: Historic Recipes from Louisiana."
The New Orleans Chapter of the French Heritage Society recently visited the Lafayette Museum, Alexandre Mouton House.

Dr. Carl Brasseaux, director of UL Lafayette's Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism, received the 2003 Louisiana Writer Award.

According to Senator Mary Landrieu, the National D-Day Museum of New Orleans was awarded the distinction of being named America's National World War II Museum.

Jean Kiesel, UL Lafayette professor, is developing a classic Cajun music collection at Dupre library.

Dr. Shane Bernard is organizing a ceremony to take place next June in France to honor Houston D. Dubon of New Iberia who died during the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944.

LPB will begin broadcasting its much anticipated 6-part series, "Louisiana, A History" on Sept. 14 at 7:00 pm. It will continue through October. It will also be available for classroom use. If you miss an episode, contact LPB at 1-800-272-8161 to get a copy.

Ensemble on Est Capable

L'Unioin fait la force

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Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial

The back side of the new 5-cent coin will commemorate the Bicentennial of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis & Clark expedition.

Interesting events commemorating the Bicentennial include: art exhibit: "Worth the Purchase Price?" in New Orleans; the New Orleans International Ballet Conference; The Louisiana Purchase El Camino Real Trail Ride; the documentary "Louisiana Purchase" aired on the History Channel; the Lake Providence exhibit "America's Best Buy: The Louisiana Purchase"; a multi-cultural point of view with emphasis on the Native Americans in Chariton was held on June 13th; Renaisance Cadet performed "Musical Memories of 1803" at Vermilionville; The St. Bernard Office of Tourism sponsored John Churchill Chase's "Louisiana Purchase." The West Carroll Parish Bicentennial committee sponsored an Independence Day Celebration on June 28th; Gerald Breaux announced the opening of two new museums with exhibits from France; The Breaux Bridge Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Bayou Float Parade on the 4th of July; The Natchitoches Art Guild sponsored a Bicentennial quilt unveiling; the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission sponsored an exhibit on the first maps of Vermilion Parish; Coca Cola will be putting the logo on bottles and packaging; the trademark has been registered; Baton Rouge sponsored an exhibit; Josephine, Le Grand Amour de Napoleon at the Louisiana Art and Science Museum; Baton Rouge also unveiled an exhibit of French photography at the old Governor's mansion; St. Martinville sponsored an African American exhibit at the museum located at 125 New Market Street, St. Martinville; Le Timianarre reached an agreement; the Morgan City Convention & Visitor's Bureau sponsored a RV Rally & Summit; the International Trade Development Group sponsored a presentation by historian Charles Richard "Louisiana Purchase: Opening the Gateway to Global Markets;" the Swine Palace updated the 1940s musical Louisiana Purchase; the Le Raconteur looked at genealogy since the Bicentennial; a new stamp was issued honoring the Louisiana Purchase; Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission hosted an exhibition: "A Historical Study through French and American Stamps;" the Pennington Biomedical Research Center sponsored the Balloon Championship; the Opioula Museum of Art and Zigler Museum in Jennings had special art exhibits; Opioulaans actors portrayed "Voices from Our Past" bringing to life its historical past; the New Orleans Botanical Gardens opened their exhibit: "Plants of the Louisiana Purchase;" the Daily Advertiser began a series of Louisiana-style cooking articles and continued their daily historical information article by Jim Bradshaw; LBP aired the Lewis and Clark Musical and "La: A History;" Mignon Faget issued a signature collection on jewelry design; the Louisiana Steam Train Association was preparing to launch a trip around Louisiana; Vermilionville and the Lafayette Board of Realtors teamed up to bring a mockumentary entitled: "You Paid How Much?"; the Acadian Museum announced its exhibit: "The French Legacy in Louisiana;" Alexandria hosted "Heart of Spain;" Monroe opened "The Louisiana Purchase - 200 years of Art, History and Culture;" Commission member James Sefik was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Louisiana State University.

The Acadiana Arts Council funded a mosaic displaying various scenes of Louisiana history.

Artsworks program of Lafayette sponsored the re-creation of the event with a mural "Circa 1803" painted by children.

According to Jim Bradshaw, just after the sale of Louisiana, few people could read or write English.

Christelle Poox of France has obtained her Ph.D. from U.L. in microbiology; she will do her post-doctorate research at Texas A&M.

International Relations

Philippeustin and Rebekah Robertson were honored for their work at the recent Brasil Offshore 2003 oil show in Macaré.

Claude Teboul, President of France-Louisiana, did a terrific job promoting the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase with the dedication of the commemorative plaque in Paris (http://fire.fr). The event was covered in a special to the Advertiser by Jennifer Gipson "Even in Paris, Louisiana Purchase Remembered." Teboul was awarded a certificate naming him an honorary Goodwill Ambassador of Lafayette by the Louisiana State Museum.

Iva Clavelle organized a visit to New Orleans to see the "Jefferson's America, Napoleon's France" exhibition for the members of TIRAA. (337-233-4550).

Francophile Michel Trujillo has relocated to Lafayette where he is developing a real estate venture: Sunset Park Management (337-662-1220).

State Representative Clara Guilbeau Baudoin, President of the Louisiana Section of the AIPF, will be hosting 70 French-speaking parliamentarians in Lafayette from September 17 - 21 (418-644-5638).

Writer Jim Bradshaw (ibradshaw@theadvertiser.com) wrote his usual terrific articles including: "Senegal and Acadiana Share Painful Ties" (July 9th).

New Orleans needs to do more to make the international community welcomed because since 2002 Mexico, Columbia and Nicaragua have closed their consulates in that city. In 1979, the city had 20 foreign consulates; today there are only 10.

Journalist Isaline Aubin of the French National Geographic magazine was in Louisiana on September 3rd doing research for an upcoming article.

Author of "To Honor Our Veterans," Jason Theriot made a presentation on July 20th at the Acadian Memorial. The book is a World War II book series on the French-speaking soldier during World War II.


Laraine Bridges continues to do an excellent job publishing "Cajun Life and Times" from England.

For those looking to know more about the history of St. James Parish we suggest: "Vacherie, St. James Parish, Louisiana" by Elton J. Oubre (985-446-8652).

John François' terrific book "Cajun Fire" is now available (337-207-6749; jfrancois@earthlink.net).

Copies of "Three Hills Home" by Alfred Silver can still be ordered (902-757-1949; asilver@illinois.com).

"The Cajuns" by Dr. Shane Bernard has gotten excellent reviews (skbernard@cajunculture.com; Web site: www.cajunculture.com). The books deal with the Americanization of Cajuns post WWII.

Janet Jahn continues to do excellent work with her publication "Acadian Genealogy Exchange" (853-5863 Wayman Branch Rd, Covington, KY 41015). The film "Acadie/Liberte" may be ordered from her.
• Lafayette City/Parish President Walter Comeaux proclaimed June 5th Creole Heritage Day. Herbert Wiltz, founding member of C.R.E.O.L.E., Inc. spoke about creole culture in Louisiana.

• The newly-formed Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society is working to restore 200 acres of grasslands near Gueydan (www.cajunprairie.org).

• Bobby Guilbeau’s Prejean’s Restaurant is now featuring live Cajun music on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

• Rev. Jean McCurdy Meade, PhD hosted the Second Bicentennial Vespers in French on April 27th.

• Judy LaBorde, editor, Linkage (LSU Health Sciences Community) continues to publish interesting articles on Acadian genetics. (jlabor@lsuhsc.edu).

• Acadian quilters traveled to France to attend the international exhibit “Le quilt Pictave.”

• Under Ray Landry’s leadership the CFMA recently had a very successful 15th annual Le Cajun Festival and Music Awards.

• The Dewey Balfa Cajun and Creole Heritage Week will be celebrated November 2 - 8 at Chicot State Park (337-234-8360).

• Rolling Stone magazine did a comprehensive article on the Festival International entitled: “Born in the Bayou.” This national publicity brought smiles to the faces of Lisa Stafford and festival president Russ Walters.

• Sharon Arms Doucet published her newest book “Alligator Sue,” which has many French expressions; it is a useful educational book.

• None Jules Guidry, retired CODOFIL employee, now performs regularly at Vermilionville, along with his wife, Mary.

• The 21st annual Zydeco Festival was held in Plaisance on August 30th. Zydeco fanatics from all over the country attended the event.

• Ron “Louisiana Lightening” Guidry was the 16th New York Yankee, and only the second pitcher, to be memorialized in the Yankee Stadium outfield. He has been a wonderful representative of our culture.

• Pete Bergeron of KRVS (88.7 FM) introduced the musicians given Hall of Fame Signature Awards at the Rayne Frog Festival: Joseph Doucet, Marlin Alleman, Mervin Benoit, Stanley Hebert, and Elias Leger.

• French Quarter preservationists, led by New Orleans attorney, Stuart Smith, are seeking the removal of advertising banners dropped over the facade of the Cabildo Museum. Director Jim Sefcif says the state has improved the condition of the historical building and the objectors are misguided.

• The Louisiana Historical Society and Historic New Orleans collection will host on Creole Family symposium on October 11 (http://www.hnoc.org).

• Downtown Alive! returned to Lafayette on September 5th at Parc Sans Souci. Under the able leadership of Cathy Webre, the event is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

• William Johnson of The Opelousas Daily World wrote an interesting article on Zydeco (August 29th) featuring Dr. Barry Ancelet.

• Mamou, the mecca of Cajun music, hosted the annual Cajun Music Festival on September 6th.

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