CODOFIL promotes French use in media

One of CODOFIL’s missions as the official state agency charged with promoting and protecting the French heritage in Louisiana is to ensure the presence of the French language in radio and television broadcasting and the print media.

Because of CODOFIL’s efforts in promoting the use of French on the radio, it can no longer be said that to hear French broadcasts, a Louisianian has to wake up with the chickens.

Even though the weekday programs in French still air early, the hours are more reasonable, and the programs are more numerous.

For many years, KRVS - 88.7 FM has been supplying southwest Louisiana with an abundance of original programming featuring Louisiana French music, guests, and local personalities.

The station recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, but it was with the help of CODOFIL in 1982 that its broadcasting power and area of coverage were increased with an upgrade in wattage from 10,000 to 100,000.

Every weekday beginning at 5 a.m., Gervais Miller kicks off Bonjour Louisiane with music and news, followed by Pete Bergeron from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.

His popular show features a three-minute spot around 6:45 presented by CODOFIL Director Earlene Broussard, titled La Gregue est Chaud.

During this message from CODOFIL, Broussard tells a story or relates tidbits about interesting people or events in Acadiana, all in French.

On Fridays she reports the news of the week in French, and on Mondays Brian Comeaux presents

Trois Minutes dans l’Histoire des Acadiens et Acadiennes. Three of the previous week’s spots can be heard Sunday during other French language shows.

Saturdays from 6 a.m. until noon, Herbert Wiltz presents the latest in zydeco with Zydeco est Pas Sales.

On Sundays T-Boy Bourgeois and Jimmy Hernandez start Dimanche Matin at 6 a.m., with Gervais Miller taking ver from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Then it’s None Jules Guidry, who takes over the microphone with guests and Cajun music until 5 p.m. on Le Bal de Dimanche Apres-Midi.

French television programs in Louisiana began in 1979 when CODOFIL and LPB began collaborating on En Francais.

A few months ago, Charles Larroque of Lafayette began producing a five-minute segment of local news in French that is aired during En Francais every Sunday at 12:25 p.m. Acadiana Open Channel provides the technical resources for taping the program.

Concerning the print media, the CODOFIL Foundation sponsors the production of LA Gazette de Louisiane five times a year. This newsletter from CODOFIL contains articles in French and English on such subjects as French education programs in schools, community projects, various associations and individuals working to save French in Louisiana, and the agency itself. Copies of LA Gazette are sent to subscribers throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Anyone interested in obtaining a subscription or becoming a member of the CODOFIL Foundation may contact the CODOFIL office in Lafayette.