LEARNED Rousseau Van Voorhies, the eminent Cajun historian, found the red carpet rolled out for him in Moncton, New Brunswick, when he reached the Canadian city earlier this month. The Moncton Transcript hailed him as "the Acadian troubadour from New Orleans," and noted rhetorically that he arrived "with the spirit of Evangeline perched closely beside him."

He was quoted as telling the Moncton Acadians: "I want to thank you and your ancestors from your country so long ago. A sarcastic statement? No, for when the Acadians were driven from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, they fled to Louisiana. There 2000 Acadians have flourished, and their descendants number 500,000 to 700,000." Van Voorhies is a director of the Acadian Alliance, created to promote closer ties between Canadian and American Acadians.