Camellia Pageant Dances
To Express Acadian Story

The vigor, endurance, resourcefulness, joy, and humor of the Acadians from the time they settled in France until modern times in Louisiana will be expressed in dancing by students of Southeastern Louisiana Institute at the 1955 Camellia pageant.

The pageant in Lafayette officially opened the bicentennial celebration in Louisiana in honor of the Acadians who arrived here 200 years ago. One of the dances, the "Volta," now in rehearsal, is 200 years old.

This is the first time in Camellia pageant history that a dance dating back to 1805 will be presented," said Mrs. Barbara E. Compean, assistant professor of PE and dance at SLI, who is in charge of training the pageant dancers.

Nurturing in the students being trained for this part of the entertainment program is learning all the intricate steps of the dance, plus the music necessary for the various numbers on the program.

This year, the agnsts will be presented twice for the first time in pageant history. It is presented annually by SLI.

The regular evening performance will be at 5 p.m. on Monday, January 1, in Wesley Chapel. There will be a matinee performance for area school children at 2 p.m. on January 1, also in Wesley Chapel.

To portray the spirit of the Acadians during the time they left France, through the years when they lived in Nova Scotia and their final settling in Louisiana, various dances, besides the Volta, popular in French-Indian history, will be featured on the program, said Mrs. Compean.

The Volta was popular in the French Maritime province which will be the setting for the opening of the pageant, having for its theme the "Acadian Story."

"Came a Dancing," another number on the program, will interpret a happy phase of life for the Acadians when they found sanctuary in the New World.

Other dances now in rehearsal are "Speak to Me of Love" Waltz; "Lobau" waltz dance, and a country dance of a later period in the history of the Acadians in New Orleans.

There will be modern "Can Can" Dances and other dances reflecting the mazurka and the polka, said the dance director.

All students attending for three days under the guidance of Mrs. Compean were the following:

State College for Women: Marjorie Cauthen, Livingston; Judith Chaneau, Mary Alice Clark, Lloyd Dupuis, Mrs. May M. Ginger McGruder, Rose Marie Livingston and Beverly Stafford, Lafayette; Robert Adams, Alexandria; Robert Fontenot, Ville Platte; Mary Catherine Gainer, Shreveport;

State College: Marie Fox, Jennings; Nor. Rose Marie Goggin, Many; Jean Hall, Gonzales; Julia Ellen Halphman and Edna Roy, Opelousas; Elizabeth Laffler, Houston; Marjorie Liechman, Washington; Marjorie Maccormick, Metairie; Lavonne Theriot, St. Martinville; Emma Bohnsack, New Iberia and June Hollon, Hackberry.

Those who will participate in the "Can Can" numbers include: Pat Paton, Lafayette; Mari Hurley, Opelousas; Betty Harrington, Lafayette; and Marshall Armand, Lafayette; help by Opelousas and Rudy Nodiot, Lafayette.