Curtain Comes Down On Roy Theriot Annual Boucherie After 21 Years

Bringing to a dramatic close a series of annual events focused on "telling the world" what wonderful people Acadians are, begun by the late Roy Theriot, State Comptroller, 21 years ago, and concluded Monday in Baton Rouge by his son, State Rep. Sam Theriot, the 1981 Roy Theriot Dejeuner de Boucherie Acadienne was nostalgic occasion for most of the guests who had faithfully attended these Boucheries since their inception as a "brain-child" of the true 'King of the Acadians', Roy Theriot.

Sharing in this year's special Boucherie honors were Mrs. Roy Theriot, Sr., Roy's widow, to whom the program was dedicated, the 1981 'King', J. Kelly Nix, Louisiana Supt. of Education, crowned as King by Jaimie Domeneaux, Director of CODOFIL, and the Queen, Mrs. Alice Godman McCaslen of St. Martinville, was crowned by Mrs. Tootsie Guirard, of St. Martinville, 1978 Queen.

Mayor Pat Screen gave the welcome remarks, with Rep. Theriot encequising the program. CODOFIL Director Domeneaux raised the fine work of the 1981 King, J. Kelly Nix, in Louisiana Education circles, and Mrs. McCaslen's contributions to perpetuation of the French language and cultures were reviewed by Mrs. Guirard before her crowning. "King Kelly" added a note of humor to his acceptance remarks as he expressed his thanks in his version of the French "mother tongue".

Judge Allen Babineaux of Lafayette gave most impressive dedicatory remarks before making the special presentation to Mrs. Theriot, and honors were also paid to Jack Heimindinger of Port Allen, who gave such valued assistance to the Boucherie through its long and successful history. Rene Calais, director of the Bilingual Studies Center at USL, provided the introduction for the guest speaker, Dr. Armand Chartier, president of the Association of Franco-American, Honor Professor at the University of Rhode Island. Among those who have been honored as Kings and Queens of the Boucherie through the years, in recognition of the many contributions made to the presence of French in Louisiana were Mary Alice Fontenot Riehl, Lafayette, and Irene Petitjean of Rayne, Crowned with her King, Paul Hary, in 1979.

Only one element was missing Monday—the music of Happy Fats Leblanc and his group from Rayne—such familiar figures as Uncle Ambrose Thibodeaux, Preston Venable, and the other popular Acadian musicians who began the annual breakfast with Ray Theriot, and had played each succeeding year for the fais-do-do and breakfast—free of charge as their contributions to success of the Boucheries—but were unfortunately not present for the final event.

Rep. Theriot announced that in the future the Roy Theriot event will become a part of the annual Boucherie in St. Martinville, held just before Mardi Gras each year.

Proceeds from Monday's breakfast will be used to establish a Roy Theriot Enrichment Fund for the study of French.

SHARING FINAL BOUCHERIE ACADIENNE—Many from this area were in Baton Rouge Monday to attend the final Dejeuner de Boucherie, begun 21 years ago by the late Roy Theriot, State Comptroller, were left to right, Nolan Sandoz, Abbeville attorney, Mayor J.C. Vorhoff of Abbeville, Mrs. Sylvia Johnson, on the staff of J. Kelly Nix, State Dept. of Education, Mayor Ralph J. Stutes of Rayne, Vic Delcambre, New Iberia City Marshal, and Percy LeBlanc, also of New Iberia, Fair C. King and Myrta Fair Craig also enjoyed visiting with this group during the Boucherie.