EDITORIAL

AN ACADIAN CELEBRATION

Following the successful observance last year of the Louisiana Purchase in the state, plans have been advanced for another ceremony in observance of another phase of the state's history. That is the bicentennial of the coming of the Acadians to Louisiana, an event which could be commemorated next year if plans tentatively drawn up materialize.

The coming of the Acadians to Louisiana have left an indelible stamp on the state. It has been responsible for a large part of Louisiana's French heritage—some of it came direct from France—but it has been responsible for a great deal of the distinctive Louisiana culture.

Among Acadian-inspired culture would be the handcrafts that Louisianans State University is attempting to perpetuate: the culinary arts, the inspiration of some of the, etc. Unquestionably, the Acadian element in Louisiana is the most distinctive one for which Louisiana is best known.

In its early planning, much of the activity for the observance is centered around Lafayette, which is at the heart of the Acadian belt; but the plan is for the entire state to take part in the proposed event. While the Acadians settled in South Louisiana and that section is their territory, still what is traditional for any part of Louisiana affects all other parts; and as the celebration is planned as a state-wide affair, North Louisiana will also be included.

Something so colorful as the Acadian people and their customs and traditions bring attention and publicity to Louisiana. In commemorating the arrival of these people in the state, their culture is being given a boost, an historical event is being observed, and the state is receiving a wealth of publicity for itself.