POTPOURRI OF CAJUN DEVELOPMENT

Ethnic Diversity in Louisiana Explored in USL Book

Louisiana has been able to retain much of its ethnic diversity over the years rather than become a melting pot like much of America. A newly published book by the Center for Louisiana Studies at USL, "Louisiana Tapestry: The Acadian Weave of St. Landry Parish," explores this phenomenon in a volume of 15 essays.

"This is a book about ourselves...the people of this area," says Dr. Jean T. Kreymer, co-editor of the book and director of the USL Media Center and Film Library. "It's a potpourri of interesting and little known facts about the area and how it developed." Co-editor Dr. Vaughan Baker, professor of history at USL and director of the Louisiana Women's Collection at the USL Duvure Library, adds, "although the book results from studies done in St. Landry Parish, it is representative of much of the state."

People of Louisiana, "author of "Rajnaar Schulte in Perspective" (published by the University Press of America), adds, "The ethnic mix of the Parish is such that most groups are recognized in one way or another." "Louisiana Tapestry," a project of a teacher-training program which gives USL faculty members a chance to study the Parish and educate their students, adds that although the book results from studies done in St. Landry Parish, it is representative of much of the state.

The book's contents are divided into four major sections. The first, "Acadiana," includes essays on Cajun culture, history, and folklore. The second section, "Creole," focuses on the Creole way of life. The third section, "Spanish," explores the influence of Spanish culture on Louisiana. The fourth section, "German," looks at the contributions of German immigrants to the state.

The book is available at bookstores throughout Louisiana and is priced at $12.95. The Louisiana State University Press, P.O. Box 1139, Baton Rouge, La. 70820, stocks the book.