GLOBAL GOODWILL

Foreign Newsmen Charmed
By The Magic Of Acadiana

The journalists from 14 Asian and Pacific countries succumbed to the magic of our beloved Acadian country in less than 24 hours. They were welcomed in cosmopolitan giants like Los Angeles and San Francisco. They were given the standard tourist treatment in Honolulu, but only in the land of Evangeline did they discover the real meaning of "Bienvenu."

The newsmen were accompanied by sophisticated representatives of the State Department, Defense Department and the U.S. Information Agency, all of whom had been wined and dined on similar tours in the major capitals of the world and largest cities of America. They, too, were captivated by the joie de vivre and camaraderie they felt in Lafayette.

The visit of the newspaper, radio and tv personnel to our city was sponsored by The Advertiser. Their one regret was that bad weather shortened their stay by one day. In the brief time they were here, they were exposed to a cross section of our community: businessmen, educators, news personnel, local officials, students, professional people, agriculturists, and many others.

"We sense here, in your lovely city," said a spokesman for the group, "A feeling that you genuinely like us, want to know us better, and want us to enjoy every minute of our stay here. Why, we can not explain, but it's a remarkable thing we have not experienced elsewhere."

We know. It's because Lafayette is typical of the open-hearted hospitality that is part of our heritage. Our people don't have to "work at" entertaining strangers. Friendliness is part of our nature. We know no strangers after the first "hello" is exchanged. It is good that these members of the communications media, who exercise much influence on public opinion, will return to their homelands with a warm regard for us. It will ease in the minds of some of their countrymen the hostility that may have been there about our wonderful land.

In today's big scheme of things, Lafayette and Acadiana can be justly proud of the part we all played in telling the people of other countries about the life, culture and traditions of the United States. We want them to know that the basic hopes of the American people, the desire for freedom, peace and progress, are the same as those of people everywhere.

If such rapport as was established here in so short a while could be duplicated among nations, tensions would begin to ease immediately and there would be true peace in our time.