HELPING OTHERS — Kevin Corkern, above, was instrumental in erecting the cross which stands atop the chapel at the Acadian Village at the Alleman Center. He was assisted in restoration of the pine and copper cross by Jean Poupart, contractor, and Paul Perrier, coppersmith. He also helped with the construction of the pier in the village.

Acadian Heritage Foundation

Benefits LARC Village

What do Kevin Corkern, Jean Poupard and Paul Perrier have in common? A desire to help others.

Their efforts have brought together ideas and interests of two worlds for the benefit of the Acadian Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the Acadian Village at the Alleman Center for Retarded Citizens.

The blending of ideas began last spring when Kevin visited the center for the first time, little realizing he would soon be closely associated with the village. An architectural student at USL, he was asked to build a model of the pier to be constructed on the bayou side of the village store. From this model, the pier was constructed by the Telephone Pioneers.

As construction progressed, Kevin found himself supervising construction of the snack bar, laying bricks and helping out wherever needed.

"I became a glorified 'gofer,'" he recalls.

Kevin also became involved in the erection of the cross on the village chapel.

"The original plans called for a cross, but it took time to locate a suitable one," he explained.

A pine cross with copper sheathing was eventually located but it needed considerable repair. This is where Mesara, Poupard and Perrier came in. They volunteered their services to restore the cross to its original condition.

Mr. Poupard, a contractor, repaired the cross and Mr. Perrier, a coppersmith, restored the sheathing. The velvety blue-green covering caused by oxidation was undisturbed, however.

The pier has been completed, the cross erected and the snack bar is nearing completion. But Kevin plans to continue his work with the village and foundation. For as he said, "There is nothing wrong with doing something you like and helping others at the same time."