FRENCH VISITOR — Yves Berger, left, a French professor, journalist, critic and essayist is visiting in the Acadiana area for several days to gather material for four articles to be written about Louisiana and the French language renaissance. James Domengeaux, right, State Chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, is conducting Berger’s tour of the area. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

French Author Touring Acadiana

A noted French writer, professor, critic and essayist is touring the Acadiana area to gather material for four articles to be written about Louisiana and the French language renaissance in the state.

Yves Berger, who is on assignment for Le Monde, a leading French newspaper in Paris, arrived in the area last week and will spend several more days interviewing local and area citizens with James Domengeaux, state chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, as his guide.

Berger was born in Avignon in 1931 during the German occupation of Southern France. He studied at the University of Montpellier and the University of Paris where he obtained his degree in the English Arts. He was professor at Pasteur High School in Neuilly on the Seine and at Lakanal High School in Paris.

In 1966 he has been literary critic of “Le Monde” and “Figaro,” and is editor - in - chief of Bernard Grasset Editions in Paris. He is a member of the Haut Comite Pour la Defense et l'Expansion de la Langue Francaise and is a member of the L'Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique.

In 1960 Berger published a study on Boris Pasternack and in 1962 he produced a novel entitled “Le Sud” (“The South”) which won the literary award, Femina. This novel was an American civilization prior to published in the United States the War between the states.

In an interview at the Advertiser, Berger mentioned how impressed he was with the people in that so many of them spoke French. He noticed that the people in their 30's and older spoke a quality of French which impressed me very much. He also noticed that the teenagers do not speak their ancestral language and stated that “the French must do something now because in 10 years it will be too late.”

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Literary Critic

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by George Braziller Publishers and was entitled “The Garden.” In 1965, he wrote an essay, “What is Literature?” and in 1968 wrote two novels, “The Discovery of America” and “O Cherokee.”

His novels, “The South,” “The Discovery of America,” and “O Cherokee” deal with the American civilization prior to published in the United States the War between the states.