French Surprised at Louisiana Culture

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — A group of 128 French-speaking journalists toured south Louisiana Monday and expressed surprise at the extent of the state's French culture.

The journalists, representing newspapers and magazines with a combined circulation of 14 million in 11 French-speaking countries, are attending an eight-day conference in south Louisiana with the Acadia and the Association of the French.

The story, popularized by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Evangeline," centers on this area.

Maurice Perrier, head of the journalists and a Frenchman who said he was surprised at the extent of French still spoken here. He said he was surprised at the extent of French still spoken here.