Vermilion Parish students. Greiner feels that when he and

AT ABBEVILLE JUNIOR HIGH - Michel-Andre Gre-

his wife return to France they will be better French teachers

for having taught non-French speaking students. (Advertiser

STAFF PHOTOS)

Students refer to

Adjutment Easier Than Expected

French Teachers Fare Well

During Year In Louisiana

By BARBARA VORENKAMP

Advertiser Staff Reporter

Louisiana's 30 teachers

from France arrived in Louisi-

ana to teach French in elemen-

tary and high schools for two

years.

With less than six weeks re-

maining in their first year,

the young professors fared in

the distant, but not the differ-

ent land.

Very well. And happily,

corresponding to several of the

visitors and their supervisors.

The transition and adjustment

to the American way of life,

had to be made, but even in

northern Union Parish a young husband

and wife team found the adjust-

ment easier than expected.

Limited English

Gilles and Marie - Claude Deletang, speaking only limited

English, arrived in virtually all

is NOT a dialectal corruption utters are teaching

in, the teachers vary their ap-

happiness.

The Deletangs are from an

equally small town named Cha-

ton, in Acadia, Evangeline, Lafo- 

ach, and Southern Universities.

CODEPIL Program

The teachers, exchanges, with

Louisiana teachers now in

France teaching English, were

arranged by the Council for the

Development of French in Loui-

sianna (CODEPIL), the French

government, the State Depart-

ment of Education and the pari-

ted schools.

The teachers vary their ap-

proaches but generally steer

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Only a few transitional phrases, we have no difficulty talking
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Michel - Andre and Danielle

Monique Greiner just

arrived in Louisiana style, had to be

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ach, and Southern Universities.
IN ST. MARTIN PARISH - Messrs. Jose-Antoine Francos and Hugues R. G. Cuny discuss class plans for the next day. The young men, who speak very little English, have easily adjusted to their new community, made friends and express delight with their eager students. A particular joy is the large kitchen and many conveniences in their American home. (Advertiser Staff Photo)
UN, DEUX CRAYON — Gilles Deletang points to the pencils, identifies them in French and his student repeats the French words. The visiting teacher says “the children have been most receptive from the first day. This is an experience for them and they are most eager to learn a new tongue.” (Photo by Lloyd Stilley, courtesy the Shreveport Times.)

GILLES AND MARIE-CLAUDE DELETANG — The Deletangs, one of 10 man-and-wife teaching teams participating in the teacher exchange program, teach 84 French classes in north Louisiana Union Parish. The couple, speaking limited English, arrived in their new community minus their luggage, only to find their non-French speaking hosts and neighbors ready and willing to lend most anything. (Photo by Lloyd Stilley, courtesy the Shreveport Times.)
French Teachers Fare Well During Year In Louisiana

(Continued From Page 14)

writes about Mr. and Mrs. Philippe Martial.

"Mr. Charbonnier has established a magnificent rapport with colleagues, pupils and their parents and me. He has been most helpful in all the activities of Edison School and on any day he has to be absent, the children corner me asking, 'Where have you sent Mr. Charbonnier?" B. E. Brown, principal of Thomas Alva Edison Elementary School in New Orleans about Jean Charbonnier.

A fourth report perhaps pinpoints the reason for classroom success.

Reflects Enthusiasm

"Because of Mrs. Desrumaux, French as a second language has become 'alive' this session. The television programs and efforts of the regular classroom teachers heretofore were ineffective as compared to the interest and participation now exhibited by pupils under her direction. In her classes she provides opportunity for participation of every pupil and everyone attentively reflects her enthusiasm in the participation. Usually there is total involvement," Maude D. Crocker, principal of J. A. Craig School in New Orleans about Mrs. Françoise A. Desrumaux.

The teachers themselves feel that they are making a worthwhile contribution not only in teaching the language but in the exchange of cultural ideas.

The French young people, assigned as a husband and wife team or two unmarried men teachers, are, as lagniappes (learning the local American school system which they find markedly different from their own).

Systems Compared

Administration, accreditation and hiring and assigning of teachers and the grading system are all different. Much of our system they judge more effective, but they also prefer parts of their own.

And what they hope to do is combine the best of both to be better teachers when they return to France.

The Greiners, the Deletangs and Messrs. Cuny and Francos are all recommending that other French teachers participate in the exchange program and additional parish school board are requesting teachers for their systems.

The only obvious disappointment is a local one.

It is the failure of Lafayette Parish, the heart of Acadia, to participate in the program.

"The French language is not sufficiently well or prominently taught in our schools. We rejoice that we can say that it is taught at all, considering the difficulties which attend the effort to have it taught, but it is too important and useful to be taught inefficiently or slightly."

"Especially in Louisiana, whose origin was French, should its children be all taught both French and English so that they can really use the one or the other, as their needs may require. That we, in our boyhood, were not taught French should not lead us to neglect its acquisition by our children."

This editorial excerpt from the Jan. 1, 1968 Daily Picayune aptly and directly details CODofiL Chairman James Domengeaux's present concern.

For those schools which have this first year, welcomed the pioneer French teachers, such concern has paid dividends.