Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana Vol. 4, No. 1 Spring 1995

Jaycees pledge funds for Memorial flame

by Christine Touchet

The Acadian Memorial's eternal flame moved one step closer to becoming a reality in April.

Martha Hegert, program chairman for the St. Martinville Jaycees, presented a $2,500 check to Teddy Eastin and Ben Breaux, members of the Eternal Flame committee, and Mayor Eric Martin at a city council meeting back in April.

Hegert said the remaining $2,500 will be collected from other Jaycees clubs around the state who want to help sponsor the flame.

She said the St. Martinville Jaycees will ask other clubs to pledge money so that the eternal flame could be sponsored by Jaycees.

"This (the flame) will memorialize the efforts of those who didn't make it," said Mayor Martin, referring to Acadians who lost their lives traveling by ship from Nova Scotia. "Those Acadians will be remembered through this eternal flame."

"It's nice to see the people giving back to the community," the Mayor added.

The project also includes a mural which depicts the heritage of the Acadians and is expected to generate an increase in tourism throughout the parish.

According to Mayor Martin, the Acadian Memorial could become another "Evangeline Oak" for St. Martinville.

The Acadian Memorial is a commemorative project honoring Acadians who were exiled from Nova Scotia in 1755 and found refuge in Louisiana.

Ben Breaux and Teddy Eastin (left) members of the Acadian Memorial Project's eternal flame committee, go over plans for this component of the Memorial with Martha Hegert of the St. Martinville Jaycees and Mayor Eric Martin. The Jaycees presented a $2,500 check representing half the cost of this phase and have pledged to raise the balance through donations from other Jaycee chapters throughout the state. The flame will be located at the rear of the Memorial building on the bank of Bayou Teche and will feature an oval slab of 4' thick polished granite on a low pedestal. The granite will be etched with a map of the Atlantic rim depicting the flight of the Acadians from Nova Scotia and their various destinations. (Teche News photo)
Mural figure sponsored as memorial

The Acadian Memorial mural committee has received a contribution to sponsor another figure and others are still available according to chairperson Carole Lamon. The family of Ursule Blanchard Feltsman had sought a lasting memorial for her since her death in 1979 and sponsoring the figure of Anselme Blanchard was the answer to their search. Mrs. Feltsman, whose parents died when she was twelve years old, was raised by a brother but always thought of herself as an orphan.

A granddaughter's idea of researching and compiling a family tree for her led to the discovery of Mrs. Feltsman's Indian descent from Anselme Blanchard, an Acadian refugee who arrived in Louisiana in 1767. Through the years Blanchard became a respected citizen and in 1785, when other exiles arrived, he was engaged to represent the Spanish government in settling them. He also served as a captain under General Gálvez in the American Revolutionary War.

Mrs. Feltsman's great pride in being recognized as a descendant of Anselme Blanchard at the 1979 dedication of a plaque in the state capitol made sponsorship of the mural figure an obvious and appropriate choice.

Purchase an item below and help build the Mural!!

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<th>Item</th>
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Enclosed is my check/M.O. for $__________

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List name for memorial below or name and address for gift.

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<tr>
<th>Tax Deductible Donation</th>
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Calling All Cajuns Calendar

Saturday, May 20, 1995
SWLA Genealogical Society, Lake Charles, LA
Acadian Memorial Project presentation

Thursday, May 25, 1995
Acadian Memorial meeting, 6:30 PM
La Place d'Evrenges, St. Martinville, LA
Building will be open before the dinner meeting.
Contact: Peggy at 318/394-4010.

Wednesday, June 7, 1995
Initial meeting of "Action Cadienne"
To promote French immersion programs
4 pm, CODOFIL office, Lafayette, LA
Contact: Dale Guillory, 318/689-8216

Saturday, June 10, 1995
Fr. Donald Robert Genealogy Workshop
Church of the Assumption, Mire, LA
Contact: Fr. Hebert, 318/372-6974

Tuesday, August 15, 1995
Feast of the Assumption of The Blessed Mother -
Patroness of the Acadians
Evening Memorial Mass at St. Martin de Tours in
St. Martinville, the "Mother Church of the Acadians",
honoring Acadian refugees depicted on the mural.
Regular quarterly meeting after Mass - TBA.
Patrons Party tickets go on sale.
Contact: Hilda, 318/394-2230.

Saturday, October 28, 1995
Patrons Party - Unveiling and premiere showing
of the Acadian Memorial mural - TBA

Produced by:
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Published by:
The Teche News
St. Martinville, LA

A crew works below the rear of the old St. Martinville city hall to shore up the nearly 100
year-old building that is being renovated to
serve as the Acadian Memorial. Work was begun
with a "bricks and mortar" award of $15,000
from the Governor's Office of Rural Development
sponsored by State Representative Sydney Mae
Durand. This was followed by capital outlay of
$79,000 for the project by the City of St.
Martinville. (Teche News Photo)

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