Les Cajuns de la Louisiana Tour Visits Historic Places, Church Point, In Canada

Some 375 years ago, a French explorer, Champlain, set foot on a new land and called it Port Royal, Nova Scotia. On August 15, 1980, the 375th anniversary of the founding of the French Settlement at Nova Scotia was celebrated. There to witness the celebration and see the re-enactment of the arrival of Champlain, was a group of Acadian descendants, Les Cajuns de la Louisiana, from Church Point, Morgan City, Port Arthur, Texas, Amelia, Bayou Vista, Lafayette, Crowley, and Rayne. The group of 49 was organized by Charles Richard of Morgan City, a Church Point native.

Highlights of the ten-day trip to Nova Scotia was the celebration at Port Royal. There were from 6,000 to 7,000 persons from the United States, Canada, France and other parts of the world attending the day-long celebration which began with an outdoor Mass of the Assumption.

Bishop Burke celebrated the Mass. At the Offertory during the Mass three young girls, dressed in Acadian attire, from Les Cajuns de la Louisiana group, Monette Hollier of Church Point, Bridget Richard of Morgan City and Angelle Olivier of Lafayette, brought up the Holy OIL which was brought by the group from Louisiana. Several persons with a group from France brought up the wine which was brought over from France, and a group of Indians offered up offerings.

The main speaker during the day was Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada.

Holding special interest was the re-enactment of the scene of 375 years ago, the arrival of Champlain in an original replica of Champlain's boat, with "Champlain" and his aids in original dress. There he was met by Mic Mac Indians in original dress. The group also enjoyed a program of Acadian talents.

The party left August 9 from Houston by jet, landed in Toronto, Canada, and from there flew to Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, located on the coast. They were taken by coach to Dreden Arms Motel. Magr. Nell Therauld, a promotor of tours, who had visited here at the beginning of the year with a group from Nova Scotia, met the Louisiana tour and remained with them for all of their stay in Nova Scotia. The group that was here from Nova Scotia came to extend an invitation to attend the 375th Anniversary celebration.

Ed Marcron of Halifax was the bus driver who remained with the group throughout their stay and became "one of the group".

In Grand Pre where there is a monument set up on a site from which the Acadians were exiled, stands a statue of Evangeline, an old church and a museum, where all the people are attired in Acadian Dress.

Fishing villages along the coast were visited. A bus trip on the Cabot Trail along the seashore was very beautiful. The group saw mountains, flat lands, beautiful scenery, blooming flowers and many lovely homes. They also visited an old Fort in Louisbourg.

The group stayed in Church Point, Nova Scotia where they were lodged in Acadian Homes, remaining for three nights. Entertainment was planned for them while they were in Church Point. Receipts and parties were held. They visited the old wooden Catholic Church which resembles the old OLCH Church with its tall white steeple. The Tidborne Daigles stayed in an Estelle Doucet and Mrs. Daigle feels that she has found one of her relatives, because she was a Doucet. Mr. and Mrs.

The bus band joined the Herb LeBlanc Band from Nova Scotia and the two bands made beautiful music together.

The day before their departure a special Mass at the St. Mary's Church in Church Point was celebrated for the party.

Les Cajuns de la Louisiana returned home on Monday, August 18, with many memories of a beautiful people and a beautiful land. Many of the group brought back a picture story of their trip which they would be happy to share with their many friends.

Making the trip were Charles Richard, Mercedes Richard, Bridget Richard, Jessie Fontenot, Reilla Fontenot, Maridel LaBauve, Robert LaBauve, Lee LeBlanc, Margie LeBlanc, Mary LaBauve all of Morgan City; Wallace Richard, Margaret Richard, Tighman Daigle, Gericke Daigle, Gene Hollier, Monette Hollier, Betty Hollier, Lillie Wintherly, Lamah Barousse, Evangeline Richard, Elvine Lejeune, Agnes Brassaeux, Loula Mae Olivier, Leela Smith, Hazel Hollier, J.B. David, Earline David, Carl.

ON LES CAJUN DE LA LOUISIANA TOUR—Among some of the Cajun Queens and young ladies enjoying the trip to Nova Scotia were (left to right) Evangeline Richard, Church Point; Angelle Olivier, Lafayette; Agnes Brassaeux, Church Point; Mrs. Alva Lejeune, Church Point and Monette Hollier, Church Point. The young girls were attired in these Acadian costumes when they were honored at being chosen to bring up the host during the Mass of the Assumption which was held at Port Royal to celebrate the 375th Anniversary of the founding of Port Royal. The host which they offered was brought from Louisiana.

ON NOVA SCOTIA TRIP—Some of those attending the trip to Nova Scotia are shown here near the bus which took them throughout Nova Scotia on their ten-day stay. Some 49 persons made the trip. Shown here are (left to right) Gene Holder, Church Point, Magr. Neil Theriault, Nova Scotia; Gericke Daigle, Ed Richardson, the bus driver, Robert LeBauve, Morgan City; Mrs. Ed Dupont, Bayou Vista; Theresa Hains, Crowley, Gloria Cart, Crowley, Ed Dupont, Bayou Vista, Margie LeBlanc, Lee Lejeune, Morgan City; Mrs. Charles LeBlanc, Church Point, Russell Paul Olivier, Lafayette.