NEW IBERIA — Gov. Edwin Edwards will speak at presentation ceremonies Sunday, Jan. 20, at 5 p.m. at Civic Plaza for the dedication of bilingual historical markers to be erected there.

The announcement was made by Mrs. Vernon Voorhies, Iberia Parish CODOFIL chapter president, and state Sen. Paul Hardy and Rep. Elias Ackal.

The markers tell a story in both French and English of historical sites or landmarks in New Iberia. Research for each marker was done under the direction of Glenn Conrad, director of the Center for Louisiana Studies of USL. The local markers are the first phase of a larger program designed to erect similar signposts throughout Acadiana and eventually throughout the state. The project, unique in the United States, is designed to emphasize, particularly during the national bicentennial celebration, local history and pride in the French heritage.

The New Iberia project is planned as a walking tour of the downtown area, leading tourists from one marker to another from “The Shadows” to the Church of the Epiphany and back again. The markers will unfold episodes in New Iberia’s history from the town’s founding in 1779 to the recent past.

The bilingual marker program is sponsored by the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, The Attakapas Historical Association and the Center for Louisiana Studies.

The local markers, designed by John Albert Landry and translated by Jacqueline Voorhies, were donated to the people of New Iberia by the French Optimist Club, the New Iberia Franchised Automobile Dealer’s Association, the Cajun Kiwanis Club, Iberia Parish CODOFIL Chapter, the Altrusian Club and the First Federal Savings and Loan Association.