Back in 1920's when Oscar L. Borne—"Paco" as he is better known to everyone, opened his Confectionery in a small building next to Brothers Drug Store, operated at that time by O. Broussard, Sr., Rayne Acadian Tribune and Paco's neighbor in this building, and a friendship developed, dating back to the boyhood of Hugh Craig and Paco, which continued through the years--some 55 or more of them—for the Craig and Borne families.

This deep friendship, based on a "family" type of affection which existed between the "newspaper Criags" and the Paco Borses and their business interest--Paco's Cafe--has been one of the most treasured experiences anyone could be privileged to share along the path of life.

And this is why--when Paco reached the most unusual milestone of his business in the same location, Acadian Tribune appropriately decided to plan a tribute to him to mark this half-century of service.

The aid of his family and many friends was enlisted as plans were begun, and everyone joined in the spirit of the event--anxious to have this opportunity to say--"Thank you, Paco and his sweet wife, Bertha, for the unusual and outstanding record of community service they have accomplished.

The observance was planned as a surprise for Paco, and everyone gave wonderful cooperation—Paco did not have even the faintest idea of what awaited him when he arrived at the Cafe about 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning.

But his friends remembered! And they turned out in record numbers to say "Congratulations, Paco." In his absence--called home on a pretext by his son, Oscar L. Borne, Jr., the cafe was filled with flowers, gifts, a huge cake commemorating the event, and most of all--friends! The program was impromptu, begun by a beautiful prayer by his pastor, Father Benoit Drapeau, C.J.M., who was accompanied by Father Paul Belliveau, C.J.M., and Dave Holler, Seminarian, to share in honoring, Paco.

Senator Cecil J. Picard was a special visitor for the morning, and presented Paco first with a handsome certificate from the State of Louisiana, appointing Paco as a Colonel on the Governor Dave Treeen, and an aide-de-Camp of the Governor's staff.

Senator Picard's second presentation came from the Louisiana State Senate, making Paco an Honorary State Senator, "to be accorded all the privileges entitled by virtue of this appointment." This appointment was signed by Senator Picard and Michael H. O'Keefe, president of the Senate.

Still another honor came from Congressman John Breaux, readily Senator Picard, which was addressed to Paco as "The Biscuit King" which was stated in part: "You are too well known and loved is a reflection of the success of your hard work and excellent food, especially those delicious biscuits...One of my fondest memories is going to your place at 5 a.m. with Grandpa Breaux many years ago."

And while being made a Colonel on the Governor's Staff is a very special honor, through the interest and friendship of State Rep. John N. John, II, a second Appointment as Colonel on the staff of Governor Treeen was also presented to Paco through the interest of Rep. John, which makes Paco a "double Colonel!"--so better respect him in the future!

Carrying the recognition for Paco further, H.J. "Bud" Gautreaux, president of the Rayne Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, spoke briefly, expressing the community's gratitude to Paco for his more than 50 years as one of Rayne's finest citizens, then made him an Honorary Lifetime Frog Catcher--with appropriate certificate to add to his other honors.

Other gifts were also received from many friends, and to complete the program, strictly unplanned, but one of the highlights of the morning. Hubert Savoie revealed his talents by playing a sprightly harmonica version of "Colinda", dedicating the song to Paco.

A guest register, presented by Ruth and Alfen McBride, was presented by Mrs. Aaron Perrodin, Paco's daughter, and Patsy Borne, his daughter-in-law, with Frances Bihan, one of the principal group of friends planning the surprise, serving the large--50th Anniversary cake. Paco was presented a gold rose buttonhole with '50' emblem in gold, and Mrs. Borne and others of the family received gold roses in congratulation.

Among the many other good wishes received by Paco from many other friends, one was a call from Baton Rouge from former Governor Edwin Edwards, whose message included "As one who was a frequent visitor of your restaurant in my early political life, I hasten to extend my best wishes to you. I hope that the surprise celebration will be a small reminder to you of the high regard and esteem which so many people in the Rayne area have for you, and I want you to know that I appreciate your long friendship and steadfast support. Edwin Edwards."

Throughout the day Thursday, and continuing all day Friday streams of friends stopped by to say "Hi" and "Congratulations" to Paco, the phone calls and other messages continued to pour in--and Paco declared it all "the happiest day of my life."

All the staff of Acadian Tribune, the hosts of well-wishers expressing great admiration and sincere friendship to Paco, Bertha and all their family and we'd like to extend our personal appreciation to everyone who attended and helping in any way to make July 31, 1980, a date Paco will remember always.

FAMILY JOINS 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION HONORING "PACO"—Members of his family, all sharing in plans to "surprise" Oscar L. Borne, "Paco", on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of his business operation at the same location, are pictured with him, as hundreds of friends stopped by to let "Paco" know how greatly he is appreciated in the community. Shown are, front row, left to right, Mrs. Aaron (Gloria) Perrodin, his daughter, Trina Perrodin, granddaughter, Mrs. Oscar (Bertha) Borne, "Paco", the day's honoree, Mrs. Oscar L. Borne, Jr. (Valerie) and the Bornes' son, C.J. Borne; back row, Aaron Perrodin, Stephanie Fournier, a granddaughter, with Patsy and George (Puggy) Borne, another of Paco's sons, of Grammercy. Unable to attend were his two sons and their families, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carol Borne of Angeles, Texas and Dr. and Mrs. Tommy Borne of Westfield, N.J.