Calling All Cajuns!

A Good Time - For a Good Cause
Palm Sunday Crawfish Boil at the Acadian Memorial

Cajuns everywhere answered the call to come to St. Martinville to "pass a good time" for a good cause - a benefit for the Acadian Memorial Project.

The sounds of music and laughter filled New Market Street in downtown St. Martinville as the bands, Tasso and The Romero Brothers, entertained the crowd with toe-tapping traditional Cajun music. It was a family affair with good friends and adventuresome visitors joining in the fun. Generous servings of boiled crawfish filled the tables as everyone savored each bite and enjoyed this wonderful social occasion.

The performance of the Cajun Dance Company, "Les Danseurs Cadiens," under the direction of Miriam Fontenot was enthusiastically received and enjoyed by all.

Of great interest were the exhibits of early Acadian life in Louisiana which also included elements of the Memorial Project. On display were lists of names on which further research will be based to produce the Wall of Names. Many people contributed $50 for a mural square and dreamed of winning the trip to Paris which will be given away at Festival International on April 25, 1993.

Enjoying the festivities were St. Martinville Mayor, Eric Martin, State Representative Sydnie Mae Durand and friends of the Memorial from surrounding communities. Mayor Eric Martin was thrilled with the turnout and commented, "This type of event allows us to host visitors from all over the world and everyone who has dedicated their time and energy to making this benefit such a success should be congratulated."

Hayes Supports Acadian Memorial

Washington, D.C., April 6 - Today, Congressman Jimmy Hayes announced his support for the St. Martinville Tourism Commission's memorial to commemorate the Acadian refugee settlement in south Louisiana.

"It is very important for us, and for our children, to understand and honor our rich heritage," Hayes said. "Creating a monument to the struggles and triumphs of our ancestors does more than offer another tourist site, it will be a permanent reminder to us a community of our unique historical legacy and will help us to preserve our culture."
The Acadian Memorial Project will have an exhibit at Festival International on April 24 and 25. "We'll be in the big tent on Main St. Many of our members will be present to greet festivalgoers," says Dr. Aline Garrett. This will be the last opportunity to register to win the Paris trip, the drawing will take place on Sunday, April 25 at the Festival. A lucky person will win the Paris trip valued at $2500, which includes airfare and accommodations. Dinin's Travel of Lafayette is in charge of arrangements. The trip can take place between July 1, 1993 and June 30, 1994.

To qualify for the drawing, you must purchase a $50.00 mural square. There are 1440 six inch by six inch squares in all. This program will raise the $72,000 to fund the creation of the mural and to begin the renovation of the building. Please take time to fill out the form! Thank you for supporting the Acadian Memorial Project.

Jamie Ballard, Acadian Memorial Committee Chairman and Trent Angers, Fundraising Chairman invites you to visit us at Festival International, April 24-25.

Approximately 400 people who have enjoyed visual aids and historical lectures about the Acadians. The computer rooms will contain four or more computers for research. The software for the Acadian Memorial's multi-media archive will allow many aspects of early Acadian life in Louisiana to be investigated on user-friendly software. The information incorporated into the archive will be compiled and written by a team of academics recognized as the leading authorities in America on Acadian/Cajun studies. Subject areas will include history, genealogy, sociology, anthropology, religion, folklore, folk-life, music, cuisine, architecture, settlement patterns, politics, literature, stereotypes and economies. Separated from the existing on page 4

The Wall Of Names
... arrete lot ami, lis mon nom et souviens toi

"Paise friend, read my name and remember me." Thus will read the inscription on the top of the Wall of Names to be displayed in the Acadian Memorial Building. Reunion and remembrance is the theme of this important element of the project. "The Acadians ended their exile, rebuilt their culture and were reunited with their families in Louisiana," said Don Thibodeaux, co-chairman of the Wall of Names Committee. "Each name will represent a living, breathing person who rode the bayous and walked the land of Louisiana many years ago. Rebuilding those families by name on the Wall of Names will finally accomplish their great reunion. Some of the names that will appear are listed in this newsletter.
“RESEARCH CENTER” - from page 2 building will be a small open courtyard, and a second floor observation deck which will parallel the Bayou Teche.

The first phase is expected to be ready for bids and construction by mid year 1994. The estimated cost of the projected renovations is $350,000.

The preliminary floor plans and a color exterior sketch are displayed at St. Martinville City Hall.

Letters

Dear Friends,

Thanks for sending a newsletter to me. I am very proud to be a Cajun, and I respect the people like you, who enforce this feeling. I'm glad to see that someone is finally officially honoring our ancestors. This seems to be a great project.

As a child I was made to feel inferior, and embarrassed about what I am through the years, none have depicted us as less than human, (or lack woods) thanks to your efforts, and others like you, we can now be proud. We are now looked at as a society that had, and still has the true American spirit of freedom.

I'm sorry I can't be of any physical help at this time. In the future - Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Serrette
Morgan City, La.

Calling All Cajuns Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1993 - 6:30 P.M. - VILLE PLATTE
Come hear about Pierre Pitre, one of the mural figures, who lived in the "Opelousas Country". Call 318-394-2232 or 318-363-7180 for more information.

MAY 21-23, 1993 - DES RICHARD DE PARTOUT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1993 - 6:30 P.M.
ACADIAN MEMORIAL QUARTERLY MEETING
Belzatches in Crowley. Bring a friend and come hear about the Acadians who became the 'First Texas Cajuns.' Call host James Domingue of Belzatches (318-788-2301). Remember - you can still sponsor a Mural Square.

The Acadian Memorial Project
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