Poydras Brides
Awaiting Dowries

BATON ROUGE (AP) — Nineteen brides in West Baton Rouge Parish are waiting today for checks which will give them dowries bequeathed by a rich plantation owner 130 years ago.

They are the "Poydras Brides" of 1955, who benefit under the strange will of Julian Poydras.

He was a man of great wealth and political power in Louisiana a century and a half ago.

Legend has it he was a man disappointed in love.

The dowry checks range from $70.01 to $200.01.

In 1824 Poydras left a will setting up a $30,000 trust fund—now more than double that amount—to give dowries every year to brides in his beloved West Baton Rouge Parish.

To be eligible, parish brides must have been married within the previous 12 months and meet the test of a complicated financial formula. The formula, in effect, decided eligibility according to the assessed property value of the woman's parents.

The parish police jury approved the 19 names Wednesday. Checks will be mailed in a few days.

This year's recipients: Mary Ruby Lemoine Gremilion, wife of Lester J. Gremilion; Peggy Hebert Bernard, wife of Leonard E. Bernard; Rita Mae LaBauve, wife of Howard Joseph LaBauve Jr.; Susie Shelton Cazes, wife of Clarence Cazes Jr.; Miriam Hebert, wife of George Maurice Hebert; Norma Jackson, wife of Arthur C. Jackson; Clara Blanchard, wife of Howard Blanchard; Evelyn Rosalie Aucoin, wife of Erby M. Aucoin Jr.; Estelle Tortorich, wife of Joseph Tortorich; Gertrude Childress, wife of J. J. Childress.