Reclaiming Heritage Is Aim

La-Canada
Project in Full Swing

By EDGAR POET

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Here in the rugged northern reaches of Quebec province, a band of Louisiana students is working to reclaim their heritage. It is a cultural drive that may make French a proud second language for their native state.

The drive also is an experiment in ethnic pride that federal experts are watching with keen interest. Hopefully it will yield new clues to the importance of the past as an aid to future progress of American minority groups.

Here at Jolliet College, 145 miles north of Quebec City, the work involves 80 students, French-speaking descendants of 18,000 Acadians exiled from English Canada in 1755. They are learning the history and tradition their forebears brought from Canada to France.

The group came here because, since the United States-Civil War, the cultural identity of 4,000 called Acadians who settled in southern Louisiana has nearly been obliterated. The French language became the patois of Louisiana's poor in the eyes of the majority.

But things are changing through such programs as the Jolliet Acadian literature fund, the Jolliet Acadian education department that undertake French courses for 25 pre-university and university students and the Jolliet Acadian parishes in the state.

The hope is that in their effort to make education bilingual, beginning in kindergarten and grades one and two.

In the long term, Demenge says, the aim is bilingualism throughout the Acadian country and, perhaps across the front of the state into the northern areas, where the tradition is more Anglophone, again building on the idea that "A French makes such a winner in the political arena that it is comfort able and at home.""

- Principal Aim

Whether tourism increases or not, on account of the new use of French in the state, it is expected to be seen. But, for Dominique Danouche and his group, the aim is to maintain an unexpected bonus. The principal interest is in helping Acadians learn their feelings of inferiority.

A people noted historically for their generosity and intelligence, the Acadians and their friends believe it is time to reorder their culture in its right place, eliminating discrimination against Acadians and restoring their pride.

- Good Response

Dysen said the northern sectors of Louisiana had responded very well to the introduction of French in the early grades, despite parents' reluctance, perhaps because of statute, the advantage of speaking another language.

But Dysen stressed employment opportunities in the state and the merging of speaking another language.

- Education specialist Dysen said the effort may have come just in time. Already, in Acadian homes there has been less touch with even spoken French, most of which was learned from bilingual parents.

He and council members added the impact French has on the state's tourist industry.

In 1968, for example, tourism produced $600 million in revenue, until the council was asked and accounted for about $700,000 of its work. Council staff cost of all taxes collected by member, France Lemay said the state. Some experts believe "Such things do not install the increase over 1968 was done directly related to the increasing numbers of French-speaking Canadians who visited the state.

And according to Louisiana through various information of Secretaries of State Wade O'Grady, the council's efforts and the effort increasing numbers of tourists who French throughout the state can French into the schools, council members mean far more increases in numbers think a culture will be the year-ahead-and as one councilor zeroed on to become a cherished part of French makes such a winner in the political arena that it is comfortable and at home."

- A l'Hôtel de ville, Américains et Belges

The Hotel de ville, Amercians and Belges

Bourgeois du minisitère des Affaires Etrangères

Jean-Paul Jullien, deux groupes de professionnels, inventeurs des bureaux spéciaux du ministère des Affaires Etrangères, sont en stage à P.L.C.O.D. Vingt personnes sont venues de Belgique, vingt-cinq de France, et deux de la confédération suisse. Un autre vendredi à Angers, il a été réunis à l'hotel de ville pour une audience de la direction de l'UNESCO, représentée par le Dr. Cartier, directoire de la Faculté de l'Université. Sur notre ciel, un aspect de cette rencontre.