ROTARIANS HEAR THERIOT SPEECH

"Cajun" Contributions to State Is Topic


The "Cajun" people of Louisiana have contributed growth and progress to the state, Roy Theriot said Wednesday.

Theriot, state commissioner, discussed "Two Centuries of Cajun Culture" at a meeting of the Rotary Club of New Orleans at the Sheraton-Chariton Hotel.

"After the Acadians were expelled in 1815 from Nova Scotia, many of them settled in Louisiana," he said. "Others settled in the New England states."

Theriot said that about four or five hundred came to Louisiana; however, some were returned to France.

"These people underwent many sacrifices and hardships," he said. "They were determined to return to Louisiana because the people here were of the same religious and language background." Theriot said there are about 30,000 "Cajuns" in Louisiana today and they come from a great heritage. He said it was regrettable that "Cajuns" do not have the influence they once had.

"Cajuns must take a stand and teach their children to speak French or they will lose the heritage," Theriot declaird.

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