THE ACADEMY of the Sacred Heart, Grand Coteau, La., will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding Oct. 23-24. The school, which was opened in 1831 by two nun, has never had to close its doors to children wishing a high school education. It has had the longest existence of any of the Sacred Heart schools in the world.

Sesquicentennial Is Planned by Academy of Sacred Heart

School Will Observe 150 Years of Existence


The school, which opened its doors 150 years ago, has had the unique distinction among the millions of children it has educated to maintain continuous enrollment from the time it opened.

On Aug. 5, 1831, two nuns, members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation, arrived in Grand Coteau to open a school for girls here on an estate offered by Mrs. Charles Smith.

The two nuns came down the Mississippi River on the steamboat 'Louisiana,' bought a horse and buggy, and set out to teach and educate girls. The school opened Sept. 7, 1831.

The first building, a two-story brick building, was erected in 1838. Today it is the oldest building on the property and is the lower center of the present building.

In 1854 the building was enlarged to more than twice its original size. A chapel was built above and to the left of this building. In 1880 the chapel completed the third story, which now forms the upper center of the present building.

The chapel was completed in 1880 and the marble altar with its golden tabernacle was erected in 1915.

To meet the demand for high school students, a liberal arts college was added in 1838 for the education of young ladies, and in 1893 the college became a woman's university.

Emphasis is now placed on the liberal arts college and the full course of study is extended.

At the time of this celebration, the school will hold a reunion of members of the women's advisory board who served in the past and attended the school.

The purpose of the celebration is to invite members of the community to visit the school and to have an opportunity to see the progress made by the school in the past 150 years.

The celebration will include a Mass, a dinner, and a tour of the school.

The school is located in the heart of the city and is easily accessible by foot, car, or bus.

The school is open to all students regardless of race, gender, or religion.

The school is committed to providing a quality education that is both challenging and enjoyable.

The school is a member of the National Catholic Education Association and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The school is proud of its history and its commitment to providing a high-quality education to all students.