Tour Promoter Arrives with Group

By TRENT ANGERS
(Special to The Times-Picayune)

LAFAYETTE, La. — Nearly 200 teachers and students have returned to Louisiana after touring and studying in three French-speaking parts of the world.

The last of the travelers, returning from Quebec Province, Canada, landed Wednesday in New Iberia at Acadiana Regional Airport.

Twenty Louisiana French teachers returned home Saturday from their educational venture to Guadeloupe.

Fifty-four teachers landed in New Orleans after studying for a month in France. Accompanying them was a Frenchman named Bernard Dore who works with a tourist transport organization in France. Dore is doing a six-weeks study of the state in preparation for a “Discover Louisiana” program that could bring as many as 200 young French people to Louisiana next summer.

A group of 30 French teachers from France are scheduled to arrive in Louisiana on Sept. 8. Their purpose here is to assist in teaching French in Louisiana schools.

All of this activity—the teaching, the studying, the traveling—is evidence of Louisiana’s French renaissance, the French movement, as it is called. The movement is designed to preserve and expand the French language and culture in the state. It is also designed to promote cultural and educational exchanges between Louisiana and French-speaking countries.

The group who returned Wednesday spent five weeks in French Canada. Some of the 120 who participated in a French study program at Jonquiere College while the others enrolled in summer camps, where they studied French in an informal camp setting.

The 20 teachers who returned from Guadeloupe Saturday used the French atmosphere of that Caribbean island to increase their fluency in the French language. Guadeloupe is a department of the French government.

The group of teachers who landed in New Orleans Sunday were in France taking refresher courses to better prepare themselves for their work in French elementary, secondary and adult education. Some studied in Paris.

Dore, who arrived Sunday in New Orleans, wasted no time in beginning his study of Louisiana. He first contacted James Domengeaux, chairman of The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL). Domengeaux advised Dore on who to see and where to go in connection with his study of the state.

The objective of Dore’s “Discover Louisiana” program is to encourage people 28 and younger from throughout France to visit the state for work, study and vacation. But first Dore needs to determine which of Louisiana’s features will attract young French tourists, students and business people.

Dore’s organization will provide reduced air fares for young French people. He hopes to negotiate reduced lodging rates for the French visitors.

His quest will bring him in contact with universities, motel groups, airlines, potential employers and tourist promotion agencies. He will look into the possibilities of exchanges with youth organizations, like Boy Scout troops and 4-H clubs.

Domengeaux asked interested parties to communicate with Dore through the CODOFIL office in Lafayette, Box 3936.

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Sec. 3, p. 4, c. 4-8