SUCCESSOR TO ROBERT MARTIN OAK — A 10-year-old live oak tree, grown on the USL farm, was planted Friday at the entrance to the circle on the USL campus as a successor to the historic Robert Martin Oak, named for the Legislative founder of USL. Dr. Clyde L. Rougeau, left, USL president, and Kent Langlinais, Youngsville, president, Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, participated in the tree-planting ceremony.

Historic Robert Martin Oak Replaced By Young Tree

A young live oak tree, grown on the University of Southwestern Louisiana farm from acorns of the historic Robert Martin Oak, was planted at the entrance to the circle on the USL campus on Friday, Arbor Day in Louisiana. The date marks the 50th consecutive year that Arbor Day has been celebrated in Louisiana.

At the planting ceremonies were Dr. Clyde L. Rougeau, USL president, and Kent Langlinais, Youngsville, president of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen.

The 10-year-old twenty-foot high live oak was planted to replace the historic Robert Martin Oak, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Edith on Sept. 16, 1971 and lost one-half of its top. Continuing heavy rain storms caused the remaining half to break off 10 days later.

The jagged trunk, which remained for a time as a mute reminder of the tree planted by Dr. Edwin L. Stephens, USL president, in memory of the legislative founder of USL, was removed last week. This was the first of the 18 live oaks planted by Dr. Stephens on the campus at the start of this century and named the "20th Century Oaks."

The successor of the Robert Martin Oak now grows as a continuing reminder of Robert Martin, known as the Father of Southwestern, since he introduced the bill in the Legislature in 1898 which provided for Southwestern's establishment.