A FRENCH TWIST — Marie France Tourigny, center, Saint-Jacque, Que., a premed student at the University of Southwestern Louisiana under the sponsorship of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, has found an additional way of strengthening ties between Louisiana and French speaking Canada, by serving as an instructor in Lafayette’s American Red Cross Water Safety Program. Miss Tourigny, who holds the bronze and silver medallions and the Distinction Award of the Royal Life Saving Society of Canada and a Canadian Red Cross instructor’s degree, is showing, from left, Bruin Hays, a freshman at Cathedral-Carmel, and Lea Hadley, a senior at Acadiana, the proper stroke. At poolside is Mrs. P. A. Chieri, Lafayette American Red Cross Water Safety Aide program instructor-trainer.

WITH FRENCH ACCENT

Water safety instruction with a French accent is underway in Lafayette in an American Red Cross water safety aide program.

Marie France Tourigny, Saint-Jacque, Que., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francois Tourigny, a premed student at the University of Southwestern Louisiana this year under the sponsorship of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, has found an additional way of strengthening ties with French speaking Canada and Louisiana by serving as an instructor in Lafayette’s American Red Cross water safety aide program being conducted by Mrs. P. A. Chieri, Water Safety instructor-trainer.

Learned in U.S.

Miss Tourigny said, “Actually I first learned to swim under an American Red Cross program, when I was 15 and spending the summer in North Dakota.”

Now she holds an instructor’s degree of the Canadian Red Cross, following her attendance at the Provincial Aquatic School at Lac Quenouilles in Canada and teaches swimming during the summers.

In 1968 she earned the Senior degree of the Canadian Red Cross and won both the bronze medallion and the silver medalion degree from the Royal Life Saving Society of Canada.

While attending Joliette College in Joliette City, Que., she continued practicing her swimming strokes with the intercollegiate team and also taught different groups swimming. She then earned the distinction award of the Royal Life Saving Society of Canada in 1968.

Wins Award

“I had a wonderful experience this same year teaching in an instructor’s training course for the Canadian Red Cross, and last summer I was chosen to be head of the swimming pool in my home town.”

Miss Tourigny will return home in May to continue this work and in the fall will enroll as a first year medical student at the University of Montreal.

Her study at USL and her work with the Lafayette American Red Cross Water Safety program will be “wonderful experiences” to add to her earlier ones.

The program being conducted by Mrs. Chieri is for 14 to 17-year-old holders of junior or senior American Red Cross life savers. The program is a seven-week intensive training course of 20 hours of supervised instruction by qualified water safety instructors. Successful completion of the course qualifies one to serve as a water safety aide.

“This added training perfects one’s water skills,” Mrs. Chieri said, “and qualifies junior or senior life savers to help on the water front and to help teach swimming and life saving.”

Working with Mrs. Chieri, in addition to Miss Tourigny, as instructors are Mesdames Rene Delhomme, Henry McFarlain, Magruder Hays, and Alex Stirling; Mrs. Paul Nolan is serving as recorder.