



L'Association de la Famille Boudreaux / Boudreau / Boudrot / Boudreault

L' ETOILE ACADIENNE

A Boudrot Family Newsletter

Vol. 008 Issue No. 003 Bilingual Newsletter / Bulletin Bilingue Date: November 2006/novembre 2006

**Acadian Families Gathering
Saturday, December 2, 2006****Français d'Amérique et
(enfin) fiers de l'être**

Encore récemment, les brimades étaient le quotidien de l'importante communauté francophone du Maine. Aujourd'hui, tout a changé et les cours français connaissent un véritable engouement.

Frederick Lévesque n'était qu'un enfant quand les professeurs de la petite ville d'Old Town, où il vivait, l'ont rebaptisé Fred Bishop, la traduction anglaise de son nom, pour dissimuler ses origines françaises. A l'école de Frenchville, Cleo Ouellette, elle, devait copier des dizaines de fois « I will not speak French » (Je ne parlerai plus français) au moindre « oui » ou « nom » qui sortait de ses lèvres. Howard Paradis, un instituteur de Madawaska qui devait réprimander les élèves s'exprimant en français, a pris le douloureux parti de ne pas enseigner cette langue qui était pourtant la sienne à ses propres enfants. « Je ne pouvais pas leur faire subir ça, » explique-t-il. « S'il voulaient s'en sortir, il fallait qu'ils parlent anglais. »

Ces scènes se passaient dans les années 1950 et 1960 dans le Maine, un État du nord-est des États-Unis, frontalier avec le Québec. Avoir honte de ses origines françaises a ainsi perduré pendant plusieurs décennies.

(Voyez "En Amérique", page 9)

**Trahan, Boudreaux
Comeaux Families
Hold Acadian
Families Gathering**

The Trahan Family Association is organizing an Acadian family gathering and has invited the Boudreaux and Comeaux Family Association members to join them on Saturday, December 2, 2006, from 10:00 until approximately 1:30, at the Woodmen of the World Hall in Maurice, Louisiana.

The organizers of the event announced that we will take the opportunity of the "Gathering" to honor the men and women of Boudreaux, Comeaux, and Trahan Families who have served in Iraq. These individuals, their wives (or husbands) and children will be our guests for a fried turkey and dressing dinner.

The Trahan Family Association wishes to get more involved with other Acadian family associations, and this is a good way to get more of our cousins involved.

The Woodmen of the World Hall is 1/4 mile west of the signal light at US Hwy 167 and La. 92 W (Indian Bayou Road.). If you are driving south on US Hwy 167 from Lafayette, turn right on La. 92 West.

We ask everyone who plans to attend to RSVP for this occasion, that we insure sufficient food is
(See "Acadian Families" on page 3)

**Boudreaux Family
Association Presents
Donation to Daspit
Elementary School**

The Boudreaux / Boudreau Family Association's annual donation to Daspit Elementary School's French Immersion Program was presented to Principal Brantley, French Immersion teachers and students on Monday, October 16, 2006 by members of the organization.

Principal Brantley, the French immersion program teachers Delphine Coumpouras, 1st grade, Valerie Theriez, 2nd grade, Preston Thibeaux, 3rd grade and David Gagnard, 4th grade and students of the French immersion program send their thanks to the members of the Boudreaux/Boudreau Family Association for the generosity of these annual donations.

Our donations for this year are:

Kindergarten:

1 External Multi DVD/CD writer
129.99 plus tax Total \$ 140.39
(has \$20.00 Office Depot Rebate
and \$30.00 Sony rebate.

First Grade: 1 pack of 2-HP 56 Ink Cartridges and 1 pack of 2-HP 57 ink cartridges Total (this price includes a \$15.00 coupon)

Total \$ 96.10

(See "Donation" on page 3)

L'Etoile Acadienne

**A Boudrot Family
Newsletter**

Publié par / Published by
L'Association de la Famille
Boudreaux / Boudreau

Charles Boudreaux
President / Newsletter
4038 Cedar Forest
Kingwood, Texas 77339-1332
Tel. 281- 361-3172
E-mail: crboudreaux@aol.com

U.K. "Sonny" Boudreaux
Vice-president
17229 St. Gertrude Drive
Covington, Louisiana 70435-5627
Tel. 985-871-9211
E-mail: ukb@aol.com

Don Boudreaux
Treasurer / Family Genealogist
124 Claremont Circle
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508
Tel. 337-988-3454
E-mail:
donboudreaux@earthlink.net

Mary Boudreaux Verret
Secretary
P.O. Box 614
Charenton, Louisiana 70523
E-mail:
mbv853@cox-internet.com

Preston Boudreaux
Sergeant-at-arms
412 West School Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70605
E-mail:
pboudreaux@worldnet.att.net

Grace Naquin
Former President ~ 2001 - 2003
158 Normandy Lane
Church Point, Louisiana

Inez L. Barras
Former President ~ 2000 – 2001
French Immersion Program
Coordinator
209 Langley Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508-8123
E-mail: inezbarras@worldnet.net

**We Would Like to hear
from you**

. . . won't you drop us a
line!

Tell us what you like about the
newsletter and what you would
like to see more of : genealogy,
history, news articles, articles
and stories about Boudreaux /
Boudreau / Boudreault families
from across the U.S., Canada,
and France, etc.

Take up your pen and write
an article yourself. It is one
easy way to participate in
the organization without even
leaving home.

Membership Dues

**This is a gentle reminder for
all members whose renewal
date fell during the year 2005,
your renewal date was January
2006.**

Receiving our newsletter
L'Etoile Acadienne (Acadian
Star) is a great way to keep
abreast of what is happening in
the Acadian community and with
our own grand Boudrot Family.

Our organization is non-profit;
the dues are used for printing and
mailing the quarterly newsletter
and for support of the French
Immersion Program in
Louisiana's public schools.

**Renewal date for all
members now falls in January
of each year.**

Annual membership dues remain
at \$10.00 or receive a 3 year
membership for \$25.00.
Make check payable to Boudreaux
Family Association.

Send to:
Don Boudreaux (treasurer)
124 Claremont Circle
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508

**As a reminder we will still print
your renewal date on your
address label.**

Welcome

~ Bienvenue

We extend to you a warm
Acadian welcome to our
*Association de la Famille
Boudreaux / Boudreau* which is part
of " *la grande famille Boudrot*".

We are all part of the large
family of Michel Boudrot and
Michelle Aucoin, one of America's
first European families who settled
in the French colony of *Acadie* in
the late 1630's.

New Member -2006

Alice Hatfield Azure
Maryville, Illinois
3 years

Membership Renewals 2006

L.A. & JoAnne Boudreaux
Metairie, Louisiana
3 years

James & Shirley B. Ducoté
Franklin, Louisiana
3 years

Pat & Brenda B. O'Connell
Mauepas, Louisiana
3 years

Lawrence & Joan E. King
Warrenton, Virginia
3 years

Preston & Anne Boudreaux
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Thank you for your support!

Acadian Families Gathering

(Cont. from page 1)

prepared for all.

The cost for all attendees, except our Iraq Veterans, will remain \$5 per person for those over age of 12; those under age 12 eat free.

You may bring a desert to share with everyone.

Send post card to Loubert Trahan at following address:

9515 La. Hwy. 92

Maurice, Louisiana 70555

e-mail: lgtrahan@cox.net

Or e-mail Don Boudreaux or Charles Boudreaux if you plan to attend. Their e-mail addresses are:

donboudreaux@earthlink.net

cboudreaux@aol.com

Donation to Daspit's French Immersion Program

(**"Donation"** cont. from page 1)

Third grade: 1 pack of Crayola Broadline markers	66.88
3 Expo 2 organizer unit with chisel tip Markers @7.88	23.64
4 Expo dry erasers @ 2.28	
Total	99.64

Fourth grade: 1 Petite Comedies Musicales & DC	40.99
1 Twenty pieces à jouer	30.99
1 Resolution de Problemes 4e année	30.99
Total (Canadian)	\$102.97
plus \$18.00 shipping	\$120.97

Total of all above is \$ 570.30. With the \$100.00 rebates our cost should be about \$470.00. The two \$15.00 Office Depot coupons helped keep the total down to our \$500.00 target.

Don Boudreaux

Lafayette, Louisiana

(See pictures on page 5)

Acadian Memorial Receives Large Grants

The Acadian Memorial was recently awarded \$20,000 in grants, and museum administrators and local students were honored with a

trip to Washington, D.C., to meet first lady Laura Bush. Members of the museum staff and students had been working for more than a year on a project called "Let the Children Speak," which preserves the history of Acadian children exiled to Louisiana from Canada and got the museum accolades and much-needed funding. A private tour of the White House and the meeting with Laura Bush was followed by a midnight tour of Washington national monuments. The Acadian contingent was also given a tour of the Carnegie Library and met History Channel spokeswoman Cokie Roberts, a native of New Orleans.

"We were treated like royalty, and it was an unforgettable experience," museum Director Brenda Trahan said. "We met Laura Bush in the China Room ... and we were given one of the few tours of the White House since Sept. 11, 2001. Mrs. Bush was beaming and expressed how proud she was of the project and local students' work in the classroom to earn the grant." Trahan and museum grant writer Sylvia Bienvenue first applied two years ago, but were successful on their second attempt. "On our first attempt, we were in the top 50 of 600 grants, but fell a little short," the director said. "Later, we received a letter from the History Channel for us to reapply, and that is when the magic really began to happen." Trahan said the program was geared to create a new school curriculum. She said research compiled for the project also will be included in the museum presentation, in which a large mural of the first Acadians comes to life as individuals in the work of art are highlighted and their stories told to visitors. For the first time, children also will be included in the mural presentation. The museum received a \$10,000 grant from the History Channel as well as a second \$10,000 community grant from Lowe's for its work.

Andrew Schwing, a student at Catholic High School in New Iberia, said his work in researching an Acadian child was rewarding, as was the trip to the nation's capital. "It was a wonderful trip, and it was so awesome to meet Laura Bush," he said. "I was proud to be part of the Acadian project, and I enjoyed learning about our local history." Along with a lot of hard work and a fun trip as a reward, Schwing said, there were more personal, long-lasting effects from the project. "The history of the Acadians impacted my life and made me think differently because I would never want to be separated from my family and homeland," he said.

Trahan agreed that the project and ensuing trip had a lasting impression on the participating students. "On the way home, the kids could not stop talking about the wonderful experience," she said. "On the flight, one student sat beside a soldier of Acadian ancestry from Lake Charles. When she told the soldier why she was in Washington, D.C., he was touched to the point he cried. No one will soon forget the wonderful experience." Grant writer Bienvenue said the project has not only gotten the Acadian Memorial national recognition, but also led to much local support for the museum's "Let the Children Speak!" project. "This honor has led to support and cooperation unimagined by us in the beginning," she said. "It has helped to fulfill a dream of the Acadian Memorial to unite our extended Acadian community to research and disseminate the true stories of the Acadian people."

L'Ordre du Bon Temps

L'Ordre du Bon Temps (The Order of the Good Times) was the first social club in North America originally established in 1606 at (See "Bon Temps" on page 4) 3

L'Ordre du Bon Temps

(cont. from page 3)

Port-Royal, Acadia, present day Nova Scotia, Canada, by Samuel de Champlain.

The purpose of the club was to provide entertainment and satisfy hearty appetites during the long, harsh Acadian winter. There were 15 gentlemen in the company and each took a turn being host for the day by designing his menu on the day's hunt.

Generally, the men enjoyed huge moose or caribou roasts as well as smaller game such as beaver, porcupine and rabbits. In fact, moose and beaver's tail were highly regarded for their tenderness and delicate flavors. Waterfowl, ruffed grouse, partridge and other birds were plentiful. Trout, cod and lobsters were speared through the ice for the dinner fare as well.

The men competed to provide the most sumptuous meal for their comrades. If the day's hunt was not as successful as hoped, the host traded with local tribesmen for sufficient fare. Usually, these Micmac Indians joined in the elaborate banquet.

That evening, the host wore the Insignia of the Order and paraded in grandeur to the dining hall with each comrade carrying a delectable platter of food. Once the meal was enjoyed, the men told stories and sang. A toast with wine completed the evening's events and the Insignia of the Order was passed to the successor.

Dearest Cousins,

Some of you may be aware that I am the President of the Acadian Memorial Foundation and my passion is with the Thibodeau(x) family and the Memorial for without both of you my life would be incomplete.

I am extending to all of you to become members of the Acadian Memorial and also L'Ordre du Bon Temps.

The Acadian Memorial Foundation proudly announces that Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, by proclamation, has established *L'Ordre du Bon Temps-Louisiane 2006*.

The Order of Good Times is a celebration of 400 years of Acadian-Cajun men cooking.

In 1606, *L'Ordre du Bon Temps* was established in Acadia (Nova Scotia); it is the oldest social club in North America. Acadians found an abundance of fish and game and continued the tradition for 400 years.

We offer you the opportunity to become a member of the Acadian Memorial and L'Ordre du Bon Temps. For further information write or call to the address and phone number below.

Sincerely,
Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc
President ~Acadian Memorial
Foundation
Lafayette, Louisiana

Write to:
Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 60188
Lafayette, Louisiana 70596-0188
Tel. 337-394-2258
e-mail: shirleythibo@bellsouth.net
acadianmemorial.org

Acadie ~ Looking Toward the Future

By Antoinine Maillet
New Brunswick, Canada

[Antoinine Maillet is a well known Acadian writer. The following article appeared in the Telegraph Journal of New Brunswick for the opening of Le Congres Mondial Acadian '94. Her words "Now we want to fight to express ourselves as a distinct people in the Atlantic provinces" can still be applied to all Acadian communities across Canada and the United States as we look forward to the fourth Congres

Mondial Acadien 2009 which will take place again in New Brunswick.]

The Acadian World Congress is important because it's one occasion in a lifetime, in a century, for Acadia to tell the rest of the world that in spite of all the troubles we had in the past, the Deportation and so forth, that's the past.

We want to look at the future and see what belongs to us, what the future is going to give us. What we believe in is that the future has a place for Acadia.

The Acadians have survived, that's something that's done. We don't need to fight for survival anymore, we did it.

Now we want to fight to express ourselves as a distinct people in the Atlantic provinces. We want to share the wealth of the provinces, and also share our own wealth which is a culture, a language, a way of life, of being.

We want to show the rest of Canada and North America that it is possible to have a distinct culture, to be a little different and yet be the same.

It's important for the rest of Canada to understand that from each corner of the country there's a wealth, there's an asset, of having something which is a plus. Anybody that has a different language is a plus.

I think it's possible for Canada to see us as a model for harmony, of living together, even though we are different.

[And what Antoinine Maillet says about the Acadians of the Atlantic provinces can be applied to Acadians of Louisiana. "The Acadians have survived, that's something that's done. We don't need to fight for survival anymore; we did it." We need to fight to express ourselves as a distinct people of Louisiana. We need to fight to safeguard our heritage, culture and our French language.]



MERCI!

At Left:
 Don Boudreaux presents the Boudreaux Family Association donation to Daspit Elementary School Principal Brantley on Monday, October 16, 2006



From left to right: Don Boudreaux, and French Immersion teachers Delphine Coumpouras of Belgium, Valerie Theriez of France, David Gagnard of France and Preston Thibeaux of Louisiana and their students.

Below:
 French Immersion students at Daspit Elementary School, New Iberia, Louisiana.



Unveiling of the Sculpture at Grand Pré, Nova Scotia September 3, 2006

It was at 3 o'clock on September 5th, 1755, that Lieutenant-Colonel John Winslow ordered the men and boys of Grand-Pré to meet in Saint-Charles-des-Mines church so that he could read them the Deportation Order.

The Société Promotion Grand-Pré undertook the creation of an artwork to commemorate in a special way the Deportation of Acadians, during the time known as Le Grand Dérangement. The artwork is a bronze sculpture representing an Acadian family during that time.

The members of the Board of Directors of the Société Promotion Grand-Pré will unveil this artwork on Sunday, September 3rd, 2006, during a ceremony held at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site. It is their hope that this artwork will become a powerful icon to symbolize the tearing apart of Acadian families during the Great Upheaval.

The members of the board wish to thank the benefactors who, through their generous contribution, helped make this project a reality.

Here are the events that unfolded at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site on September 3rd: 2:00 pm 18th Century music - The Quartet "Réjouissance" 3:00 pm Introducing the dignitaries; words by the President Jean-Claude Roy; 3:05 pm Guest Speaker Ronnie Gilles LeBlanc - Theme: The Family; 3:25 pm Greetings from various dignitaries; 3:45 pm Unveiling of the Sculpture; 4:05 pm Public reading of the Deportation Order followed by the raising of the flag at the Commemorative Church and the singing of the Acadian National Anthem. The unveiling of a plaque in honour of Assomption Vie for its contribution to Grand-Pré

since 1919; 4:20 pm Isabelle Roy sings Grand-Pré; reception followed.

“Little” Event Began Revival of Louisiana French Music

by Jim Bradshaw
Lafayette, Louisiana

I am amazed each time I look at the modern Festivals Acadiens and its celebration of our French music.

People who have grown up since the rebirth of Louisiana French music don't understand how close we came to losing it.

Festivals Acadiens can trace its roots directly to a makeshift affair that most of us mark as the beginning of the comeback of what had been a dying art form.

The event was intended to be a modest demonstration of Cajun music for a group of foreign journalists. It was called “A Tribute to Cajun Music” and featured a dozen Louisiana Cajun Bands. They traced its evolution by playing tunes from various eras.

On stage were the likes of Clifton Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band from Lafayette, Bois Sec Ardoin and the Ardoin Brothers from Evangeline Parish with Canray Fontenot; Blackie Forestier and the Cajun Aces from Jennings; Nashville stars Jimmy C. Newman and Rufus Thibodeaux; Cajun blues singer Nathan Abshire and his group; ballad singer Inez Catalon; fiddlers Dennis McGee, S.D. Courville and Merlin Fontenot; Lionel Leleux, William Connor and Mark Savoy; and the Balfa Brothers.

The first plan was for only two or three Cajun bands to entertain the handful of writers attending the International Association of French Speaking Journalists convention in Lafayette. However, local folks heard about it and wanted to come, so the show was moved to the 2,300 seat Municipal Auditorium. When still more people wanted to come, it was moved to Blackham Coliseum.

On the night of the event, a huge downpour didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm. Fire officials got nervous as more and more folk crowded in, well beyond the 8,500 seats Blackham offered.

More than 10,000 people (some say as many as 14,000) eventually jammed into the coliseum that night. They wanted to hear the old masters and the old music one more time.

The concert was to be followed by a big dance, but many people couldn't wait and started dancing in the aisles – even though they already were crammed.

That outpouring of interest in and love of the music caught the eye of younger musicians who were turning to other forms. It caught the ear of people working to keep alive forms of ethnic music. And it encouraged some of the older musicians to pick up their instruments again.

Instead of commemorating the death of a part of a culture, it became the catalyst for its rebirth.

You could hear and feel and taste the result of that remarkable coincidence during this year's Festivals Acadiens which was held in October.

Acadian Places: Southeast Texas

French Mass Focuses on Reviving Cajun Culture

By Robert Lopez
The Beaumont Enterprise
Beaumont, Texas

Clyde Vincent's grandparents spoke no English. He grew up listening to Acadian French and speaks it fairly well. However, his children only have a passing familiarity with the tongue.

“The people of my generation were the last to speak (Acadian) French,” the 81 year-old retired power plant supervisor said of area Cajuns. “We would like to get more

of the kids into it. It's just our heritage. We enjoy speaking the language."

Vincent said he hopes that many of Southeast Texas Cajuns were able to reconnect with their roots at the 18th annual Acadian French Mass on Sunday, October 22, at la Maison Beausoleil Museum in Port Neches Park.

The Rev. Curtis J. Guillory, Bishop of the Diocese of Beaumont, and the Rev. Roland Vaughan of Cameron, Louisiana, attended. Festivities featured performances by Jude Moreau's Cajun Band and Les Chanteurs Acadiens du Texas Choir, which sang hymns in French.

Organizer Shirley Bobbit said the event commemorates the circuit priests who used to travel from town to town in Louisiana, delivering Mass.

"They would have Mass in an individual's home in the country where they didn't have a church," she said. "it's an Acadian French tradition."

The Mass took place in front of La Maison Beausoleil (House of Beautiful Sunshine), an almost 200 year-old Cajun home that was shipped from St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, to Port Neches.

The 62 year-old Bobbitt doesn't speak Acadian French and recalls her older brother had trouble in school because he spoke it.

"They asked him not to speak French," she said. "This was about 50 years ago. They asked my parents not to speak French at home and, of course, they didn't. I knew a lot of people like that, I didn't learn the language, but I support it, and if I was smarter today, I could probably learn to speak it."

Acadian French came in handy, though, during World War I and World War II, when many Cajuns served as interpreters. The Acadian tongue bears some differences to what's spoken in France, much as British English differs from American English, but people from the two cultures can understand each other with little difficulty.

"It's basically 17th century French," said Faustine Hillard, office administrator for the Lafayette, Louisiana based Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL). "It was the language people spoke when they crossed over to New France (in the 1600's). If you use it in modern-day France, people might laugh because some of the terms are no longer in use. But it'd be like speaking 17th century English."

Whether or not the tongue is a distinct dialect, though, is a hotly debated issue.

"Some people have a problem calling it a dialect, because they feel it's taking away from its legitimacy," Hillard said. "You can say it's a variation of French, but it is French."

Vincent, an organizer of the Mass, acknowledged that certain aspects of the Cajun culture probably will outlive the communication's use in the United States.

"The cuisine and the music will probably be around a lot longer," he said. "People love the music and the food."

Cajuns revel in Food, Fun & Unique Culture

By Becky Bowman
The Beaumont Enterprise,
Beaumont, Texas

Being Cajun certainly has its specific perks.

For some, it's about the food. Nothing says Cajun, they would note, like the smells and tastes of a simmering pot of gumbo or jambalaya.

For others, it's the music: jaunty songs laced with accordion and fiddle melodies, toe-tapping ditties that bring listeners to their feet.

For still others, it's about the language, a way of sprinkling French accents, words or phrases into casual conversation.

Whatever the details, however, being Cajun is about the pride –

pride in culture, pride in working-class roots, pride in a sense of place and pride in a love of life.

For Kevin Meaux, a lecturer in the English department at Lamar University, it's tough to sum up the attachment to being Cajun in a word or phrase.

"I would say it's too difficult to do that, because it's sort of indistinguishable from who I am," said Meaux, who moved to Southeast Texas last year from Louisiana, where he was born and raised.

"I would say where I come from, it's a lot more easygoing, a lot less serious," Meaux said. "A lot more food, a lot more music."

Even Cajuns born in Southeast Texas hold a similar nostalgia for Acadiana, the 22-parish Louisiana region most often associated with Cajun culture.

Jude Moreau, an accordion maker who lives in Groves, Texas, spent childhood summers at a family farm in Louisiana. "I was born in Port Arthur, Texas, but raised in Pecanière," he told the crowd at the 18th Annual Acadian French Mass in Port Neches on October 15. Moreau's Cajun Band – complete with accordion, acoustic guitar, bass and fiddle then launched into an ode to his "home."

Moreau's family, like many others, moved from Louisiana to Southeast Texas during the 1920's oil boom. But family ties to Louisiana remain strong and he visits as often as he can, for holidays such as Easter or Mardi Gras.

His parents didn't teach him French, but in Louisiana Moreau learned to use words like "*boucherie*", the French word for butcher that in Cajun French denotes a communal butchering – usually of a pig, he said.

For Moreau, thinking of Cajun heritage brings to mind images of duck hunting, gathering around a supper table with entrees made of wild game and making do with what (See "**Acadian Places**" page 8) 7

(“Acadian Places” from page 7)

you have.

More than anything, it’s a way of life: *Ca c’est Cajun*,” it’s Cajun,” he said in French.

It’s who we are,” Moreau said. It’s like any other ethnic group. We have value in our heritage, in our way of life.”

One aspect of Cajun culture Renella Primeaux values is the dancing, which she learned at age 3, by standing on her brothers’ feet as they moved about the room.

Like many local Cajuns, Primeaux spoke only French until she started school. For her, however, being Cajun is about more than what be seen and heard in dancing and speaking. It’s about friendliness and compassion that Cajuns have for each other.

“That’s what my mother and daddy always stressed to me,” she said after the French Mass gathering, as she took a break from dancing. “And faith, Catholicism.”

Catholicism might be known for its strict rules, but at the festivities following the French Mass – spoken, as one might expect, entirely in French – it seemed no one, including the clergy, was immune from the fun.

Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Beaumont held out a bowl for gumbo in the kitchen.

The Rev. Roland Vaughn of Cameron, Louisiana, who celebrated the Mass, took turns showing off his fancy footwork with Primeaux and others on a “dance floor” at the front of the Knights of Columbus Hall, with cornmeal spread on the tiles.

As Rev. Vaughn danced, he watched 6 year old Hannah Landry skipping about the room. “She needs to learn this,” he said of the dancing. “Very few people know the steps anymore.” The older generation, however, showcased the twists and turns well, floating around the room with grins as wide as Moreau’s accordion.

“We’re all Cajun , and dancing is what we love,” said Shirley Griffith, who grew up a LeBlanc, as she twirled by.

Meaux said his family tried to impress upon him what it meant to be Cajun as a youngster. “My Uncle Harry used to tell me that no matter where you go in the world, you’re going to be the only Cajun there,” the lecturer recalled. He said he never really understood what that meant, however, until he left Louisiana for college, eventually spending time in Montana, England and Australia.

“You definitely have the sense,” said Meaux, “that you are coming from a different perspective than anybody else.”

News from CODOFIL

It’s a bit like Académie Cadienne but on the radio and bilingual and in Lafourche. **A. J. LeBlanc** and others are beginning a radio program on **KLRZ FM 100.3** (the Ragin Cajun) in Larose the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. The program is bilingual – English-French, and they discuss words and phrases from the area! You can catch them on the web at www.klrzfm.com ! Call 1-985-798-1003 or 1-800-998-1003 (toll-free) to join in the discussion.

J. B. Borel and the West Bank gang don’t stop. Following their big success with Soirée en Ville, they will begin Cajun French courses. J.B. will teach a beginner’s French class on the first and third Thursday of the month, beginning November 2, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the White House, located at 209 Lafayette Street in Gretna. And the best news – it’s only \$1 a lesson – what a bargain. Don’t forget the Acadian breakfast the first Saturday of the month. Contact J. B. at 504-367-5027 or at jbdegretna@bellsouth.net for more information.

Congratulations to **Raphaëlle Borie**, a French teacher in Iberia Parish (Delcambre, FLE)! She was elected teacher of the year for her school, parish and region. She was also a candidate for the state contest. The awards ceremony took place last Thursday morning in Baton Rouge. Bravo!!

Bourque’s Social Club, located in Scott, encourages the creation of stories through local history and community. Each Tuesday from 6-8 p.m., you are invited to a Studio Night with François Gaudet, a visual artist from Nova Scotia. A donation of \$10.00 is suggested for the cost of materials. For more information on the Club and workshop, you can write them at bourquessocialclub@yahoo.com or visit them at 1009 St. Mary Street in Scott.

We are looking for information on towns and parishes where French has an official status. If you have this information, we ask that you send it to us at dcheram@bellsouth.net. Thanks!

It’s unnecessary to explain what’s happening in Lafayette. There was a workshop on the Creole language at the Creole Heritage Celebration with more than 40 people in attendance. I am beginning to work more in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes, and I am discovering more and more people on each trip that are interested in the revitalization of the language and culture. Yea!!! It’s a great week in Louisiana to enjoy the beautiful weather and the beauty of what we call French-speaking Louisiana.

Elaine F. Clément
Relations Communautaires
Conseil pour le Développement du Français en Louisiane (CODOFIL)
217 rue Principale Ouest
Lafayette, LA 70501
Tel : 337-262-5810/ 800-259-5810
337-262-5812 (fax)
elainefc@bellsouth.net
www.codofil.org

Français

Français d'Amérique et (enfin) fiers de l'être

(Cont. de page 1)

Mais, aujourd'hui, la langue de Molière est à nouveau à l'honneur. En 2002, les deux Chambres de l'Etat ont inauguré une journée annuelle franco-américaine, au cours de laquelle le serment au drapeau américain se fait en français et l'hymne national est interprété dans les deux langues. La même année, le Maine a également élu son premier parlementaire de souche française, Michael Michaud.

Amusant retournement de situation par rapport à une époque, pas si lointaine, où les écoles offraient des billets de cinéma ou exemptaient de devoirs les élèves qui dénonçaient leurs camarades francophones. Aujourd'hui, le Franco-American Heritage Center, qui s'est ouvert à Lewiston il y a quelques années, impose une amende de 1 dollar chaque fois que, lors de ses déjeuners, un invité se laisse aller à employer un mot d'anglais. Pour donner aux gens une chance d'améliorer leur français défectueux, des cours de remise à niveau et des groupes de conversation sont aussi organisés dans des endroits comme la bibliothèque municipales de South Port. Les résultats du dernier recensement indiquent que le Maine compte 5.3% d'habitants parlant le français chez eux, un pourcentage plus élevé que dans n'importe quel autre Etat du pays. (*Même la Louisiane ?*)

À South Freeport, l'École française du Maine – une maternelle qui a ouvert ses portes en 2001 – a connu un tel succès que, chaque année, on lui a adjoint une classe supérieure. Bon nombre de parents d'élèves ont oublié leur langue maternelle et certains viennent de très loin pour inscrire leurs enfants.

Depuis qu'ils fréquentent cette école, Anna Bilodeau, 8 ans, et son frère Markus, 7 ans, ont fait de tels progrès qu'ils s'expriment désormais en français.

Avec leurs grand-mère, Arlene Bilodeau. A 68 ans, celle-ci regrette de ne pas avoir poussé ses propres enfants sur la même voie. « Ça me rend triste ; était notre langue, » dit elle. « Quand j'entends parler Anna et Markus, je suis admirative. »

C'est à partir des années 1870 que des immigrants français venus du Canada ont commencé à affluer dans le Maine et dans d'autres Etats américaines de la côte Est, où ils ont joué un rôle de tout premier plans dans les industries du textile et de la chaussure. Mais, au fil des ans, leur présence a suscité une réaction de rejet. Ils passaient pour des paysans, des crétins ou de mauvais patriotes aux yeux de la population anglo locale. En 1919, le Maine a fini par voter une loi obligeant toutes les écoles à enseigner en anglais. « Qui perd sa langue perd sa foi », ont l'habitude de dire les Américains de souche française. Pourtant beaucoup d'entre eux ont préféré élever leurs enfants dans la culture anglo-américaine ou, du moins, limiter leur contact avec le français, pour leur éviter des discriminations. Jusqu'au début des années 1990, une émission de radio du Maine continuait à les caricaturer à travers un personnage du nom de Frenchie, qui a finalement été retiré des ondes après une campagne de protestation.

Cet ostracisme a été exacerbé par langue elle-même, qui, à l'instar de l'anglais et de l'américain, diffère du français parlé dans l'Hexagone sur le plan des tournures idiomatiques, de la prononciation et du vocabulaire. Le dicton « On est ne pour être petit pain ; on ne peut pas s'attendre à la boulangerie » illustre bien le complexe d'infériorité de ces Américains d'origines françaises. « On nous disait toujours qu'on parlait mal, qu'on était des incapables car on ne maîtrisait ni le français ni

l'anglais », se souvient Mme Ouellette. Quand le fils de Fred Bishop, Jim, a pris des cours au lycée et à l'université pour rafraîchir ses connaissances de la langue, il a vécu « un véritable cauchemar ».

« Il m'arrivait, » dit-il, « d'employer des mots qui n'existaient pas en français classique. »

Comme dans les autres Etats, la plupart des écoles du Maine enseignent beaucoup plus l'espagnol que le français. Mais, pour ceux qui, comme Norman Marquis, prennent des cours de remise à niveau, cette renaissance a une profonde signification. « C'est comme si j'avais trouvé la foi, » dit-il, soudain submergé par l'émotion. « Ma religion première était le français. Il sera toujours présent dans mon cœur. »

Pam Belluck
The New York Times

Lettres

L'article sur les descendants acadiens de l'état de Maine qui redécouvrent leurs racines et décident de re-apprendre le français ... plutôt que l'espagnol! Ils ont subi autrefois les mêmes humiliations que les Cajuns en Louisiane ...

Jean Teyssot
Humble, Texas

L'Acadie ~ Quel sont nos projets d'avenir

Par Antoinine Maillet
Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada

[Cet article était écrit par Antoinine Maillet pour le journal Telegraph Journal de Nouveau-Brunswick juste avant Le Congrès Mondial Acadien 1994. Aujourd'hui nous entendons l'éclat de ses mots toujours même ici en Louisiane.]

(Voyez « Acadie » page 10) 9

(« **Acadie** » de page 9)

Le Congrès Mondial Acadien est important pour que l'Acadie maintenant, qui a survécu à toutes ses misères, la déportation, l'exil, maintenant qu'elle a survécu tout ça, il faut qu'elle s'affirme comme un peuple qui est lancé, pour toujours, ou pour très longtemps.

L'Acadie a besoin de dire qui elle est, qu'elle fait partie du Canada, qu'elle fait partie de l'Amérique, qu'elle fait partie de la francophonie du monde entier, et que par conséquent elle a sa place dans le monde, et que cette place la est unique comme chaque peuple au monde.

L'Acadie a une voix qui lui est propre. Elle a un cri à lancer, une note à chanter, et personne peut chante cette note à sa place.

Et le Congrès s'est pour dire à au monde ; c'est pour dire ce qui nous distingue, ce qui nous rassemble, ce qui fait qu'on a besoin de vivre dans un monde moderne et ne plus seulement traîner le passe.

Il faut s'intégrer maintenant dans le monde moderne. Le Congrès est la pour dire ça, quelle a été notre histoire : ou en sommes nous maintenant, et quels sont nos projets d'avenir.

Nouvelles de CODOFIL

C'est un peu comme l'Académie Cadienne mais à la radio et bilingue et à Lafourche. **A. J. LeBlanc** et des autres ont commencé une émission de radio sur **KLRZ FM 100.3** (Ragin Cajun) à Larose le 1^{er} et le 3^{ème} mardi du mois à 7 p.m. L'émission est bilingue – anglais-français, et ils discutent les mots et les phrases du coin! Soyez à l'écoute – www.klrzfm.com sur le web! Téléphonnez au 1-985-798-1003 ou au 1-800-998-1003 (gratuit) pour participer à la discussion.

J. B. Borel et la gang du Rive Ouest s'arrêtent pas. Suite à la grande réussite de la Soirée en Ville,

ils commencent bientôt des cours de français cadien. J. B. va montrer le français débutant, le premier et troisième jeudis du mois, commençant le 2 novembre, de 6 à 7:30 p.m. au White House, situé au 209 rue Lafayette à Gretna. En plus, c'est bon marché - \$1 la leçon. Oubliez pas le petit déjeuner acadien le premier samedi du mois! Contactez J.B. au 504-367-5027 ou au jbdegretna@bellsouth.net pour plus d'informations

On félicite **Raphaëlle Borie**, enseignante française dans la paroisse de Nouvelle Ibérie (Delcambre, FLE)! Elle était élue l'enseignante de l'année successivement de son école, de sa paroisse et de sa région. Elle a été candidate aussi pour le concours pour l'état. La remise officielle des prix était jeudi matin au Baton Rouge. Bravo!!

Bourque's Social Club, situé à Scott, encourage la création des histoires à travers l'histoire et la communauté locaux. Tous les mardis de 6 à 8 p.m., ils vous invitent à une soirée 'studio' avec François Gaudet, artiste visuel de la Nouvelle-Écosse. On suggère un don de \$10 pour le prix du matériel. Pour plus d'informations sur le 'Club' et l'atelier, vous pouvez leur écrire au bourquessocialclub@yahoo.com ou les visiter à 1009 St. Mary Street à Scott.

Nous cherchons les informations sur les villes et les paroisses ou le français a un statut officiel. Si vous avez ces informations, nous vous prions de nous envoyer ces informations au dcheram@bellsouth.net. Merci!

Elaine F. Clément

Relations Communautaires
Conseil pour le Développement du Français en Louisiane (CODOFIL)
217 rue Principale Ouest
Lafayette, LA 70501
Tel : 337-262-5810/ 800-259-5810
elainefc@bellsouth.net
www.codofil.org

In Memorium

Anna Claire Camel Trahan

MAURICE - Funeral services were held at a 2 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2006, at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church for Anna Claire Camel Trahan, 73, who died Sunday, Sept 3, 2006, at Medical Center of Southwest. The Rev. O. Joseph Breaux, pastor of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, will be celebrant of the Mass and conduct the funeral services. Concelebrants will include the Reverends Floyd Calais and Conley Bertrand. Musical selections will be performed by Tammy Lynn Maturin. Interment took place in St. Alphonsus Mausoleum.

Mrs. Trahan, a native of Lafayette Parish, was the daughter of the late Melvin Camel and the former Gladys Guidry. She had been a resident of Maurice since her marriage. She was a member of St. Alphonsus Alter Society and the Trahan Family Association.

Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Loubert G. Trahan, of Maurice; daughter, Jeannine T. Meaux and husband, James; son, David O. Trahan and fiancé, Annette Skinner; daughter, Lea T. Hawkins and husband, Joseph; grandchildren, Jeremy Scott Meaux, Stefan Hawkins, Collin Hawkins, Brook Trahan and Richard "Butch" Trahan; and great grandchildren, Brooklyn Trahan, Karah Trahan, Easton Kade Trahan, Bailey Aaron Meaux and Mason James Meaux. She was preceded in death by her parents; and one brother, John Kenneth Camel.

The rosary was recited today at 3 p.m. led by the members of The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelite Members, at 7 p.m. today led by the Rev. O. Joseph Breaux and Tuesday prior to the services led by St. Alphonsus Altar Society.

Pallbearers will include her grandchildren, Jeremy Scott Meaux, Stefan Hawkins, Collin Hawkins, Brook Trahan, Richard "Butch" Trahan and her godchild, Kendall Camel.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Doctors and staff of the Cardiovascular Institute of the South, the Emergency Room and 6th Floor staff of Southwest

