

***LA PAROLE***  
**Newsletter of the Acadian Museum**  
**By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin**  
**Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation, Inc.**  
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[www.acadianmuseum.com](http://www.acadianmuseum.com)

June 30, 2017

- You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to my secretary Darylin at: [darylinb@plddo.com](mailto:darylinb@plddo.com). If you no longer want to receive future issues, please advise at the email noted above.
- The Living Legends program is usually held at 4:00 PM at the Museum Café located at 102 E. Edwards St. in Erath. If you wish to nominate an individual into the Order of Living Legends, please send your request either by U.S. Mail to Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597 or by email to [perrin@plddo.com](mailto:perrin@plddo.com) along with the contact information for the nominee (email, mailing address and phone number).

**Erath Honors DL Menard on 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of “*The Back Door*”**

July 2017 marks an important date in the life of Cajun Music Legend DL Menard, and his hometown of Erath is planning a celebration. Fifty-five years ago this July, Menard released his biggest hit, “*The Back Door*” (“*La Porte En Arrière*”). The Erath 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration is having a “Tribute to DL Menard” to celebrate the life of its favorite son and his famous song, “*The Back Door*.” The tribute will be held on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM on the festival bandstand in downtown Erath. The celebration is open to the public. All of Menard’s fans are urged to attend this worthy event.



The tribute will feature the honoree performing with the *Jambalaya Cajun Band*. Several of Menard’s family members will join him on stage to perform many of his well-known hits. This will be the first time the Menards perform together. Joining him on

stage will be three of his children: Larry and Dick Menard and Rebecca Menard Moreland, and six of his grandchildren: Nelda Menard Pontiff, Brandon, Joshua, Jeremy, Josiah, and Nathan Menard. In addition to the music, Erath 4<sup>th</sup> of July Association President Robert B. Vincent, Acadian Museum founder Warren Perrin, Erath Mayor John E. LeBlanc, *Jambalaya's* Terry Huval, and Lafayette artist Tony Bernard will each make a special presentation to Menard.

The Acadian Museum of Erath will unveil a new, expanded exhibit on DL Menard as part of the celebration. The exhibit, entitled "Revisiting the Life of DL Menard, The Cajun Hank Williams," will include various photos and mementos from Menard's storied life. The exhibit will be unveiled to the public at 5:30 PM and the museum will remain open until the tribute begins.

In 1962, Menard was working at a gas station one block away from the Erath 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration fairgrounds. He had a notebook in his pocket and would write a few lines to a song in between pumping gas and fixing flat tires. Menard and the *Louisiana Aces* recorded "*The Back Door*" in July 1962, and it became an instant hit. Its popularity has endured, and it has sold over a half million copies. The song is the most played and most recorded Cajun music song of all time, according to Cajun folklorist Dr. Barry Ancelet. When *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked the 100 Greatest Country Songs of All Time in 2014, "*The Back Door*" made the list at number 72.

For a complete schedule of festival events, please visit [www.erath4.com](http://www.erath4.com).

- *Acadie Then and Now* was named the 2015 winner of the prestigious *Prix France-Acadie*. In Canada, the books in French or English editions may be ordered from Jacques Ouellet of *La Grande Marée* at email: [jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca), or on the web at [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca). In the U. S., call (337) 233-5832, or email [perrin@plddo.com](mailto:perrin@plddo.com)



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- John François, a bi-lingual writer who grew up in *L'Ance Chaoui*, has published a booklet of five Cajun French short stories. These stories had originally been published in *Feu Follet*, an anthology of French stories and articles published by the Center for Louisiana Studies at ULL. These endearing, comical short stories, called *Les Quatre Saisons de Danté Hébert*, are set in the small community of *L'Ance Chaoui* in Acadia Parish near bayou Mallet. The stories revolve around two Cajun farmers, Danté Hébert and Valsin Boudreaux. They are antagonists and their actions center around Danté's wife, Émilie, who had dated Valsin in her youth. François can be reached at [jfrancois1@earthlink.net](mailto:jfrancois1@earthlink.net) or by phone at (337) 237-6749.
  - Frank "Beau" Summers will present a Gulf South History and Humanities Conference paper again this year. Both papers are excerpted from Summers' work written for a 1993 M.A. at LSU focused on Louisiana Acadian identity. The analysis explores racial and ethnic politics in the 30's focusing on the killing of Governor Long, the racial slur against Judge Pavy (political ally of Dudley Leblanc), daughter Yvonne Pavy's role as an Evangeline Girl and her marriage to Dr. Weiss - Long's killer.
  - *CODOFIL, Rive Ouate, Trente-huitième Anniversaire*, will hold a Cajun Reunion celebrating the Fest of the Assumption on August 13, 2017, at The Four Columns, 3711 West Bank Expressway, Harvey, LA. For tickets and information, call Joseph "Floyd" Boudreaux, at (504) 888-1232, Joy Barreca (504) 283-5397 or Jeanette Pertuit (504) 341-1265.
  - Charles Larroque invites you to see the latest edition of Louisiana Cultural Vistas for an article on CODOFIL penned by yours truly. CODOFIL now has an opportunity to

contribute regularly to this prestigious magazine. [http://www.knowlouisiana.org/current-issue?utm\\_source=Copy+of+Summer+2017+issue&utm\\_campaign=summer+17&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.knowlouisiana.org/current-issue?utm_source=Copy+of+Summer+2017+issue&utm_campaign=summer+17&utm_medium=email)

- The American Friends of Blérancourt under the auspices of the Hon. Christophe Lemoine, Consul General of France in Los Angeles, in commemoration of the Centennial of the US entry into WWI, American Women Rebuilding France, 1917-1924, will have an Anne Morgan Photo Exhibition on July 15, 2017. For more information: [blerancourt@rcn.com](mailto:blerancourt@rcn.com)
- On the occasion of the 2019 *Congrès mondial acadien*, there will be an international gathering of the Arsenaults-Arseneaus-Arseneaults-Arceneaux. It will be held in Prince Edward Island's Evangeline Region on Saturday and Sunday, August 17 and 18. An organizing committee is already at work so as to make sure that this major gathering will be most interesting and memorable! We invite you to mark down those dates right now! A preliminary program will be available in early 2018. If you are on Facebook, you are invited to become a member of the group Rencontre des Arsenault - 2019 - Arsenault Reunion. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1859862934336902/>
- "A Sojourn Forgotten - The Acadians of Maryland" was presented by Martin Guidry. The presentation at the Goodwood Library in Baton Rouge was on June 21<sup>st</sup>. It began with a brief history of the Acadians, why they were deported and where they went. After this brief introduction it will focus on the Acadians sent to Maryland - their arrival and "reception" in Maryland, where they were dispersed, their lives in Maryland as well as the events in North America at the time that affected the lives of the Maryland Acadians. Finally the presentation will conclude with the four convoys of Maryland Acadians arriving in Louisiana in 1766, 1767, 1768 and 1769 and where they settled in LA. About 1/4 of the Acadians that came to Louisiana came through Maryland. Martin will present the talk in 1750s period dress as an Acadian.

- Fr. Glenn Meaux, a native of Abbeville, Louisiana, who has a mission in Haiti, sends to us a photo of an interesting historical marker in Savannah, Georgia. "Haitians, freed former slaves, came to America and fought in the Revolutionary War against the British. These Haitian soldiers were called *chasseurs* (hunters), and so, to some extent, we owe our freedom to the brave soldiers from Haiti." Around this time, a charismatic Haitian leader named



Toussaint Louverture (1743-1803) rose up and was often called the 'Black Napoleon' which angered Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte of France. Louverture was the leader of the Haitian Independence movement. He emancipated the slaves and negotiated for the French colony of Saint-Domingue (later Haiti), to be governed, briefly, by black former slaves as a French protectorate."

- Halifax's Acadian Expulsion monument is removed after it starts sinking – the monument for victims of the Acadian Expulsion has been taken off the Halifax waterfront after it began sinking. "We removed it and put it into temporary storage because the monument had actually begun to sink. It was beginning to become a bit of a hazard," Peter Bigelow, director of planning for the Waterfront Development Corp., told CBC's Information Morning. The monument faced Georges Island, where many Acadians were held in the 1750s as the British government forced about 10,000 people to leave the province. Plaques on it record the history of the expulsion. The monument sat atop a concrete pad; the pad was sinking. "It was only a few inches, but it was a trip hazard," Bigelow said. The development corporation is trying to figure out why it started sinking on the in-filled area of the shore. "The waterfront is pretty solid. I don't think people have to worry," he said. In 204, I had the honor of helping with the unveiling of the monument.
- Canada will be represented by an Acadian Peninsula woman at a major pageant in the United States next month. 19 year old Jessica Thibodeau will compete against approximately 40 other contestants from Canada and the US at the Miss America Collegiate pageant in Arkansas on July 1st. The Brantville woman won her ticket to the competition at the Canadian Championships last August in Toronto.
- More than a dozen Acadian artists took over the stage at the *FrancoFolies* festival in Montreal on Wednesday night, including Rosaireville's Lisa LeBlanc, who had the entire

crowd singing along with her. *La Soirée Acadie Rock* was the biggest showcase of Acadian talent ever held in Quebec, according to Music NB executive director Jean Surette, who described the concert as "epic."

- We received this email from Phil Comeau: "A new article on Cinéma Acadien in Encyclopédie Canadienne (Historica Canada) refers to Acadie.... See first of 3 suggested readings, at end of article. And you know what's great!?! ... This article is 95% inspired by my article CINÉMA ACADIEN in our book [*Acadie, Then and Now*], so I am quite happy. See article here: <http://encyclopediecanadienne.ca/fr/article/cinema-acadien/>
- A new Acadian monument will go up in the old Acadian settlement of Chipoudie (Riverside-Albert, New Brunswick), south of Moncton facing the Petcoudiac River. This was the last Acadian "hometown" of Zachary Richard's ancestors—and of many other Cajuns—before they went to a string of refugee camps and prisons. <http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1040413/projet-monument-acadien-bien-accueilli-riverside-albert-nouveau-brunswick>.
- This article appeared on INDY Week: "A Former Harlem Globetrotter Settles in North Carolina to Open a Louisiana Food Truck." By the time one o'clock rolls around on a Wednesday afternoon in Cary, Anthony Greenup is close to locking up his food truck, Baton Rouge Cuisine. The white, minimally decorated truck sits in the parking lot of a group of office buildings much like those found in RTP. Inside, Greenup stands tall, his head barely clearing the seven-foot-high ceiling, as he takes the last orders from the window.
- We received this email from Dr. Thomas Cauvin: "I am trying to get in touch with Pierre Toussaint. He is French, spent some time in Louisiana, did a documentary on the Cadiens in the 1970s (that some of you saw on YouTube a few days ago), and has organized some Louisiana music festivals in France. Could anyone help me find him?" Dr. Thomas Cauvin (337) 482-5417; [txc3865@louisiana.edu](mailto:txc3865@louisiana.edu).
- Cajun music legend and Living Legend Belton Richard has died. Richard, who was born in 1939, had been recently hospitalized with pneumonia. Richard's rich baritone voice, accordion mastery, country-flavored arrangements and romantic, French lyrics brought him to Cajun music stardom in the 1960s, '70s and beyond. In her book, *Cajun Music: A Reflection of a People*, author Ann Savoy wrote: "Belton Richard is the most widely

imitated singer and musician in southwest Louisiana today. Not only has his vocal style set the new standard for Cajun singers, but his songs are played at every dance. Belton Richard's poetry looks at life with a tough romanticism that appeals to the earthy Cajuns."

- Next year, Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys celebrate their 30th anniversary. A master Cajun accordionist and Grammy winner, Riley has become a standard by which other players are judged. Riley said much of that mastery was influenced by Clifton Chenier, the late King of Zydeco. "(Fiddler) David Greely turned me on to Clifton not long after we first met," said Riley. "His music just moved me deeply, like the Balfa Brothers music. "He was just the real deal. He was a great accordionist and had so much soul. He did it in such a simple, pure way. It just hit home for me and I've loved him ever since. "I've tried to incorporate some of his songs and styles on our records, and in our live performances as well. To this day, for a lot of people, he represents the pinnacle of zydeco music."
- *T'Monde's* next playlist features three remarkably accomplished young musicians from the band T'Monde. With a combined 10 Grammy nominations between members Drew Simon, Megan Brown, and Kelli Jones, *T'Monde* brings influences ranging from early Country music to ancient French and Creole ballads to present day Cajun music. We asked them to compile a playlist of Louisiana artists and songs that inspired them for our next installment of our playlist series. For more information, [jesse@lafayettetravel.com](mailto:jesse@lafayettetravel.com).
- The Acadian Memorial is now reopened after flood damage. The curator Elaine Clement is helping to host a big day for July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- We received this email from Shane Bernard: "A professor acquaintance of mine at Texas A&M is looking for a tombstone (any tombstone) engraved in French for a Louisiana soldier who died in 1918 during World War I. I have looked and looked on the Net (including on Findagrave.com) without success. Do you know of any such tombstones? (I don't think the professor would be interested in a Louisiana soldier buried in France with a tombstone prepared in French; he wants to find such a grave in Louisiana.)."
- Hilary Doda of Dalhousie University is doing her Ph.D. on pre-deportation Acadian dress and textiles. The project explores a number of related topics, including when and how a distinctive "Acadian style" of weaving and clothing came in to use, what influences came together to create it, and how Acadians used textiles as a means of signaling community

and identity. Anyone with information on existing pre-1770 artifacts and collections is encouraged to contact her at [hdoda@dal.ca](mailto:hdoda@dal.ca).

- Nova Scotia's new lieutenant-governor took office Wednesday, the province's first Acadian to represent the Crown centuries after the Expulsion. Arthur LeBlanc, sworn in as the 33rd lieutenant-governor at Province House, said the deportation of his ancestors is a dark period in Nova Scotia's history but the Acadians are a resilient people.
- The Acadian flag flew high in Fredericton on Wednesday as young athletes arrived from across the Atlantic provinces for this year's *Jeux de L'Acadie*, gearing up for an active weekend and a chance to meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. This is the first time the games, which celebrate youth in sport and francophone culture, have been held in Fredericton since 2000.
- Erin Segura leads a yoga class in French at Vermilionville. To view the article that appeared on the Daily Advertiser's website, visit:  
<http://www.theadvertiser.com/videos/entertainment/2017/06/28/yoga-en-francais/103276902/>
- This five year investment will enable the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse* to raise awareness and support the needs of the Acadian and Francophone community in Nova Scotia. Darren Fisher, Member of Parliament (Dartmouth–Cole Harbour), on behalf of the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, today announced a contribution of \$1,842,500 over five years to the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse* (FANE) under the Development of Official Language Communities component of the Official Languages Funding Programs. He was joined by Darrell Samson, Member of Parliament (Sackville–Preston–Chezzetcook), and Colin Fraser, Member of Parliament (West Nova). This funding will enable FANE to coordinate its 28 members and support them in their efforts and to raise awareness among governments and organizations of the needs of the province's Acadian and Francophone community. Some of the initiatives made possible through this funding include cultural tourism and the *Rendez-vous de la francophonie* in Nova Scotia's Acadian community.