

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

May 2022

CONTENTS	Page
Museum News	2
Louisiana/Cajun News	6
French/Acadian News	9
Lagniappe	12

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

If you know anyone who'd like to get this newsletter, send their name and email address to darylinb@plddo.com.

HELP PROMOTE THE CULTURE

Your tax-deductible contributions¹ can help fund these important projects:

- Finding the [lost location](#) of our first Acadian settlement.
- Transcribing and digitizing tapes of rare and valuable interviews.
- Developing videos and podcasts for distribution online.
- Promoting the French language and "immersion" programs.
- Expanding and categorizing our holdings of cultural treasures.

You can donate¹ [online](#) or by sending a check to The Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

UNSUBSCRIBE

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send your request to darylinb@plddo.com.

¹ The Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

² Dial 337 456-7729 during weekday business hours. On Saturday or if no one answers, dial 337-501-3049.

URGENT REQUEST: French Language in Schools Threatened by New Bill in Louisiana Legislature

[Please click here right away](#) to send a message to the legislature, opposing this misguided bill which will wreak havoc and **seriously impair the state's ability to teach French in Louisiana schools.**

The bill would undo much of the good work accomplished over the last 60 years to save our Francophone heritage and culture. More from the Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL):

Louisiana Senate Bill 191 would change the curriculum requirements which grant eligibility for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to allow computer coding to replace world language courses. This bill recently passed through the House Education Committee and is expected to be on the House floor for final passage on Wednesday, May 11th.

Through the JNCL-NCLIS Legislative Action Center, you can send a pre-written, editable message with one click to urge your representatives to oppose this legislation. Please also share this alert with fellow Louisiana teachers, administrators, and community members who understand the value of world language education for all students.

For over 40 years, JNCL-NCLIS has been the national voice for language education policy. You can [support the next 40 years of language advocacy](#) by making a donation today.

Visit Us, "Like" Us on Facebook, or Shop in Our Store!

The Acadian Museum is open Tue-Fri 1-4 pm and Sat 10-noon. But you can also visit us online using the links below. For group tours, dial 337 456-7729.²

Website: www.acadianmuseum.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AcadianMuseum

Museum Store: www.acadianmuseum.com/boutique.html

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533 | (337) 233-5832 or (337) 456-7729 | acadianmuseum.com

MUSEUM NEWS

Presentation at The National WWII Museum

Thanks to everyone for their participation in, or planning of, the *Cajun-Acadian WWII Commemoration: A Salute to French Speaking Veterans*. The event at The National WWII Museum on April 27th was very well attended and received many accolades. It was a pleasure working with everyone. With the exceptional work of Jason Theriot Ph.D., we will continue to interview the few still-living U.S. veterans who served as French translators in Europe during WWII and make their stories known to the world. You can support the program through your [donations to the museum](#), which will help us continue this important historical effort.

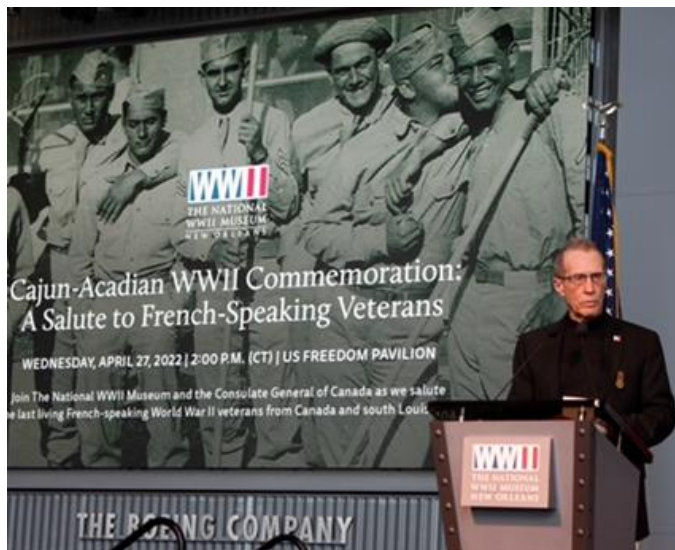


Photo by Frank Arnemann

Warren Perrin (above) is shown providing historical perspective on the Acadian/Cajun connection to WWII.



Jason Theriot, Ph.D., is shown interviewing Norris Morvant at the National WWII Museum on the April 27th event "Cajun-Acadian WWII Commemoration: A Salute to French-Speaking Veterans."

Book Talks/Special Events

We are accepting invitations to give presentations. Here are some scheduled talks:

- June 2, meeting of the French government's *la société Américaine de l'Ordre National du Merite*, New York
- June 9, Louisiana State Bar Convention, Destin, Florida
- July 6, 10 am, Acadian Memorial Foundation Board Genealogy Workshop at the St. Martin Parish Library, St. Martinville, La.
- July 8, 1:00 p.m. We are on out to Lunch Acadiana (radio show). Listen on KRVS 88.7 FM or krvs.org.
- July 21, 12 noon, Hancock Historical Society, 198 Cue St., Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

- October 1, *Great Acadian Awakening – Grand Reveil Acadien [GRA2022]*, Abbeville, Louisiana.

Presentations at the University of Texas

On April 11, Mary and I made two presentations at University of Texas, Austin. The first was about my new book, [The University of Louisiana's National Championship Weightlifting Teams](#).



Shown following a presentation to students at the university are (L-R) myself, Dr. Jan Todd, director of the Stark Center at UT Texas, and Dr. John Fair, who introduced me.

Later that day, I gave another presentation to the UT alumni group on the Queen's Royal Proclamation regarding the Acadian deportations in the late 1700s, which I helped arrange.



Presenting a copy of the Queen's Royal Proclamation to UT program director Margaret DuMont.

Presentation at the Louisiana State Capitol Museum

On April 23, we gave another book talk at the Louisiana State Capitol Museum in Baton Rouge, discussing my new [weightlifting book](#).



Following the Perrin's presentation at the Louisiana State Capitol Museum in Baton Rouge, shown below are (L-R) Walter Imahara, Mary Perrin, Bob Schilling and Warren Perrin.

The Ragin'13: A Story of Friendship and Excellence

This appeared in the *Natchitoches Parish Journal* on May 2, 2022:

The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum hosted a talk by Warren Perrin, a lawyer, law professor and author who spoke of his latest work *The University of Louisiana's National Championship Weightlifting Teams: A Companion Book to the Documentary The Ragin' 13*, Saturday, April 30.

The book details an extraordinary group of young men, the 13 members of the [USL, now ULL] weightlifting team. In the years between 1957 and 1972, the team won a phenomenal eight national championships. Those accomplishments are all the more noteworthy in that the team never had a coach during that period.

The members of the team were an eclectic group. One of the slides in Mr. Perrin's presentation was titled "Reflections on a Jewish, Asian and Cajun Friendship". One of Perrin's team mates was Walter Imahara, the first student of Asian descent to attend the university. As a four-year-old, he was deported to a camp in Arkansas during WW II. Imahara came to USL after a brief tenure at LSU where he faced prejudice and derision based on his race. Another team mate was David Berger, a Jew who was chosen for the 1972 Israeli Olympic team. He was killed by Black September terrorists after he and another Israeli rushed the attackers. Their bravery enabled several athletes to escape. Perrin came from a Cajun family that had felt the sting of prejudice from a society that looked down upon their culture and discouraged speaking French. The young men used adversity as fuel and excelled as champions.

You can view [the entire article here](#).



Some of the attendees at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame (L-R) :Jeffrey Noel, Ethan Hudson, Taylor Eubanks, Warren Perrin, Coach John Daugherty, Natalie Hyde, Dinah Ellzey (Photo courtesy of Natchitoches Parish Journal.)

75th Anniversary of American Legion

On April 9, 2022, the Acadian Museum hosted the celebration for the 75th anniversary of the Erath Derouen-Moss Post 279 American Legion. Thanks to all who came and participated!

Boni Suire, Commander of American Legion Post 279, speaks at the event.



Ray Berthelot, director of Historic Sites for Louisiana State Parks, represented Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser at the American Legion event.

Canadian-Acadian Spinning Wheel Exhibit

The Brister family of Ft. Worth, TX is donating an incredible Canadian-Acadian antique spinning wheel from Nova Scotia (shown at right). The family will be bringing it to the Acadian Museum on the afternoon of May 19th. Everyone is invited to come, meet, and thank the Brister family for their special donation to our collection.

Below is Mark Brister's description explaining how the spinning wheel was acquired.

An Acadian Spinning Wheel's Journey

Sixty years ago, our family of three traveled to Nova Scotia early in the summer of 1962. My late father, C. W. Brister had accepted a post-doctoral year of study at Princeton. We used the days prior to school starting as an opportunity to vacation in Nova Scotia, Canada. I was barely ten years old.

The Louisiana and Nova Scotia historical Acadian connections had long touched and interested my parents. Visiting Nova Scotia was the trip of a lifetime for us. My father's family of origin had settled in Rapides Parish, and my mom, Gloria Nugent Brister's family, in Grant Parish. I was born in New Orleans.

While enjoying the scenic drive on a simple road near Cheticamp, Nova Scotia, my mother (now age 96 with dementia issues) spotted an antique spinning wheel on the front porch of a farmhouse just off the road. She persuaded my father to turn around, insisting we visit the residents and get a closer look at that old spinning wheel. The farmer's wife welcomed us, and my mom somehow convinced the lady to part with it. Mom bought the spinning wheel, and it then rode as my companion in the back seat of our 1960 Chevy Belaire the rest of the trip back to New Jersey, and after the spring semester concluded, it came with us down south. Mom displayed it all these decades and memorialized its history to every house guest. Her

move to assisted living forced its relocation into climate-controlled storage in Ft. Worth, TX, awaiting a new home. It is still in splendid condition.

Mom had hoped for decades that the spinning wheel would find a permanent home in an Acadian Museum worthy of its display. The time has come to fulfill her wishes. I researched, discovered, and contacted the Cheticamp Culture Center in August, 2021. We shared a delightful e-mail correspondence and they discussed receiving the spinning wheel as our gift, but neither we nor they were able to afford to have the spinning wheel shipped back to Canada. After more Internet research we are so pleased to have discovered the Acadian Museum of Louisiana. Due to the generous reception of Mary and Warren A. Perrin they now will house this Acadian antique spinning wheel in their facility for others to enjoy for years to come. Journey complete!



Seeking Help With Hosting Three Canadians

From the 17th through 20th of May we will be hosting three women who have a popular band in New Brunswick, Canada ... Katrine Noël, Julie Aubé and Viviane Roy, from *Les hay babies*... they sing a type of upbeat Acadian folk music ...I will invite them to come perform a few songs at the museum...they will be staying at our farm and writing music for their next CD so they will be visiting at the museum....and looking for interesting Cajun places, food and people—to write about.

Museum Visitors



On April 6, Leslie Rae Bradford (left), a native of Jena now living in Lafayette, and Graham Clark, from Burlington, Vermont, visited the Acadian Museum. Last year, they met while camping on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

Developing Louisiana's Ties to the French-Speaking World

This is an excerpt from the Lt. Governor's Newsletter - April, 2022

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) welcomed Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF), as she made her first official visit to Louisiana this month.



Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser received International Organization of La Francophonie Secretary General Louise Mushikiwabo during her first visit to Louisiana.

The IOF is a global organization that brings together 88 states and governments with a shared interest in the French language and international cooperation in the fields of culture, education, commerce, and politics. In 2018, the OIF accepted Louisiana as an observing member to the organization, signifying international recognition of Louisiana francophones and significant

historical, cultural, and educational connections to the language.

During her visit, Secretary-General Mushikiwabo was received by Governor John Bel Edwards and met with elected officials and cultural representatives in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette to discuss ongoing efforts to maintain and develop Louisiana's linguistic diversity and its ties to the French-speaking world.

History Harvest at the State Archives

June 3-4, 2022

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Louisiana State Archives first History Harvest. The Old State Capitol will be hosting *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America* in the fall, and they your help!

They are looking for your stories and memorabilia from:

- America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976
- Your experience in campaigning for a candidate, attending a national convention or running for office
- Your memory of the first time you voted. Do you still have your first Voter Registration Card?
- Your experience with registering to vote. Did the Voting Rights Act change your life?
- Participation in a recall, protest march or sit in
- The process of becoming an American citizen
- The experience of Native Americans to secure voting rights
- Experience lobbying for the rights of people with disabilities
 - How teaching Civics and American History has changed over the decades.

To learn more, brooke.goodrich@sos.la.gov

Point-aux-Chenes French Immersion School Proposal Passes Through State House Legislature

This article appeared on WWNO - New Orleans Public Radio:



On the same day that Louisiana's House lawmakers unanimously passed an education bill to create the Ecole Pointe-au-Chien French immersion school, the Terrebonne Parish School Board voted against approving that school's charter application put forth by Pointe-au-Chien Indian tribe members and school parents.

The bill passed, and the charter school application failed, on Tuesday, but the dream to create a culturally-reflective French immersion school could still become a reality as the proposal heads to a Senate vote. The bill proposes to establish École Pointe-au-Chien, a public French immersion school for students in pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. The school will be located in Terrebonne Parish and independent of the control of the state superintendent of education and of all local and state education boards, except its board of directors.

To read the article, click [here](#).

National History Day Documentary by Former Louisiana Student

Jack Troutman-Ritchey has produced a prize-winning documentary video on the Grand Dérangement for the National History Day competition. He came in first place at the district-wide competition in Washington DC, and now he is headed to nationals. Over 500,000 students compete nationally. The District of Columbia competition was judged by PhD historians from the National Archives. See his documentary here at <https://youtu.be/cCFIRdCuAiA>.



Shown at the museum are (L-R): Mag Ritchey, a retired attorney from Lafayette; Jack Troutman-Ritchey, a 7th grader at Hardy Middle School in Washington; Dr. John Troutman, curator at the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and Dr. Sara Ritchey, professor of medieval history at the University of Tennessee.

Jack did the research, wrote both text and original music, narrates and did all production. His primary and secondary source research was extensive. He credits Carl Brasseaux's books for informative historical background. He visited the

Acadian Museum in Erath during his winter break and obtained much useful information from Ron Bodin. Originally from Lafayette, Jack moved to Washington DC at age 8 but retains his Cajun roots. He is learning to play Cajun fiddle and loves Cajun food.

His YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/lowery66>, showcases his original music and videos. Jack competes in the Middle School division and is now in 7th grade at Hardy Middle School in DC.

Filmmaker's *Evangeline* Project Among Recipients of This Year's ArtSpark Grant

This article by Stephen Marcantel appeared in the *Advocate*:

Many residents in Acadiana grew up hearing the poem of *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*. It is, at its heart, the cultural root of the history of the Acadians and Acadiana.

Jillian Godshall hopes to bring the story of the Nova Scotian exile of lovers *Evangeline Bellefontaine* and *Gabriel Lejeune*, separated on their wedding day during the exile but later reunited side-by-side in their nameless graves, to the silver screen with her documentary, "*Evangeline*."

Godshall is one of nine recipients of the Acadiana Center for the Arts ArtSpark grant. The grant program, created by ACA and Lafayette Economic Development Authority, to promote and financially support local artists with short-term projects in Acadiana.

To read the article, click [here](#).

La Fete du Monde in Raceland Celebrated Cajun Food, Music and Culture

This appeared in *houmatoday* on April 24th:

Here is a photo taken at *La Fete du Monde*, a three-day fair held on April 24, 2022, at the Lafourche Pavilion in Raceland. The fair benefits the Lockport Fire Department and several nonprofits in the town.



To see more photos, click [here](#).

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Acadia National Park Trails Added to National Register of Historic Places

Fans of Acadia National Park in the state of Maine will appreciate this article, which appeared on the [newscentermaine.com](https://www.newscentermaine.com) website:

The trail network at Acadia National Park is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service said ... the listing recognizes 109 trails that cover 117 miles.



A still from the video included with the article.

The park service said the trail system was recognized because of its historic significance and ties to the history of Mount Desert Island, where the park is located.

Kevin Schneider, superintendent of Acadia National Park, said [this] "is a testament to not only the historic significance of these trails, but also the incredible dedication of the National Park Service staff, partners and volunteers who continue to preserve them." The park service worked for several years to nominate the trails to the register. It was approved last week.

The article includes a video with lovely views of the national park, which you can view [here](#).

How P.E.I. Students Can Now Learn About Acadian Culture and History



Linda Lowther, left, and Georges Arsenault show off the book they co-authored about Acadians on Prince Edward Island. (Jessica Doria-Brown/CBC)

This article appeared in *CBC News* on April 20, 2022.

New locally written book details 300 years of Acadian life on Prince Edward Island. Island authors Linda Lowther and Georges Arsenault are celebrating the launch of their book showcasing 300 years of Acadian history, which has become part of Prince Edward Island's French school curriculum.

To read the entire article, click [here](#).

American Society of the French Order of Merit



The American Society of the French Order of Merit (ASFOM) was created in 1996 to help diffuse information to the public as to the meaning and

history of the Order, and of French culture and history in general. The Order seeks to promote appreciation of both French culture in the United States and American culture in France, and to do all to strengthen the traditional friendship that

exists between the people of the United States and France.

As a member of this group, I was advised by Patrick Pagni, president of the group, that at their annual general meeting on June 2nd, 2022, the special guest of honor was Général d'Armée Benoît Puga, Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor, and Chancellor of the National Order of Merit. The choir of the Maison d'Éducation of the Legion of Honor gave a musical performance.

Barbie Honors with Queen Elizabeth II Doll 2022 - 70th Anniversary of the Accession



This article about a Queen Elizabeth Barbie doll appeared on [YouLovelt.com](#):

Barbie honors The Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II in 2022. June 2022 United Kingdom will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952. Meet

Barbie Signature Queen Elisabeth II doll in all her monarchical glory. Queen Elizabeth is the longest-reigning monarch in British history and this doll will depict her not at the moment of her accession to the throne, but at her age, with her hair touched with gray. Queen Alexandra's tiara "Kokoshnik" will adorn the queen's head. And the dress will be decorated with a blue ribbon for celebrations.

The Queen signed the Royal Proclamation on December 9, 2003, acknowledging the deaths and suffering of the Acadians during the Deportation from 1755-1763. Click [here](#) to see more photos of the doll.

Ode to Acadia (My 'Deportation' Experience)



This personal account by Luca Majno appeared on *The Paradise*, a website dedicated to news from around the world. Excerpts and photos from [the article](#) are included (left and below):

When I was researching [the] Acadian

Deportation of 1755, I was at school, French-Acadian Community College, I lived in the French-Acadian city of Caraquet, in NB...

But I had [sworn] to myself, upon visiting Francois Landry's grave just out of town, and also doing an expose on his tomb site and the Deportation for Social studies class, I swore to myself that I would... and read [the deportation] proclamation out loud on the steps of that same Church ...



There were people around, not too many, and when I announced that I was going to

read it in 5 minutes, (because it was 2:55 PM), getting the chills myself, goosebumps up and down my entire body, all I noticed was all of them 'scattering' like cockroaches...

So, I thought, fine, I will read it to myself... which is what I did.

Ducks Unlimited Canada Acquires Critical Salt Marsh Habitat On The Acadian Peninsula

This article appeared on [Yahoo.com](#):

More than 250 acres (101 hectares) of coastal habitat near Village-des-Poirier on New Brunswick's Acadian Peninsula is being conserved by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) thanks to a donation by the estate of Bernard and Corinne Jean and funding from the Government of Canada's National Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund.



Since the 1700s, more than 65 per cent of New Brunswick's salt marshes have been lost to coastal development. This is an alarming statistic: not only are these increasingly rare ecosystems important habitat for wildlife including migratory birds and marine crustaceans like young lobster—they're critical pieces of natural infrastructure in the fight against climate change.

To read the entire article, click [here](#).

LAGNIAPPE

Leroy "Happy Fats" LeBlanc

We received this from Tony Olinger, who is doing research on the singer named Happy Fats:



I am doing research on Leroy "Happy Fats" Leblanc from Rayne. He was born in Vermillion Parish and moved to Rayne at a young age. I am looking for any pictures, stories or information on this Cajun musician. His recording career is well documented but his personal life and career away from music is still a mystery. If you have any information please contact me at kajunlion@yahoo.com. Thank You, Tony Olinger

Acadian Redemption Will Be Used in School Textbooks

I granted permission for an additional five years for a company to continue using the content of my book [Acadian Redemption](#), the biography of the Acadian resistance leader Joseph Beausoleil Broussard and the Queen's Royal Proclamation of 2003, in school books and online materials. We were thanked for our willingness to work with Edgenuity to make their course interesting and engaging for students.

Friend from France Seeking Bakery Job in Louisiana

Our friend Paul Bettinger from Paris, France is seeking a job in Louisiana with a bakery so if you know any possibilities for him you can contact him by email.



Here is his short appeal and a picture of him in the bakehouse.

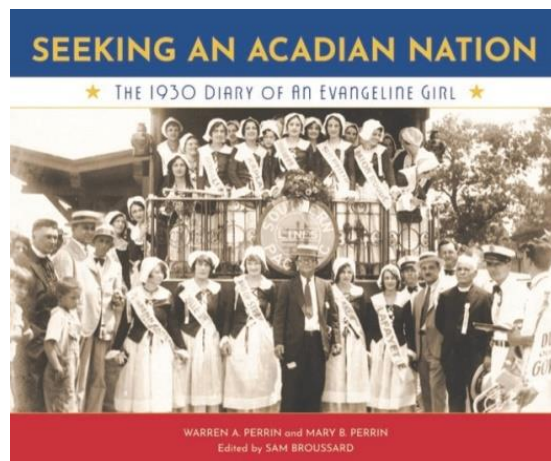
When I started my bakery course in Brittany it was a jump, from a desire to radically change the path I had taken in life, into something that quickly became a passion. When thinking about bread, especially as a French person, you focus on the art of your own country, as if it were alone. Silly me. I had the chance to meet a variety of interesting people, passionate, sometimes in their own way, and always deeply knowledgeable. And then it hit me. It is only the beginning. The world is filled with subtle techniques, vast culture and incredible arts. I want to learn, know more and learn from the others.

One destination I've always wanted to come back to for a decade now, is *Louisiane*. The idea is driving me to acquire what makes Louisiana people, Cajun especially, a history that is rooted with my own history. Language, music, and of course, flour and water; the bread that French people brought to the Americas, and carried along for centuries, until now, perfecting it, and I hope, could teach to me. Much is ahead of me, *et je le sais*, Cajun is calling to me. Paul.

Pierre Auger To Visit Louisiana

Our friend from Houma Marlene Breaux Toups sent to us some interesting news about a student Pierre Auger, the son of friends from Loudun, France, coming to visit Louisiana for the month of July. His visit is in conjunction with the Thibodaux-Loudun Twinning group. He will be visiting the Acadian Museum and other cultural and historical venues in Louisiana.

Visit the Boutique / Get Cool Stuff !



Another way to support the museum is by visiting our [online boutique](#) and purchasing one of our books or other souvenirs. Our latest book, [Seeking an Acadian Nation](#), traces the movement toward Acadian reunification across the decades. Other titles and available souvenirs include:

- [Acadie Then and Now: A People's History](#) with articles by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world.
- [Acadian Redemption](#) - *From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation* by Warren Perrin.
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet.
- *The University of Louisiana's National Championship Weightlifting Teams*
- Historical "picture books" on Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes.
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

Acadian Museum YouTube Channel Coming Sooner Than You Think!



D.L. Menard at Lake Peigneur

About a year ago, we were struck with the brilliant idea to have an Acadian Museum TV channel on YouTube. Except we didn't realize how hard that would be.

Since the 1990s, the museum has had a treasure trove of 161 VHS tapes documenting our history (and the area's). Except nobody uses VHS anymore and you would all have to come over to our house to watch them anyway.

Not a bad idea, but living room space is limited, plus our old VHS player died about 10 years ago. So last summer, we gave the entire set to Chris Segura at the Center for Louisiana Studies and ([thanks to your donations](#)) paid them *beaucoup d'argent* to convert all the VHS tapes to digital format (MP4).

Last February, after many months of toil, Chris handed back all that video on a sleek new pair of digital drives, small enough to carry in your hand. Then came all the hard work of reviewing what we've got.

Fortunately, our dear friend and museum volunteer Kermit Bouillion—who created many of the original videos—stepped forward and has been helping to upload all of it to YouTube. So far, we have over 40 videos online—less than half of what we plan, but it's a start! Now we are moving ahead and hope to have a complete TV channel for you in a couple of months. Meanwhile, here's a tiny sampling featuring music and interviews from the Giant Omelet Festival in 1996.



Here's how you can help and *have fun* at the same time! Go to www.youtube.com, search for "Cajun," watch a lot of the videos, and send us links to the absolute best ones you can find (email rybernard@gmail.com). Once we have a critical mass of these videos ready for viewing, we will launch the channel. Stay tuned...