



Dedication of Marker to Father St. Cosme on River Road, 5 miles below Donaldsonville

POINT HOUMAS SITE OF MARKER

# Dedication

Dedication ceremonies for a marker at the site of the slaying of an early American missionary were held at Point Houmas on the Mississippi River levee below Donaldsonville last Sunday. The marker stands today on the West Bank at the Cofield Plantation at the site where more than 200 years ago Father Jean Francois Buisson de St. Cosme, was killed by Indians.

The Honorable J. G. Bisson Canadian consul general at New Orleans, was an honored guest. He brought greetings from Canada, the birthplace of Fr. Buisson, and claimed common ancestry with this martyred priest, saying that the family originated in France, in the village of St. Cosme.

The cultural ties between France and Louisiana forged by this first native born priest, were stressed, in a few remarks by the Honorable James Bezou, president

of L'Athenee Louisianais of New Orleans.

Greetings from the city of Donaldsonville were extended by Mr. Conrad Goette, principal of Donaldsonville High School, who urged the audience never to forget the high ideals of such a one as Fr. Buisson, although "the world will little note nor long remember what we say here today."

The high note of the afternoon's exercises was the informal but most informative talk of Mr. Sidney Marchand, the guest speaker, who traced the events of that year 1706 when the martyrdom took place. Spanning the centuries his talk highlighted the founding of Donaldsonville 100 years later in 1806, and its subsequent claim to fame.

Before a gathering of some 100 people, Mr. Charles E. Weimer, of

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DEDICATION . . . .

St. James, opened the ceremonies by presenting the R. Rev. Mons. Edwin J. Gabler, pastor of the Ascension Catholic Church, who gave the invocation, appropriate to the occasion.

After a selection by the Donaldsonville High School Band and the presentation of special guests, the marker was presented by Miss Annie Lou Murphy, of the Department of Commerce and Industry, State of Louisiana, to Mrs. Benjamin B. Mathews regent of the New Orleans Chapter, DAR. Assisted by the Canadian consul general, Mrs. Mathews unveiled the marker, and in turn presented it to Ascension Parish. It was accepted by Mr. Pegram Mire, parish assessor.

Coffee was served to out-of-town guests in the K. C. Hall, Vacherie, by a group of hostesses from St. James Parish: Mrs. Arthur Bourg, Mrs. Arthur Schexnayder, Mrs. Bessie Schexnayder, Mrs. Edgar Schexnayder, Mrs. Charles Weimer and Mrs. James Wood. They were assisted by five tea girls from St. James High School: Sandra, Gale and Susie Schexnayder, and Marilyn Hood. Mr. Ernest Beemel, Sr., was in charge of arrangements at the Hall.

Production To Be

## Place Marker At Martyr's Death Site

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(Special to The States-Item)

DONALDSONVILLE—A historical marker stands today six miles south of here where the first American-born missionary martyr was killed by Indians more than 200 years ago.

The marker salutes Father Jean Francois Busson, de St. Cosme, Catholic priest who was killed in 1706 at Point Houmas on the Mississippi river. A hundred years later Donaldsonville was founded.

J. G. Bisson, Canadian consul-general at New Orleans, told a crowd at dedication ceremonies yesterday that the priest and he were of the same family. He said he was in the 11th generation of

the family, which originated in St. Cosme, France.

The marker dedication was sponsored by the New Orleans chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Master of ceremonies was Charles Weimer, principal of St. James High school.

Speakers included Sidney A. Marchad Sr., former mayor of Donaldsonville and Miss Annie Lou Murphy of the state department of commerce and industry who presented the marker to Mrs. Benjamin B. Mathews, regent of the New Orleans DAR chapter. Mrs. Mathews unveiled the marker and presented it to Pegram

Mire, Ascension parish assessor.

Mrs. Homer C. Thomason, chairman of historical markers for the DAR chapter presented DAR guests, including Mrs. R. J. Holzer, first vice regent; Mrs. Robert Kuhn of New Orleans, Mrs. S. R. Campbell of New Orleans and Mrs. James Bezou of New Orleans, president of La L'Athene Louisianais.