Ambrose Thibodeaux

Ambrose learned to play the accordion at age 15 and became active by age 17 playing at community dances. When he married at age 21 he set aside his accordion and devoted himself to providing for his family. He was an active farmer, raised cattle and operated a school bus for the Louisiana Public Schools for 28 years.

In 1960 during the ongoing revival of Cajun French music he decided to resume playing in the old traditional style that he was fully acquainted with. He contributed much time organizing a group of musicians who played every Saturday morning on the Revon Reed Radio Show over KEUN Radio out of Eunice, Louisiana for five years. He received a "Loving Cup" award for this effort and he remained an active participant in activities related to the show until 1983.

Beginning in 1965 he performed at numerous festivals held in different cities throughout the Eastern United States that were sponsored by local, state and national organizations interested in the preservation of a variety of folk music. It is believed he was the first to introduce CFM in Jacksonville, Florida when he performed on a local TV show.

At the Rice Festival held in Crowley, Louisiana in 1966 he won 1st place playing accordion solo and 1st place group (accordion, guitar & harmonica). He repeated the 1st place accordion solo in 1967 and 1978 and 1979 served on the panel of judges for music competition.

From 1966 to 1979 he recorded five LP albums of Cajun French music, four for La Louisianne Records and one for Bee Records Productions. In 1972 his recording of *"Two Step de Platin"* became the theme song for the Damian Einstein Radio Show out of Annapolis, Maryland.

In 1979 he journeyed to France to participate in the International Festival held in Ris-Orangis near Paris.

During his lifetime he received several trophies and many mementoes in recognition of his outstanding talent, extensive contributions of time and effort promoting Cajun French music through his many appearances on local and out-of-town television programs.