



Elais "Shute" Badeaux

Born at *Bayou de la Petite Anse*, Iberia Parish, Louisiana, in 1910. Died May 5, 1978.

He is best known for playing the Cajun accordion. In 1950 he formed the Louisiana Aces and actively played until they disbanded in 1971.

His recordings include 45 RPM recordings on Swallow Records: "I Can't Forget You" - 1962, "She Didn't Know I Was Married" - 1963, "Bachelor's Life" - 1963, "*La Porte d'en Arriere*" - 1962, "*Valse de Jolly Roger*" - 1961. On LP's D.L. Menard, "The Back Door" - 1980, "Louisiana Aces" - Rounder Records - 1974. His best recording was "*La Porte d'en Arriere*" with D. L. Menard.

Badeaux and his band frequently traveled to their gigs pulling a heavy steel plate teardrop trailer hand painted with images of "aces" playing cards with "Badeaux and the Louisiana Aces" on the sides. The musicians he worked with were Arconge "Coon" Touchet, John "Big John" Suire, Gussie Breaux, D.L. Menard, Joe Lopez and Edwin Suire.

Badeaux was influenced by the early Cajun recording artists. He recalled learning a New Iberia Polka from Dewey Segura of the Segura Brothers, who recorded the number for Columbia Records in 1929. Dewey Segura was Badeaux's brother-in-law and Dewey helped him learn how to play accordion and violin. He discovered that when he used the treble side of the accordion he was able to play in virtually any key, enabling him to work in both the Cajun and honky-tonk styles. After recording "The Back Door" the Louisiana Aces continued cutting records on Swallow Records and playing local dances before starting to disband in 1967. By 1969 Badeaux was ready to disband and took a full time job as school custodian on Avery Island.

While best known for playing the accordion, Badeaux was also adept at playing the violin, guitar, steel guitar, drums and even a little bit of piano.

Elias Badeaux's remains are interred in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Admiral Doyle Drive, New Iberia, Louisiana.