



Ledel "Blackie" Forestier

Accordion Player and Musician

Mr. Forestier was born in 1928 and lived much of his life in Jennings, Louisiana. He self-identified as Cajun and spoke both French and English.

Mr. Forestier was successful at many professions. At the age of thirteen he worked as a rice farmer, later he became a cutting horse trainer, and finally, he retired as Chief Investigator of the Jefferson Davis District Attorney's Office.

Ledel was an accordion player and a member of Blackie and The Cajun Aces. He learned to play the accordion at home while listening to and watching his oldest brother play. When he was growing up, he also attended the local dance hall where all the Cajun families in his community gathered to play music and dance. As an adult, the whole time he worked, he also played music. He once stated, "It has been with me probably all of my life."

Mr. Forestier and Blackie and the Cajun Aces toured the United States, Canada, and Nova Scotia. Blackie was inducted into the Cajun French Music Association Hall of Fame, the Belizaire's Restaurant Hall of Fame, and Louisiana Cajun Music Hall of Fame. He was included into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists in 1999. Forestier died in 2000.