



Felton LeJeune

James Felton LeJeune, known as Felton among his family and friends, was born on July 11, 1949, the youngest of three sons, to the late Olan LeJeune and the late Lena Thibodeaux LeJeune, in the small farming community of Richard, Louisiana.

Felton first demonstrated his interest in the accordion at the age of eight. He purchased an old accordion from a friend so that he could begin learning to play. Felton's mother would listen to a small radio during the day while he was at school and when Felton came home from school his mother would whistle the Cajun tunes she heard during the day so he could practice playing them. His ability to play increased and Felton's first exposure to public audiences came at an accordion contest in Church Point, Louisiana, where he entered a Cajun Day contest and placed first.

At the age of 15 at Mr. Elton "Bee" Cormier's request he joined the "Church Point Playboys" which was his first regular dancehall booking. He continued playing with the group until 1969 when he enlisted in the United States Army.

In 1972, upon his honorable discharge Felton returned home to form his own group, "The Midnight Playboys" which included his older brother, Herman, on the fiddle. In 1982 the group's name was changed to "Felton LeJeune and the Cajun Cowboys". He continued to perform under that name until the time of his death, July 5, 2011. Felton was well known by many for his soulful, heartfelt playing of traditional Cajun music. His one wish was that the tradition of playing Cajun music would continue to be handed down throughout future generations.

Felton was influenced through the years by Iry LeJuene, Belton Richard, Aldus Roger, Lawrence Walker and Joe Bonsall. His greatest personal influence throughout his career was Mr. Elton “Bee” Cormier. The one thing Mr. Bee always stressed to Felton was that if he was going to play music, he should learn to play the song and sing it the way it was recorded. This is the “Golden Rule” that Felton followed throughout his career.