1989 Citizen of the Year, Mrs. Murphy, continues work in community

Honored last year at the 1990 Church Point Area Chamber of Commerce banquet was Mrs. Jean Murphy, who was named Citizen of the Year for 1989.

Mrs. Murphy is still active in community affairs, always looking for ways to help and promote the community.

She has been instrumental in having the beautiful mural painted by Tony Wimberley on the Daigle Building across from Farmers State Bank and Trust. Funds were provided by Farmers Bank and Jean Murphy’s Church Point Beautification Project. She chaired two Arts and Crafts Shows and held a quilt raffle for this project.

Working with the Church Point Buggy Festival since it first came to be, she is on the Buggy Festival Committee, serves as publicity chairman and as a test event chairman. She is a member of the Acadia-Storm Landry Hospital Medical Foundation, sponsors of the Buggy Festival.

As a member of the Acadia Parish Tourism Commission, Jean serves as a volunteer group of Ladies the Acadian-Storm, Landry Hospital. She is presently serving as chairman for the Church Point Beautification project, on the committee for the Church Point Radio Show.

She will be working with the Cajun French Culture as a committee member; on the committee of Rural Tourism Development in Church Point, served on the committee for the recent Lorraine Day held in Church Point.

At the present time Jean is involved in promoting the area for new doctors to locate in Church Point.

One would think that serving on these committees and heading many committees that there would be no time for anything else.

Jean takes time for her three children and four grandchildren, and up until two years ago her late husband, Winston Murphy, for whom she contributes much of all that she does in the community.

Before Winston’s death he supported his wife all the way. Jean feels that he was letting her prepare for the time when she would be alone and need something to do to keep her busy. Her children are Mrs. Speck (Bridget) Boudreaux, Church Point, Mrs. Michael (Roxane) Bourgeois, Lawtell, Mrs. Troy Lane (Stacy) Elkins, Baton Rouge and her youngest, Jonathon, who is a senior at Church Point High. She also claims another son, Keith Morris of Jeanerette, who is like a son to Jean. She calls herself Keith’s ‘weekday mom’.

Keith has been in the local hospital for the past five years after being injured in a car accident. His mother works and cannot be there but on weekends.

Jean’s grandchildren are Jean Paul Boudreaux, Laci Bourgeois, Michael Bourgeois II and Candace Boudreaux.

There is another ‘love’ in Jean’s life and that is singing. She sings French, gospel, sings for funerals and weddings. At the present time she is taking guitar lessons. Since her husband’s death she has been writing songs which she sings in church. She is a member of the Church Point French Choir. She visits and sings at the Acadia-Storm Landry Guest Home and the Opelousas Nursing Home with a friend, Rod Fuselier. She also sings for birthday parties at the Hospital and during the Christmas holidays sang at Riddle Kare Play School.

Jean has touched the lives of so many people in the community, by her work, her singing and her friendship.

“I am proud of our community and was proud to have been honored at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet the honor of being named 1989 Citizen of the Year was awarded to Mrs. Jean Murphy, shown here accepting the Citizen of the Year Plaque from Chamber President, Steve Barry.”