Parish Will Celebrate 100th Birthday Saturday

By Jo Cart

The Saturday, October 16, 1886 edition of the Rayne Signal, Acadia Parishes first newspaper, had a small article at the lower corner of page 2 that said:

"The Secretary of State, on the 11th, officially promulgated the returns of the special election relative to the formation of the Parish of Acadia, which shows the following results:

For the creation - 2516
Against the creation - 1521
Majority for creation - 995

On the same day, Gov. McEnery issued a proclamation declaring the creation of the new parish."

It was a very small notice (even without a headline of any size) to announce an event that would change the course of history for this area to such a great extent.

That was 100 years ago and this Saturday the Parish, which now boasts 34,962 registered voters will mark the 100th anniversary of that historic day with an all day celebration on the grounds of the present Acadia Parish Court House in Crowley.

A citizens committee from across the Parish hills been working on the details of the celebration for several months and it promises to be a full day of activities with something special for every members of the family.

Louisiana Secretary of State James Brown, will attend the ceremony to present for display the original documents regarding the election and creation of the Parish.

Other events are planned for the day, with the program starting at 10 a.m. with a brief formal opening. The board judging will follow at 10:15 with the ladies dress contest set for 11. Between 12 and 1, citizens have been invited to enjoy lunch on the grounds while French and Cajun music is provided for their entertainment.

The formal program will begin at 1 p.m. with native Cajun humorist Dave Petitjean as Master of Ceremonies and the Invocation being

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(Making it Official - Acadia Parish Police Jury president Joe Baronet, puts his signature on the proclamation setting this Saturday, October 11, as Acadia Parish Centennial Day. Baronet is flanked by the co-chairmen of the all day celebration, Dan Rogers (left) and D.J. Dupuis (right) who is holding the bronze plaque that will be installed on a pedestal in front of the Court House to commemorate the occasion.)

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