Exhibits at the Louisiana Art and Folk Festival in Columbia included paintings and the works of local artists. (Staff photo by Eddy Cox)

Mrs. Betty Jean James, all of Columbia, and members of the club; and Johnny James, Festival vice president. (Staff photo by Eddy Cox)

Thousands Attracted

Art Folk Festival Begun

By Tom Cunningham

ART FESTIVAL -- The first day of the two-day Louisiana Art and Folk Festival got underway Monday at daybreak as the crowds started to arrive. The show attracted a large crowd.

The day was bright and the weather was warm. The Art Festival was held in downtown Columbia, along the banks of the river.

The Art Festival is one of the largest events of its kind in the United States. It features folk art, crafts, art, and music from around the world.

The Art Festival has been held in Columbia for over 10 years and has attracted thousands of visitors from all over the world.

Overall Category Champ

Chatham Basketweaver Festival Ribbon Winner

COLUMBIA -- A 72-year-old Chatham man who has never entered a basketweaving contest, has won a ribbon at the state fair. The state fair is one of the largest in the country.

In a competition for the best basket, the Chatham man won first place honors with his basket made of handmade baskets. The basket was made of all natural materials, including grass, reeds, and vines.

The Chatham man said he never entered a basketweaving contest before, but decided to give it a try after seeing the baskets made by other entrants.

The Chatham man said he is planning to enter the basketweaving contest again next year.