AZALEA GARDENS ATTRACT CROWDS
Beaumonters Among Thousands of Visitors Expected in Lafayette

LAFAYETTE, La., March 8. (Spl) — The azalea gardens of Lafayette will be viewed by thousands of visitors from all sections of south and southwest Louisiana, besides many from east Texas during the next few days. Lee LaFosse, secretary and manager of the chamber of commerce, Friday stated that inquiries had been received from Beaumont and Houston, Texas, besides New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Alexandria and other Louisiana cities concerning the Azalea Trail. Street markers indicating the route of the Azalea Trail have been installed under the direction of J. A. Anders, chairman of the Azalea Trail committee of the chamber of commerce. This year’s trail, which is being held on a limited plan, is sponsored jointly by the chamber of commerce and the Lafayette Garden club.

The azalea gardens are now in bloom as are the redbuds, phlox, camellias, magnolias and other spring flowers. Throughout the city, the visitors, during the next two weeks, will be confronted with banks of attractive flowers.

Preparations are being made by a special committee of the chamber of commerce to greet a group of New Orleanians who will visit Lafayette during the weekend. Leading the New Orleans group will be George Snyder, manager of the association of commerce, and Jesse Cave, representative of the municipal government. An informal reception is planned for the group Saturday evening at a downtown center. Greeting the New Orleanians will be Welton P. Mouton, J. Alfred Mouton and Mr. LaFosse.

W. L. Rammel, secretary of the Sabine-Neches Automobile association of Beaumont, said yesterday he had received numerous inquiries from Beaumonters planning to visit the azalea gardens of Louisiana this weekend. He said his organization had made hotel reservations for several groups planning to stay overnight in Lafayette or other towns.
The 1971 Jaycee Azalea Trail is now open to the public with azaleas in their peak of blooming, the map of the trail is published above. Green signs mark each turn of the trail. A number of out of town visitors is expected for the trail.