Swine Festival

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Basile celebrates Louisiana Swine Festival Nov. 4-7

This year's Louisiana Swine Festival was initiated by a group of citizens from Basile and the surrounding areas of Acadia and Evangeline Parishes in 1966.

Memberships to the first festival were sold to finance the event. Each year thereafter, the festival has been a success.

The purpose of the festival was to promote and advertise Feeders Pig Sales. These were sales from a sale barn of 50 to 100 pound young pigs to feed out for market. Basile was such a sales center.

The events of the festival are popular with the area people. Hog calling, boudin eating and grease pig contests along with a pork cooking contest, an arts and crafts show and an amateur talent contest are all features of the annual Swine Festival.

Also, every year a King and Queen of the Swine Festival is chosen along with the Court of Royalty, King Potop and Queen Petunia (five to eight years old).

The parade features all bands and parade floats.

The king chosen each year usually has an interest in the production or marketing of pigs or in the working of the festival itself. A parade marshal is also chosen from the group that works throughout the year to produce the festival.

The festival features entertainment in the form of dance for the young and French dances for the adults.

The festival booths are manned by local organizations and provide good food as well as money for local projects.

The carnival, another feature at the festival, is a great attraction for everyone, especially for the children. Friday is "School Day." The festival is always held on the first weekend in November. This year's festival will fall on Nov. 4-7.

Festival King

The Louisiana Swine Festival Association is proud to announce that the 1962 Louisiana Swine Festival King is Dewey Bafla. Bafla, the son of Charles and Armenta Bafla, was born and raised in Basile. Bafla is now a freshman at BHS.

The Louisiana Swine Festival is now a fresh start at BHS. Bafla has 10 grandchildren.

At 55 years of age, Bafla is still always on the go. He is presently a bus driver at BHS, and owns Bafla's Discount Furniture in Basile. But the thing that keeps Dewey busiest is his music. He was taught to play the fiddle at an early age by his parents, and since then he has developed a love for this talent of making music. He and his brothers, who are now deceased, who made up the Bafla Cajun music group have performed throughout the United States and Canada as well as overseas. And today Bafla is still bringing Cajun music to people everywhere, not only by his singing and fiddle playing, but by hosting a weekly Cajun music program on the radio.

Bafla has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships in order to continue spreading the Cajun music. He has also received grants from the N.E.A. and L.S. State Arts Council to play music for public school children and also has received grants from the Louisiana State Arts Council to play music for public school children.

Bafla attended St. Philomena Elementary School and was graduated from Basile High School in 1943. After serving in the U.S. Army, European Theatre, from 1944 to 1946 during World War II, he entered Southern University Institute (now USL) in Lafayette from which he was graduated with a BA in Education. He received his MA from Louisiana State University in Education in 1954.

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Erford was a member of the Evangeline Parish and L.A. Association of Principals of Southern Association of Schools and Colleges, the LTA and the NEA. As a member of these associations he not only sought to promote quality education at BHS but also for all of the Evangeline Parish. In 1963, Basile High School was accredited by the Southern Association.

A firm believer that the school, community, and church should work together to provide a wholesome environment for youth. Erford was active in civic and church affairs in Basile. Elected alderman of the Town of Basile, he was instrumental in securing a federal grant for the improvement of the water and sewerage system for the town. He was secretary-treasurer of the Basile Volunteer Fire Dept., a member of the Basile Eastern Star, and an officer of the Louisiana Swine Festival Association.

Erford was promoted by the Louisiana State University and was awarded a Ph.D. in Education. He served as Grant Knight and recorder for the Knights of Columbus Council 1662 in Basile. He is also a member of the Pre-Cana Conference.

Since his so-called retirement in 1974, he has left Basile and has moved back to his hometown of Basile. Since then he has been principal of Bayou Lafayette Academy in Donaldsonville; St. Philomena Elem.; past president of the St. Philomena Home and School Assoc., and president of the St. Philomena School Board.

He now owns and operates Erford's Exxon Self-service and Supply Station in Basile. He is married to the former Betty Miller of Eunice. They have nine children, three who graduated from BHS, and five others who all attended at least a few years in Basile.

A man respected by the entire community of Basile, as an outstanding educator, and dedicated citizen, the Louisiana Swine Festival is proud to honor him with their Grand Marshal being their Grand Marshal.

Schedule of events

Thursday, Nov. 4

7:00 p.m. — Amateur Talent Show (Basil High School Auditorium)

Friday, Nov. 5

"CARNIVAL" — Greater Baton Rouge Fair (Basil High School Football Field)
1:00-5:00 p.m. — Registration for Arts & Crafts (Old Basil High School Gym)

Saturday, Nov. 6

"CARNIVAL" — Fairgrounds (Old Basil High School Football Field)

9:00 a.m. — Registration for Pork Cooking Contest (Basil High Cafeteria)
8:30-9:30 a.m. — Registration — Arts & Crafts (Out of towners) Old B.H.S. Gym
9:30 a.m. — Registration — Arts & Crafts
11:00 a.m. — Judging — Pork Cooking Contest
12 noon — 4:00 p.m. — Arts & Crafts Show — Outside the public (Old B.H.S. Gym)
10:30 a.m. till — Cajun Battle of Bands (Fairgrounds)
2:00 p.m. — King Porky & Queen Petunia Pageant (New Basil High Gym)
3:00 p.m. — Registration — Tug of War — Fairgrounds
3:30 p.m. — Tug of War — Fairgrounds
5:30 a.m. — Greasy Pig Contest — Fairgrounds
7:00 p.m. — Queen's Pageant (Coronation of King & Queen of the Louisiana Swine Festival)

Sunday, Nov. 7

8:30 a.m. — Worship — United Methodist Church
9:30 a.m. — Holy Mass — St. Augustine Catholic Church
10:30 a.m. — Worship — First Baptist Church
9:30 a.m. — 12 noon — Arts & Crafts Show
"CARNIVAL" & Music at Fairgrounds
11:00 a.m. — Registration — Hog Calling & Boudin Eating Contest (Grandstand - Steag Ave.)
12 noon — Hog Calling & Boudin Eating Contest (Grandstand - Steag Ave.)
12 noon — Parade Lineup — Basil Rice Drier
1:00 p.m. — Parade — Steag Ave.
3:00 p.m. — Registration — Arm Wrestling — Fairgrounds
3:30 p.m. — Arm Wrestling — Fairgrounds