Visitors to Lafayette during the 1980 Festivals Acadiens will have a chance to sample the best of Cajun cuisine during the sixth annual Bayou Food Festival that will be held Sept. 20-21 at Lafayette’s Municipal Auditorium.

“Cajun cooking, a very real part of the tourist attraction in this area, is a blend of French, Spanish, African and Indian influences,” noted Billy Jacob, Festivals Acadiens chairman. “A celebration of Acadian culture would not be complete without a sampling of our good eating.”

“Lafayette, Louisiana’s reputation for fine food has garnered international attention and there is no better time to sample it than during Festivals Acadiens weekend,” Jacob added.

The Bayou Food Festival draws audiences of well over 10,000 persons over the two days, says Al Nichols, executive director of the Lafayette Parish Convention and Visitors Commission. He notes that visitors regularly come from Texas and Mississippi for the event and there are generally inquiries from Canadian and French devotees of Cajun cooking.

Area restaurants, caterers and others feature their specialties, which range from main dishes to desserts, Nichols added.

Visitors purchase tickets for $5. Of that amount, $1.50 is the admission fee and the other $3.50 provides the visitor with 25-cent coupons which may be redeemed for the various food items. Additional coupons are available in the booth area in the ballroom at the auditorium. Children under 12 are admitted free.

A door prize will be given away Sunday evening. Hours for the food festival are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Two bands will be on hand to entertain the visitors and tourist information will be available in the ballroom as in past years.

The Bayou Food Festival is one of seven festivals held each year during September as part of Festivals Acadiens.

Most of the other festival events are within walking distance of the Girard Park area in central Lafayette. The park itself is the scene of the popular Cajun Music Festival and the RSVP Senior Fair and Craft Show. The Deep South Writers Conference takes place nearby in H.L. Griffin Hall on the campus of the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The Louisiana Native Crafts Festival is held on the grounds of the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium.

The Art Center for Southwestern Louisiana is located at 101 Girard Park Dr. and the Acadian Village Festival is located at Acadian Village off Ridge Road. Bus shuttle service from USL’s Cajun Field will link all locations with the Jaycee’s Fair and Trade Show at Blackham Coliseum.

TRES BON! — “It’s so good!” says this connoisseur of Cajun cuisine, sampling one of the many dishes that will be offered during the Sixth Annual Bayou Food Festival. The festival, held each year during Festivals Acadiens, will be located at the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium on South College Drive. This year’s Festivals Acadiens will be Sept 20-21, with most of the other festival events within walking distance of the Girard Park area. (Photo by Jay Elledge)