“Colorwise, I think it’s the nicest poster I’ve done,” remarks Ville Platte artist Waven Boone as he sits at his kitchen counter numbering and signing a limited edition of the official 1987 Cotton Festival poster.

“It’s done entirely by hand,” he continues, as he describes the silk-screened prints in front of him. “There’s no commercial processing at all.”

The 10 by 22 inch poster is dominated by a circular country blue motif highlighting a cluster of cotton bolls. A row of green cotton buds adds an attractive accent.

Boone points out the poster is printed on the highest quality rag paper — imported from France — available to an artist.

“I made the poster in a narrow design so it can be hung anywhere in the home or office.”

Boone has produced only 60 of the signed and numbered prints and 10 artist’s proofs to commemorate the 1987 Cotton Festival, Oct. 8-11.

Boone’s artwork contains the strong, vibrant symbolism and flavor of Acadiana. Many of his Cotton Festival posters are cherished items in

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home and business places in Ville Platte and elsewhere. Approximately 15 years ago, the Evangeline Parish native decided to devote his full attention to his artwork, which up to then had been a life-long avocation.

“A lot of the scenes I do are based on Acadiana’s and Evangeline’s landscape,” he notes, drawing your attention to his home lined with scenic views. “In a sense, I’m promoting Evangeline Parish around the United States.”

For the past three years, Boone has been concentrating on watercolor etchings. That focus came when his work attracted the attention of Jean Tam, a nationally known art representative. The Alabama art dealer deals specifically in original etchings and silk screen artwork.

When Tam first became interested in Boone’s work, he relates, “I started with a series of five editions; I now have 25 editions.”

Among his most recent productions is a view of the home of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Dupre he has entitled “Azalea Bloom.” One of his largest etchings, produced in a series of 150 prints, the local scene has attracted much buyer interest.

However, he remarks his etching of cotton bolls he used for the Cotton Festival poster may become one of his most widely distributed artworks. He produced an initial edition of 150 hand painted drawings. “They’ve asked me to change the design slightly and produce an edition of 250 prints,” says Boone. “I could produce more, but I want to limit production.”

Boone’s artwork can also be found in New Orleans at Southern Expressions Gallery on Jackson Square and Cass, Inc. of the Crescent City, a three-state wide art dealer. His watercolor etchings are priced between $20 and $75.

Boone smiles, “Art dealers want me to stop hanging moss from the trees. Some buyers don’t know what it is; they thought it was an error on my cooper plates.” The dealers have also asked Boone to broaden the focus of his landscapes, so he has begun producing scenic views of the Smokey Mountains and other, nationally recognizable scenes.

“It’s sometimes a meager living,” he says, “but I’ve loved it so much I’ve stuck with it. It’s very rewarding work.”

He concludes, “I think this area has a lot of talent in art. There are a lot of people doing art that no one knows about… doing folk art to high forms of art.”