BUGGIES

man equipped like Shelby was in "high cotton." "That's the way I want to travel when I grow up," said my eleven year old mind.

I began my research with a phone call to Shelby Matte and his wife. Where had he bought that marvelous buggy? A hardware store in Carencro, he said. He didn't remember the name of the store. (Later research led me to believe it could have been the Melancon Hardware.) How much did a buggy cost then? One hundred twenty-five dollars he had paid. Who else sold buggies at that time? He named two firms in Church Point: Etienne Guidry and Ben Daigle (now Theo Daigle and Bro.).

I called at Theo Daigle and talked with Tally Pole. "When did buggy sales come to an end in Church Point?" I asked. "When I came here in 1947," he said, "there was a buggy in our show room. This was the last buggy we sold. When we sold that one, we didn't order any more."

"Who manufactured the buggies you sold? Where did they come from?"

"We have no records of that," Tally said, "but possibly the man who would remember would be Kermit Comeaux. (recently retired as an employee of Church Point Bank and Trust Co.)."

I called Kermit. For many years Kermit was a buyer for the old Ben Daigle store, but he wasn't sure he remembered who had manufactured the buggies he bought and sold. He did say the magic words that I needed, however, he said, "There is one man who could probably answer all of your questions: Sidney Sandoz, manager of Sandoz Hardware of Opelousas."

Now why hadn't I thought of that? Sandoz Hardware, founded by J. B. Sandoz in 1878, sold everything from special marbles which old men still call "one vice" to wagons, buggies, coffee grinders, you name it. Sandoz Hardware sold it, and still do today, with obvious exceptions.

I went to see Sidney Sandoz, present manager of Sandoz Hardware, the firm which his grandfather founded. Tall, lean, spry - friendly and frank. A man who probably thinks more that he talks. He answered my questions where he could. He frankly said so when he wasn't sure of the answer. An invaluable help to a researcher.

Sidney Sandoz has meticulously put together, between plastic sheets, a valuable collection of memorabilia from past transactions between Sandoz Hardware and wholesale firms, jobbers, manufacturers all over this nation. He very graciously (and at no cost) made photo copies of: sales literature, advertising copy, and other communications from the past.

From this collection of literature I have concluded that Sandoz Hardware, at one time or another, bought buggies from four different manufacturers: The Jewel Carriage Co. - its factory located at Carthage, Ohio - its sales office in Cincinnati. Sandoz also bought from the American Carriage Co. of Cincinnati, from the Studebaker Company of South Bend, Ind. (better known for its automobiles) and from the Standard Vehicle Company. The last buggies that Sandoz sold were manufactured by Standard Vehicle Company of Lawrenceburg, Ind.

Don't conclude that those were the only firms manufacturing buggies then. An article in Lincoln-Mercury Times magazine states that at one time there were 800 firms making buggies in this country. Twenty-two of them were located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

How Many Factories Left Today?

Hard to tell without extensive and costly research. The last manufacturer that Sandoz Hardware bought buggies from, as I said, was Standard Vehicle Company in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. This manufacturer was once located in Cincinnati, Ohio, but when the factory burned down, it relocated in Lawrenceburg. I tried to call them on the phone, but, according to a telephone operator in the 812 area code (south Indiana) there is no firm listed by that name.

Buggies are still being manufactured, however, the biggest users of buggies today are the Mennonites (which includes the more austere sect known as the}

(See BUGGIES, Page 30)
1997 Buggy Queen, Aimee’ Hebert, bids farewell

Come on a trail ride with me back in time. ‘Buggy style of course where we’ll celebrate 15 years of Louisiana’s most interesting Cajun Heritage. Inviting you to our festival held annually every first full weekend in June in none other than the Buggy Capitol of the World, Church Point, La. Where we’ll dance the night away and enjoy plenty of Cajun food and music. So hitch up your horse and buggy on down to Church Point. Where I guarantee you’ll have a trail blazing’ good time. Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome, proudly representing the beautiful town of Church Point and the Cajun heritage of Louisiana. I am the 1997-98 Church Point Buggy Festival Queen Aimee’ Nicole Hebert.

Over the last year this is how I introduced myself throughout the State of Louisiana, as invited everyone to attend our festival here in Church Point.

It seems like only yesterday that I was given an unexpected, yet wonderful gift one day after my 21st birthday. I was crowned the 15th annual Church Point Buggy Festival Queen. I have traveled over 6,300 miles from Texas to Alabama, introduced myself over 55 times, attended over 35 fairs, festivals, events, political rallies and pagants representing and inviting people to the town of Church Point for the Church Point Buggy Festival.

Being crowned queen has introduced me to things I though I would have never experienced or better yet taken part in. Throughout the last year I have jumped frogs at the Rayne Frog Festival, milked cows at the La. Cattle Festival, competed in the cow chip throwing contest at the International Rice Festival and joined in the greasy pig chasing contest at the La. Swine Festival. Also in the last year I won many awards including the Grand Champion Cow chip thrower, the greasy pig catching queen and I was chosen by my “weekend sisters” at the Queen of Queens Pageant as Miss Congeniality.

There are so many people I need to thank. Everyone has been so supportive, loving and caring throughout the last year. First and foremost I want to thank God for allowing me the opportunity to chosen as Buggy Festival Queen. I would like to thank my family, and friends for all they did for me during the past year. Thanks Mrs. Virgie Courville for answering my hundreds of questions every week and always leading me in the right direction even though sometimes led myself off onto other paths. Mrs. Teasie Cary for being such a wonderful president and so supportive in the last year. You are one reason why this festival has been so successful. To my sweet little Cajun ladies, thanks for the many dances throughout the last year and especially in Port Arthur, TX. It has been fun and I will miss you.

To my wonderful king, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Broussard, thanks for making me feel so welcome in the town of Church Point. Thanks to Mrs. Mary Leger and family for being there all the times my mom couldn’t be there with me.

My weekend sisters are one of the reasons why I have had such a memorable year. We all represent such wonderful organizations.

To all of my weekend sisters who participated in Queen of Queens. That was a very exciting weekend. I feel like I got to know everyone ten times better than I already knew them. And it was an honor having you choose me as Miss Congeniality at Queen of Queens, thank you very much.

Miss Church Point 1996, Jodie Venable, thanks for helping me the day of the pageant and for housing me the next weekend at the festival. If anyone welcomed me with open arms it was you. Janea, Acedia Parish Farm Bureau Queen, we had a blast at the Rice Festival and the Catfish Festival. Miss Church Point 1997, Candice Stanford good luck in the future. We has a blast in the last year especially in Port Arthur, TX. I will miss you.

Aimee’ Hebert, 1997 Buggy Festival Queen

And to all of the queens I didn’t have time to mention, a huge thank you goes out to all of you. You will all have a special place in my heart.

Thanks to my special little friend, Mary Tweedel. This 8 year old musician taught me to play the accordion in only two days.

To my successor, your next year will be filled with lots of excitement and many memories. Please wear this crown with pride. Remember when times get a little rough and you don’t think you can drive one more mile, introduce yourself one more time, or even think about sleeping away from home one more night. Just think back to this night the night that you were crowned and that overwhelming feeling of joy that ran right through you. And remember that many young women would give anything to be in your shoes.

Thanks to everyone in the town of Church Point. It has been an honor representing such a beautiful town and a wonderful festival that brings us back and shows us who we are as Cajuns. I realized on our trip to Port Arthur how much our Catholic Faith meant to this community and how close knit we actually are. As we left Church Point to head for the road, Ms. Evangeline Richard began saying a rosary. As we passed little Mackie Miller’s cross I started to make the sign of the cross and looked around and realized so was everyone else, how Mackie has touched all of our lives.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone for making last year so much fun. You all made

(See 1997, Page 13)
1997—From P. 12

everyone for making my last year so much fun. You all made me feel so welcome. I will miss you very much.

I will always be your 1997-98 Church Point Buggy Festival queen. And I will always be proud to call Church Point my home away from home.

So for the last time—come on a trail ride with me back in time “buggy style of course.” I invite you to my festival coming up this weekend—see you there!

GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL - Buggy Festival Queen Aimee' Hebert, Miss Church Point 1997 Candice Stanford, Buggy Festival Queen Evangeline Richard and the Cajun Queen Lorraine Fusillier were among the Goodwillers who made the trip to Port Arthur, TX Tuesday, May 19 and 20. Shown here are some of the members of the Buggy Festival Committee. They are, front kneeling, Aaron Richard, Junior Jagneaux and Virgie Courville; back from left, Lee Lyons, Harold Noel, Gussie Noel, Dianne Richard, Candice, Aimee', Teasie Cary, Mrs. Evangeline and Mrs. Lorraine.

To our friends and neighbors in the Buggy Festival - Have a G-r-e-a-t FESTIVAL!

Let's make it a Great Festival!!!

Ken Goss
Acadia Parish Sheriff
Continued Senior Royalty

1993 - Tony Wimberly, Agnes Brasseaux

1994 - Anne Burleigh, Wade Delahoussaye

1995 - Lorraine Fusilier, Albert Venable

1996 - Aaron Richard, Odelia Deshotel

1997
Steve Broussard, Marie Matte

Congratulations and Best Wishes
on the upcoming Buggy Festival
from the Staff of...

AML

ACADIANA MEDICAL LABORATORIES, LTD.
217 Rue France Lafayette, LA 318-233-5711
Visiting Queens

These young ladies gathered for a royal photograph with the new Church Point Buggy Festival Queen Marsha Scalisi of Kaplan shortly after she was crowned Buggy Festival Queen at the pageant held Saturday night, May 30 at 7 p.m. in the Church Point High gym.

YOUNG MUSICIAN - Mary Tweedel, left, one of Church Point's young musicians, plays the accordion. Her music has been heard near and far. Mary is a member of the Young Aces band that will be performing at the Church Point Buggy Festival on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. under the large pavilion at City Park.

TO PERFORM AT FESTIVAL - Wayne Toups and Zydecajun will be performing at the 1998 Church Point Buggy Festival. The band will be performing at 4:30 p.m. until, on Sunday afternoon, June 7.
# Buggy Festival

*Come Join Us At The Festival*

**June 4, 5, 6 & 7, 1998**

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<td>Geraldine Wimberley, CPA</td>
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<td>Tricia D. Lyons, CPA</td>
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<td>Joe Guillory, Owner</td>
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<td>&quot;Your Hometown&quot; Newspaper</td>
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| To the fine people who made this "Buggy Festival Edition" possible, Without your cooperation and support, this edition would not be published.

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Past Grand Marshals

1983 - Alcus Trahan - Founder -
1984 - Charlie Daigle
1985 - Sen. Cecil Picard
1986 - Dr. J. W. Williams
1987 - Dr. C. L. Keller
1988 - Dr. R. L. Savoy
1990 - "Mickey" Scanlan
1991 - Harold J. Beaugh
1992 - Huey J. Guidry
1993 - Dr. Ty Hargroder
1994 - Jean Murphy
1995 - Tony Wimberly
1996 - Sheriff Ken Goss
1997 - Phillip Smith
BEST WISHES
on a
Great
Buggy Festival
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We're sending our
“BEST WISHES”
for a Successful
Buggy Festival

Compliments of:
QUALITY BRANDS, INC.

Buggy Festival
at Church Point
City Park

~ Wrist Bands ~
Thursday, June 4
& Friday, June 5
Unlimited Rides
6-10 PM

D'Heilly & Son Rides
All Ages!

Save $2 with this ad!

Here's wishing our community a successful Buggy Festival!

Creole Fried Chicken

2 Soft or Hard Tacos, Med. Drink
$1.99

8 Piece Chicken $3.99
(Leg, Wing or Thigh Only)

2 Piece Chicken, Fry & Roll
$1.59

Hamburger Ketchup & Pickle
89¢

Hot Dogs 2/$1.39

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Dine-in
684-2846 299 S. Main St.

J.R. FOOD MART

Hours:
Kitchen OPEN
24 Hours
Breakfast
4:00-10:30 a.m.
Past Queens

1985 - Stacie Soileau
1986 - Stephanie Eues
1986 - Camille Domingue
1987 - Rhonda Crooper
1988 - D’Lane Wimberley
1989 - Mary Lynn Bourque
1990 - Christine Savoy
1991 - Suzi Vidrine
1992 - Polly Delahoussaye
1993 - Paige Racca
1994 - Nicole Tweedel
1995 - Erica Bordelon
1996 - Monica Lyons
1997 - Aimee’ Hebert