Buggy Festival dates drawing near

The 1986 Buggy Festival Queen will be crowned on Friday evening, July 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Home on Highway 35 north of Church Point.

The new queen will be crowned by the 1985 Queen, Miss Stacey Soleau of Opelousas who reigned as the first queen of the Buggy Festival. The crowning of the 1986 King, J.B. David and the Senior Citizen Queen, Mrs. Lillian Hebert, will also take place.

Emcee and entertainment for the pageant will be "Bubba" Beaugay. Other entertainment will be Madame Sauce Piquante and Barbara's School of Dance.

Emceeing the Royalty Ball will be Vermon Daigle.

Music will be provided by Reggie Matte and the Church Point Playboys.

Tickets for the Ball are now on sale. There is a limited amount to be sold, so get your ticket now. Tickets may be purchased at Church Point Bank and Trust Co. from Sandra or from the Acadia-St. Landry Hospital.

The Ball begins at 9 p.m. till 1 a.m. Food will be served.

Chairing the Queen's contest are Maggie Pulkerson, Mildred Savoie and Virgie Courville.

Ticket chairperson is Sandra Matte.

The Buggy Festival activity is being sponsored by the Acadia-St. Landry Medical Foundation and the Buggy Festival Committee.

The buggy festival is a young festival, but it is rich in historical Cajun traditions. The festival each year calls attention to the origin of Church Point, and the focal point is the buggy, the chief means of travel of that day.

Buggies were first sold in Church Point by the firm of Etienne Guidry and Ben Daigle, the store which is now known as Theo Daigle and Brother.

In the early years buggies were shipped to Church Point from four different manufacturers. Some came from the Jewel Carriage Company in Cathage, Ohio, and others came from the (See BUGGY, Page 2)
American Carriage Company. Some were made at the Studebaker Company in South Bend, Indiana, and others were shipped from the Standard Vehicle Company of Lawrenceburgh, Indiana.

In 1934 it was possible to buy a good buggy for $125.

Buggy transportation had a very decided effect on the culture of the day. The buggy offered a more sophisticated method of transportation for mothers taking their children to church and for courting couples than did the bulky and cumbersome wagon.

A gentle horse provided some extra degree of safety as well. Even if the driver fell asleep or became intoxicated, the horse would continue until it arrived at home.

There was a well underneath the seat of the buggy which houses the driver’s pistol and his flask.

The funds from the annual event go to help keep up the Acadia St. Landry Hospital.

The founders of the Buggy Festival proclaim that they hold it “As Americans determined that the Revolution that gave us our rights to our own destiny as a nation was not fought in vain.”

“...They further proclaim that the celebration is held by Acadians who are “determined that the bloody time of our exile from our rightful home in Nova Scotia will never be repeated.”

The festival promoters point out finally that they have determined that what is good for the community is good for all in the community, and they have decided that what is good must “be defended, supported, and promoted for the good of all.”