The Cajun culinary invasion of San Antonio, Texas, last week was a magnificent success.

Una Sylvester of Whiteville joined a delegation of St. Landry Parish chefs who traveled to San Antonio to represent the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board and the Rice Council. They were successful beyond their wildest expectations.

"It did a world of good," said Sylvester this week. She accompanied Norma Miller, Lois Francois, Alleyne Stewart, Tee Seale, and Pris Ledoux, all of Eunice, on the promotion journey.

"We got great, great feedback from the people," she said. After enticing many people who had never seen crawfish to consume the tasty mudbugs, the chefs supplied the diners with information to pass along to their grocers and wholesale seafood dealers as to where to order the crawfish.

They stormed the national convention of the American Farm Bureau with enough rice and crawfish for three days. Their food proved to be so popular that they ran out on the second day.

An indication of their success is readily evident in the fact that they were pictured on the front page of the business section of the San Antonio Light. Their crew was the only one so honored during the convention.

The convention was attended by Farm Bureau representatives from all 50 states.

The mission of the delegation was to get as many people as possible to sample crawfish jambalaya, and to give them recipe booklets so they will be able to prepare the treat at home.

They also gave them information concerning the availability of crawfish and rice in hopes that the people involved will help create a market for both rice and crawfish in states where the market is either non-existent.

Their effort to help create a market for Louisiana products was in keeping with the theme of the convention which called for an end to agricultural subsidies and more emphasis on opportunity and marketing.

Barry Asmus, an economist with strong conservative views, opposed the farm subsidies.

"Welfare is for poor people," he said as he urged the farmers to do away with "tin cups" and trips to Washington in search of handouts.

A positive note was injected into the conference by Asmus as he explained that the improving world economy should boost the demand for U.S. agricultural products.

"The opportunity for American agriculture has never been so bright," he said explaining that geographical boundaries no longer establish market areas.

Asmus told the delegates that as Third World countries grow they eat better, and in the process they import more food.