**Cattle Festival hoofin' it into town**

By STEPHEN J. DILL
managing editor

The rumble is distant but distinct—boding of the stampede of fairgoers who have filled the streets of Abbeville for every Louisiana Cattle Festival for the past 36 years. But this year, after so many years of celebrating one of the chief agricultural commodities of Vermilion Parish, the festival will break with tradition—for the better, said state Rep. Sammy Theriot, president of the festival.

"It's been big before, but this year it's going to be phenomenal," Theriot said, commenting on a change in scheduling that he said would make the fair more convenient for people attending it and more profitable for vendors renting booths.

The festival, usually held in October on a Thursday, a Friday, and a Saturday, will be held this year on a Friday, a Saturday, and a Sunday—from Oct. 4 to Oct. 6—providing a long weekend of good times for anyone fancying the aroma of barbecue on the grill.

"This will be more of a convenience for the festival goers because they will be able to attend more or all of the events without having to travel from one end of the city or the parish to the other so frequently," Theriot said. "We also feel it will be more profitable for the organizations setting up at the fair."

The booths themselves, set up on Concord Street and rented by the Cattle Festival Association, will even constitute a change for the better, said Theriot.

"In the past, we've set up about 15 booths. This year, we'll have 40. And we're going to have people selling food, drinks, souvenirs, and art of all kinds. If you want a Hurricane, you'll be able to get one. If you want barbecue ribs, you can get them."

In recent years, the Festival Association has operated the fair on a budget of $23,000, each year netting a profit of about $2,000 and using it in turn for the following year's budget, Theriot said.

Money collected at individual See CATTLE, page 11A

---

**Cattle**

(Continued from front page)

booths—often totaling several thousand dollars by the end of the celebration—is usually donated to charities, the festival president said. Those things will not change.

Some other things about the fair—too embedded in tradition to be erased—will not change either, Theriot said:

"We're still going to start the festival with a fairs-de-do, just as we always have, but this year, instead of having one, we're going to have four—one on Friday night, two on Saturday, and one on Sunday."

The festival will also keep the tradition of a "grand parade" on Saturday afternoon, Theriot said. But the children's parade, usually held on the first day of the festival, will be conducted on Saturday morning, he said.

The festival will bear one more important change, Theriot said: namely, its dedication to the memory of Bill Vega, a long-time photographer for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and a decorated veteran of World War II.

Vega, a Baton Rouge resident who died recently at the age of 86, took photographs at most of the Cattle Festival Association's fairs. In charge of this year's festival will be a committee consisting of the following individuals: Elida Dill, chairwoman of the opening ceremony and blessing of the products; Jenny Rabassa, baby pageant; Alice Lancen, cooking contest; Francis Frederick, honey bee queen; Barbara Delbanc, queen's pageant; Mark Piazza, fairs-de-do; Cecil McCreary, livestock show; Steve Maeder, children's parade; Suzan Piazza, entertainment; Kendall Faulk, grand parade; Anna Pierce, booths and souvenirs.

More information is available by calling Rep. Theriot at 883-5653 or at 883-5644.