From all the wonderful folks out Roberts Cove way—and throughout this entire area, comes the long-awaited news of a most historic event, the Centennial of the arrival of the first German settlers who came to Acadia Parish to found a dynasty which has grown into one of the finest and most successful “families” to be recorded in the annals of Louisiana.

The Centennial Celebration, when between 5,000 and 7,000 descendants of the original families are expected to join in observing this significant anniversary, has been set for Sunday, October 5, on the St. Leo's Church grounds in Roberts Cove—but a newsletter which went out this week from those heading plans for the celebration, tells the story much more vividly:

**GERMAN CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER**

"Achtung! Achtung! Calling all descendants of Achten, Berken, Gerhard Bunt, Cramer, Joseph Dischler, Gielen, Gossen, Habetz, Heinen, Hensgens, Heusers, Jabusch, Jacobs, Janssen, Knipping, Kopmier, Leonards, Meyer, Ohlenforst, Olinger, Neu Reiners, Ronkartz, Schaffhausen, Schatzle, Scheufens, Schlicher, Stamm, Spaetgens, Thevis, Theunissen, Vondenstein, Wirtz and Zaunbrecher for a celebration of thanksgiving to God and in memory of our ancestors, on Sunday, October 5, 1980, at St. Leo's Church Grounds, Roberts Cove (near Rayne), Louisiana. You are all invited to an Octoberfest that will long be remembered!

"One hundred years ago the first German settlers, Johann Gerhard Thevis, Herman Joseph Grein and Peter Joseph Thevis, at the invitation of Father Peter Leonhard Thevis (uncle of Gerhard and brother of Peter), began the German Colony of Roberts Cove. Gerhard Thevis and Herman Grein came on January 13, 1880; Peter Thevis came later that year.

"In early 1881 came Achten, Vondenstein, August and Henry Leonards. In November 1881, came the largest number of settlers, all on the same ship Gielen, Gossen, Thevis, Hensgens, Reiners, Wirtz, Schlicher and Zaunbrecher, plus Joseph Leonards. (Tellers came on the same ship but stayed in New Orleans, and later moved to Erie, Pennsylvania).

"In 1882 came Theunissen, Scheufens, Heinen, Ronkartz, Spaetgens and Jacobs. In 1888 came Ohlenforst. In 1882 came Habetz (some of this family came in 1894 and 1896), Schaffhausen, Knipping, Janssen (or maybe 1893 for Janssen?). All of the above came from the home area of Father Thevis: the area around Geilenkirchen, Heinsberg, Aachen, north of Aachen, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. They all came directly from Germany except the first three settlers who had stayed for some time in Milwaukee with the Ohlenforsts, who were thus probably the first of all the above to come to America (probably prior to 1867)."

And holding much interest, Honorary Chairpersons for the October 5 Centennial celebration, those born before 1900, will include a list of some of the best-loved and most distinguished early residents of Roberts Cove.

Serving in this Honorary capacity are:

Honorary Chairpersons of our celebration are those direct descendants of the original colonists, listed according to the year of their birth. Casper Berken is the only surviving descendant who was born in Germany (he came at the age of fifteen months). We are fortunate to have the oldest child of our founding father still with us: Odilia Thevis Cramer, daughter of Gerhard Thevis.

Chairpersons are:

1886—Odilia Thevis Cramer;
1888—Helena Robinson Shoemaker (Gielen descendant);
1889—Adelheid (Adeline) Cramer, Mary Agnes Schlicher Taylor;
1891—Casper Berken, Leonard Thevis;
1892—Joseph Theunissen, Joseph Klein (Thevis descendant);
1893—Walburga Thevis Leonards, John Henry Bunt;
1894—Leo Spaetgens, Henry Jabusch, Albert Heusers, George Klein (Thevis descendant); 1895—Sepha Gossen Larcade, Joseph Jacobs, Carola Bohmann, Karow (Stamm descendant);
1896—Helena Meyer Theunissen, Walburga Thevis Ohlenforst, Edward Olinger, Annie Jabusch Vondenstein, Joseph William Knipping;
1897—Marie Thevis, Marie Klein (Thevis descendant), Joseph Schneider Burton (Achten descendant), Joseph Zaunbrecher (of Gueydan), Marie (Mae) Habetz;
1898—Helen Gossen Frank, Charles Dischler, Annie Wirtz Leger, Henrietta Stamm Sweeney, Marie Schutten Young (Stamm descendant), Maria Heusers Savie, John Jacobs;
1899—H. Joseph Thevis, Edgar Bohmann (Stamm descendant).

This report on the Roberts Cove Centennial will be continued Thursday as plans move ahead for the many family reunions which will be a part of the October 5 gathering.