Crawfish craftsman on program

By WANDA HORN
Advocate People editor

If you're looking for something special with a Louisiana touch to fill your Christmas list or decorate a tree for the holidays, "Craw-Na-Ments" may be just what you had in mind.

The unusual Christmas ornaments will be part of the exhibit Gary Thompson plans for the Broadmoor Arts and Crafts Fest, set this weekend at Broadmoor High School.

Thompson, whose No. 1 hobby is fishing, has been mounting crawfish for the past 15 years.

"But it has only been two years since I began using my imagination to create new and different crawfish novelties," says Thompson.

The New Orleans World's Fair selected his work—alligators, armadillos and sharks made from crawfish shells.

Two years ago he invented the "Cajun Hot Tub," a crawfish relaxing in a beer can.


Thompson also creates crawfish on a broom, crawfish in baskets and in baskets, a skiing Santa Claws, crawfish in traps and mailbox ornaments with crawfish dressed for Christmas and crawfish dressed as LSU Tigers.

Thompson is quick to point out that he has "helpers" with creations—a friend, Sherryl Dugas, "whose hands bring my creatures to life"; his sister, Beverly Norman, "an expert with Da Bows"; his elves, his children, Justin and Stacy; Dugas' children; plus friends, neighbors, nephews and nieces.

Artists and craftsmen have been giving previews during the past few weeks of what will be seen at the Broadmoor Arts and Crafts Fest.

The last previews will be held today. Anna Miller will demonstrate quilting at 10 a.m. in the art department at Broadmoor High School. At 7:30 p.m., woodcarver Richard Brinker will demonstrate in the school library how he makes his shorebirds. The previews are free and open to the public.

The 14th annual fest opens Friday at 3 p.m. at the school, 10100 Goodwood Boulevard.

Special entertainments for teen-agers and children will be provided in the Red Garter Saloon. Food will also be available.

Shuttle buses will run along Goodwood Boulevard, stopping at all schools and churches.

The event will benefit community groups.

Hours of the event are 3-9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

A skiing Santa Claws, top left

Gary Thompson, above, to show his 'Craw-Na-Mants' at Broadmoor Arts and Crafts Fest this weekend

Unique mail boxes, at left, to hang on Christmas tree