Backward Glance At 20 Years Theme Of Crawfish Festival

By DEB DAVID
Advertiser Area Writer


This year's festivities are set May 2 and 3 with the traditional street dancing, bayou and street parades, arts and crafts exhibits, crawfish eating and peeling contests and crawfish races.

With the 20th year of the event at their heels, townsfolk automatically think, arts and crafts exhibits. crawfish eating and peeling contests and crawfish races.

and the Centennial Celebration which instigated it the year before.

Mrs. Anna Belle Hoffman Krewitz credits herself with starting the festival, since she spearheaded planning of Breaux Bridge's 100th birthday celebration which led to the yearly crawfish party.

District Judge Wilmot Dalfares of the 15th Judicial District, wrote to Mrs. Krewitz, reminding her of Breaux Bridge's upcoming 100th birthday and suggesting that she plan centennial festivities, she says.

The centennial celebration was held in 1959, and because of its success, town residents decided to make the festivities an annual event.

Also in 1959, the Louisiana Legislature designated Breaux Bridge the Crawfish Capital of the World.

In 1960, the first festival was held, with the Town Council and mayor serving as the festival committee. It has become one of the most colorful and popular festivals in Louisiana.

1961 saw no festival, largely because money was scarce with which to fund the expensive celebration.

Citizens revived the festival the following year, however, raising money by selling an advertisement-packed festival booklet. The 1962 festival took on the theme "The Spirit of the Confederacy," and every festival since has centered around one main theme.

Because of the expense incurred in holding the festival, the Crawfish Festival Association decided to alternate huge celebrations, with mini-festivals.

Every other year, festival events only include the selection of a queen and a few small events.

This year is the year of the full fledged festival, which is taking "A Backward Glance," as its theme.

About 150,000 people are expected to cram into Breaux Bridge for the two-day event. whose promoters claim is among the largest festivals in the state.

Among the events scheduled for the 1980 festival are:

- A crawfish peeling contest, where local processors pit their "professional peelers" against each other to test their speed and endurance in peeling up to five pounds of crawfish in 30 minutes;

- A street parade, featuring "Monsieur L'Ecrivesse," a gigantic crawfish boat float;

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About 150,000 people are expected to line the bayou's banks to watch the parade during the May 2 and 3 festival. The theme of the two-day celebration is "A Backward Glance."

MONSIEUR L'ECRIVESSE - The highlight of the Bayou Teche during Breaux Bridge's Crawfish Festival is this monstrous red crawfish which floats down the Bayou Teche.

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