THOUSANDS EXPECTED

Crawfish Festival Opens Today in Breaux Bridge

BREAUX BRIDGE -- Thousands of visitors are expected to attend the 1964 Crawfish Festival, opening here today. The three-day program of events will conclude Sunday afternoon with the Crawfish Queen parade.

The opening event today is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Agriculture Building when entries in the Crawfish Cooking Bee will be judged. A Festival mass in St. Bernard Catholic Church will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. by the Rev. George Braquet, pastor.

Both Acadian music and rock and roll tunes will provide music for street dancing tonight, starting at 7:30 p.m. Visitors will have a choice of dancing to an Acadian-French band or a rock and roll band.

Saturday's events start at 9:30 a.m. with parachute jumps by members of Co. D, 20th Special Forces. The jumps will take place near the city limits on the Lafayette highway. Outstanding bands of southwest Louisiana will be featured in the colored parade, scheduled to get underway at 11 a.m.

Visitors are invited to partake of crawfish dishes to be served at noon by Breaux Bridge restaurants.

Also on the Saturday afternoon are the horse and buggy parade, featuring fine horses;

boats on historic Bayou Teche, a new feature of the Crawfish Festival; judging costumes of the Old South worn by Breaux Bridge citizens and visitors, both men and women, and the climax of the Saturday program, the coronation of the new Crawfish Queen.

The buggy parade is slated for 1 p.m. with the bayou parade to follow at 2:30 p.m. The costume contest takes place at 4 p.m. on the reviewing stand, and the Queen's ball will be held in the National Guard Armory, starting at 8 p.m. Miss Judy Broussard, reigning Crawfish Queen, will relinquish her crown to the new title holder, to be selected by out-of-town judges from a bevy of area beauties.

Crawfish races, billed as the "one and only in the world", will start the Sunday festivities at 10:30 a.m., to be followed by the judging of beards worn by Breaux Bridge citizens for the Festival. Street dancing will also take place Sunday morning, and a crawfish dinner is scheduled to be served at the firehouse at 11:30 a.m.

The costume contest finals will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the reviewing stand, and the grand parade will roll at 2:30 p.m.