Crawfish Meet Held In Austria

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Nineteen seventy-two will be remembered as the year the largest gathering of crawfish experts — fishermen, cooks, processors, wholesalers and retailers — ever assembled formed a symposium to discuss and promote the tin crustacean.

And guess where it was held — Breaux Bridge? Henderson? Pierre Part? Hinterthal, Austria.

Drew 500

It’s hard for us in Cajun land to realize that crawfish are eaten elsewhere in the world. But, according to Mr. Crawfish, Aubrey Heuman Jr., they are a gourmet’s delight in most of Europe and large parts of Asia.

The Austrian symposium drew some 500 participants from 20 countries.

One of the participants was Heuman, representing The International Relations Association of Acadiana (TIRAA) and his own crawfish processing business.

Foster Trade

One of TIRAA’s aims is to foster trade between Acadiana as a cultural region and other countries. According to Heuman, the crawfish possibilities in Europe, especially Scandinavia, are tremendous.

“They have different species over there that take a lot longer to develop,” he said. “Over there, it takes a whole year for one crawfish to grow large enough to eat. Here, it takes only six weeks.”

Through TIRAA’s efforts said Heuman (being typically modest since he, as president at the time, did much of the foot-work and letter-writing), the first International Crawfish Symposium, scheduled for next year, has a good chance of bringing European and Asian crawfish experts to Acadiana.