A BULLS-EYE IN BEAUTY

Queen Sugar XII, lovely Miss Faye Coco of Reserve, La., and King Suarez XII of Raceland, La., reigned with royal pomp over the Grand Ball during the 1953 Sugar Cane Festival and Fair in New Iberia. (Breaux Photo)
Behind the Show

These directors of the Louisiana Sugar Cane Festival and Fair include (standing, left to right): Ray (Miss) Mullinix, president; Miss Erma Doiron, secretary; Mrs. Paul Emile, treasurer; Miss Lusley; Mrs. C. W. Edwards, vice president; Miss Julia Sheriff, and Mrs. O. A. Auld. (Front row, left to right): John Tirrell, and Motorcycle Boys, also president; (Standing, left to right): John P. A. Herl, and Motorcycle Boys, also president; (Standing, left to right): Mrs. Max Miller; Mrs. Albert L. White, Misses Dorothy, Dorothy Landry, and Mrs. Lawrence Jones; Mrs. Louis Landry.

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The Daily Iberian
New Iberia, La.

Enclosed Find: _______

1954 Louisiana Sugar Cane Festival and Fair Time Table

THURSDAY, SEPT. 22
6:00 P.M.—Pageant celebrating crops to be staged by the New Iberia Women's Club at New Iberia high school.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23
7:30 A.M.—Farmer's Day all day in city.
9:30 A.M.—Skeet match, sponsored by the Iberia Rod and Gun Club, on the skeet range, Abbeville Highway.
10:00 A.M.—Blessing of Sugar Cane Crops, at Sugar Cone Festival building.
10:00 A.M.—Opening of Agricultural Fairs in City Park and Negro Park; Opening of Flower, Art and Photography Shows in City Park. Commercial and Mechanical Exhibits also open in City Park.
7:00 P.M.—Agricultural Parade down New Iberia's Main street.
8:00 P.M.—Negro Fais Do-Do (Street Dance), to be held on Hopkins street.
8:30 P.M.—Fais Do-Do (Street Dance), in New Iberia City Park.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25
10:00 A.M.—Children's Parade, down New Iberia's Main street.
2:00 P.M.—Negro Parade, down New Iberia's Main street.
4:00 P.M.—4-H Pig Auction, City Park.
8:15 P.M.—Coronation of Queen Sugar XIII, Sugar Cone Festival building.
10:00 P.M.—Queen's Ball, Community Center, City Park.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27
1:30 P.M.—Queen's Parade, down New Iberia's Main street.
2:00 P.M.—Boot Race Finals, Bayou Teche.
3:00 P.M.—Horse Show, City Park.

Note: (Miss) Mullinix, president, Louisiana Sugar Cone Festival and Fair Association.
Acadian Legend to be Commemorated
with them only their household goods and what little money they had. Some perished at sea; others were driven to San
Domingo, or England. Others made their way to Maryland
proceeding from there to Louisiana, a land where they had
heard was similar to their native land in customs, religion and
language. (French is still widely spoken in many sections of
south Louisiana today.)

These people, who have exhibited some of the finest
examples of courage and endurance, have provided Louisiana
with well over one sixth of its present population and has con-
tributed much to its history, and culture.

THE ACADIANS were captivated by south Louisiana’s
rich alluvial lands, its scenic countryside and its pleasant cli-
mate. They settled along the Atchafalaya, the Mermentau
and the Vermilion Rivers and the numerous bayous and lakes
of the region, but concentrated particularly along Bayou
Teche. This placid stream, the most beautiful of the state’s
many waterways, had been named “Teche (snake) by Indians
because of its serpentine wanderings through more than 100
miles of south Louisiana. According to Indian legend, their
tribal warriors once slew a snake of fabulous proportions, and
the reptile in its death writhings left the bed through which the
stream now runs.

As soon as word o. the new Eden spread to refugees
settled along the Atlantic coast, many other Acadians joined
those in Louisiana. According to historians, only 4,000 of them
reached the state, but today their descendants have multiplied
the original number many times.

Probably the most important events that will take place
during 1955’s celebration will be the many harvest festivals
that take place in south Louisiana. Beginning in September
and continuing through October, no less than six major festi-
vals are held annually, honoring the products of the partic-
ular section.

Each of these festivals, it is planned, will have as their
central theme, the migration of the Acadians.

First of these harvest celebrations is the Shrimp Festival
in Morgan City, beginning on September 5, in close order
follow New Iberia’s Sugar Cane Festival, September 24-25;
Opeoules’ Yambilee, October 5-7; Abbeville’s Dairy Festival,
October 15-16; and Crowley’s International Rice Festival,
October 27-28. Ville Platte’s Cotton Festival, September 25-
26.

INTEREST in the bicentennial started on local levels and
has now spread statewide. With half a million descendants of
the Acadians behind it, Louisiana looks to offer visitors to the
state in 1955 a whole year of festivities, in addition to its al-
ready nationally-famed tourist attractions.
SOME HALF a million people of French descent are going to help stage one of Louisiana's greatest celebrations next year as the whole state commemorates the 200th anniversary of the migration of its Acadians from Nova Scotia.

Although only about 4,000 Acadians reached Louisiana following their exile by the British from Nova Scotia about 1755, historians estimate that toady more than 500,000 descendants of the valiant Acadians are to be found in the surrounding countryside.

The idea of the celebration in 1955 could belong to no particular group, certainly, because of the thousands who are interested in honoring the Acadians. First definite plans for the year long, state-wide celebration were first evolved from an organizational meeting called in January by the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry. * * *

THESE PLANS have developed so that:

1. The Acadian Bicentennial Celebration has been formed and officially chartered by the Louisiana Secretary of State.

2. A bill has been passed by the Louisiana Legislature granting officials recognition of the organization and its purpose.

3. A bill has been passed by both the State Senate and House of Representatives appropriating $100,000 to be administered by the Department of Commerce and Industry for observance of the Acadian Bicentennial.

4. Plans are underway to feature the celebration in the department's national advertising campaign, slanted toward attraction of tourists for the event.

5. Several national magazines have expressed interest in the celebration's coming activities and at least two have made concrete plans for full length features on the event. * * *

PROBABLY one of the most famous of the Acadians was a young lady named Evangeline. The story of Evangeline's romance, immortalized in the epic poem of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, caught the fancy of the world in that author's day, and holds its popularity in the present. In Louisiana the memory of Evangeline is especially alive, for here flows the Bayou Teche, along which a part of the story is laid, and here lived the real Evangeline, and her lover, Gabriel.

Many people have always considered the romance pure fiction, and are surprised to learn that it is, at least in part, true. It had its origin, of course, in the banishment of the Acadians from Nova Scotia by the English in 1755, when the entire population of Acadia was exiled from that land.

During 1755, and for many years thereafter, the Acadians of the British colony were driven from their homes, carrying
Attired in the Acadian dress of days gone by is this beautiful St. Martinville, La. miss, Sydnie Mae Maraist of St. Martinville, La. She reigned as Queen Sugar XI throughout the Teche country in 1953. (Photo by Seth Muse)
At the statue of "Evangeline" in St. Martinville, three Teche country queens pause to pay homage. Left to right, Vera Boudreaux, Franklin, 1953 Queen of the Morgan City, La. Shrimp Festival; Betty David, New Iberia, 1953 Queen of the Crowley, La. International Rice Festival, and Janet Rausenberg, Lafayette, Queen of the 1953 Yambles Festival held at Opelousas, La. (Photo, courtesy Louisiana Dept. of Commerce & Industry)
A time-honored custom throughout the Teche country is the blessing of the bounty from the earth or water that has given substance to the people. Such a blessing is the annual Blessing of the Sugar Cane crop. Shown here is the blessing of the 1953 Sugar Cane crop to open the 1953 Sugar Cane Festival. (Photo by Breaux)
The historic home of Louis Arceneaux, now a museum in Evangeline State Park at St. Martinville, is open to visitors. Louis Arceneaux was Gabriel, the faithless lover of Evangeline. In this house, he lived with his wife whom he married when Evangeline did not reach the new home for too long. (Photo, courtesy Louisiana Dept. of Commerce & Industry)
Troisieme Cookery

We present our third Creole-Cajun Cookery for your approval. A little dash of French headings has been added to honor the predominance of excellent cooks in this section with French background.

We mention with pride that Frances Andrews Vernon of Jeanerette again was our Cookery editor. Her Cookery section of 1953 received a first prize at a contest of National Press Women, Chicago, June, 1954. The special edition, which included Cookery and other Festival features won second prize at the Louisiana Press Association annual contests.

We feel especially proud this year of the fact that our own mechanical staff produced the two color 96 inside pages.

Almost all of the pictures were taken by members of our own staff, John Mire, Kent Barton, Bob Wolcott, Frankie Hebert, Barbara Burke and Frances Andrews Vernon. Cover picture presents three beautiful Queens who are current rulers over the Louisiana Sugar Cane, Dairy and Rice Festivals, respectively. They are, Miss Janell Babineaux, New Iberia, Queen of Abbeville's Dairy Festival; Miss Betty David, New Iberia, Queen of Crowley's International Rice Festival and Miss Faye Coco, Reserve, La., Queen Sugar XII of Sugar Cane Festival and Fair. Photo by Breaux Studio, New Iberia.

Bob Wolcott was general editor of the book and produced the special section of male chefs, a new department this year.

We are grateful to Miss Madge Walker, Jeanerette, and Bob Badon of New Iberia for providing French names and titles.

Those familiar with the first two cook books will recognize that we have retained old favorite Creole-Cajun recipes, but have broadened to include a roundup of nationality recipes. This is entirely fitting inasmuch as Southwest Louisiana is made up of a cosmopolitan population.

We publicly thank the many persons who have helped to make this book a success, especially those who have so kindly contributed their recipes.
Queen Brown Sugar IV, Marjorie Nell Lewis, and King Brown Sugar, John Barry Joseph, ride their lead float in the 1953 Negro parade during the Sugar Cane Festival. (Breaux Photo).
Queen Brown Sugar IV, Marjorie Nell Lewis, and King Brown Sugar, John Barry Joseph, ride their lead float in the 1953 Negro parade during the Sugar Cane Festival. (Breaux Photo).
A young lady of the Teche country, New Iberia's Betty David, dressed in an Acadian costume, dips her foot into the waters of Bayou Teche. (Photo, courtesy Louisiana Dept. of Commerce & Industry)
AVERY ISLAND, L.A.—The romance of Avery Island is fabulous. Its modern history goes back to 1789. It is known for its amazing mountain of salt, its prolific oil wells—and for its flaming red peppers, which are blended into a pepper sauce that has become known throughout the world for more than 75 years. Avery Island also means the fairyland known as Jungle Gardens. Mr. Edward Avery McIlhenny created these beautiful acres, collecting rare plants and shrubs from all over the world. Pictured above is the Buddha Temple which overlooks quiet Temple Lagoon at Avery Island. (Photo by Breaux)
BUDDHA—(photo at left). It is said to be the finest Buddha ever to reach America. Here sits cross-legged the inscrutable Gautama, quite as he did 800 years ago in the Shonfa Temple near Peiping. BUDDHA SPEAKS—(photo at right). The inscription at the entrance of the Buddha's Temple bears this legend: "Peacefully I rest upon this lagoon's bank as pale green bamboos sway above my throne. Clouds of blossoms soften the sifted light falling golden and misty through the boughs above. Long days of travel brought me from my home, yet I have known no hour of calmer rest. My thoughts are like the bamboo waves above and fro above the rippling stream, clear and blue as from a glorious dream."—E. A. McIlhenny.

The inscription at right reads: "This Buddha was built for the Shonfa Temple located northeast of Peking, by the order of Emperor Hui Tsung, 1101-1125. Its builder was Chon-Ha-Chin, most noted of ancient Buddha makers. The temple was looted by a rebel general who took the statue as part of his loot and sent it to New York to be sold. The statue came to the notice of two friends of E. A. McIlhenny who purchased it and sent it to him as a gift in 1936." (Photo by Besieux)
WILDLIFE ABOUNDS ON AVERY ISLAND—Here tame ring-necked geese and snow geese splash in a quiet lagoon on Avery Island. (Photo by Breaux)
HOME OF THE LATE E. A. MCLHENNY overlooks Avery Island from one of the seven hills there. The landscape of Avery Island for more than 40 years was molded to splendor by the talent and the imagination of "M'sieu Ned" who lived in this house on Mayward Hill, focal point of the Avery Island gardens it overlooks. Today, it stands as a perpetual monument to him. Mr. McLheny was explorer, writer, business executive naturalist, conservationist and a half dozen other "ists." Mrs. E. A. McLheny, his widow, still resides in the home. (Photo by Breaux)

BIRD CITY—A thrilling rare exhibit at Avery Island is Bird City, the heron sanctuary. It is a great artificial lake between the hills, surrounded by low buttonwood trees. Each Spring some 20,000 nests are built there; each Spring some 20,000 heron families are there hatched and reared, in spite of the fact that 40 years ago there was starcely an egret left not only in Louisiana, but in all North America. (Photo by John Mire)
Rienzi, built for a queen of Spain more than 140 years ago, overlooks Bayou LaFourche and the town of Thibodaux on the other side. Rienzi is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Levert, Jr. (he reigned as King of the Louisiana State Society’s Washington D.C. Mardi Gras Ball in February, 1954.) (Photo by Breaux)
Madewood, one of the loveliest homes in sugarland, was built in 1848, is in excellent preservation and is a beautiful reminder of an era of gaiety.