Crepe Myrtle Capitol Official

Tree-Planting Rites Held in Donaldsonville

By CLAIRE PUNKEY
(T-P Bayou Lafourche Bureau)
DONALDSONVILLE, La. — It was windy, chilly and sunny Monday, and it was also “Crepe Myrtle Day” in Donaldsonville, the declared crepe myrtle capital city of Louisiana.

At 10 a.m., a program got under way that included planting of the first crepe myrtle tree on the grounds of Donaldsonville Elementary School and a local beautification plan for this onetime state capital.

Mayor Lawrence Regis planted the tree, a seven-foot high “sprout,” after he had read a proclamation signed by him declaring the city the crepe myrtle capital of the Pelican State.

The program opened with an invocation by the Rev. Marshall Paine, pastor of the First Methodist Church here, in which he cited the beautification challenge to the public given by a city-appointed committee, headed by Mrs. R. N. Sims.

Commissioner of finance Claude Bourg Jr. and Commissioner of streets and parks Ridley Gros, assisted the mayor in planting the tree.

Hubert Daigle, Ascension Parish School Board member, planted the first Lady Banksia rosebush at the school, a companion flower to the crepe myrtle in the local campaign.

Both Donaldsonville and the school board contributed funds for the floral facelift.

W. C. Brunson, assistant supt. of schools, participated in the event. Lena Giambrone, acting principal of Donaldsonville Elementary, welcomed the group of civic and political leaders assembled on the grounds.

William Welch, horticulturist with the Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service, took part in Monday’s activities and noted that the program was progressing.

He had toured the city recently with the committee to make recommendations for beautification.

One of the recommendations made Monday was work on the grounds of Ascension Catholic Church, which he called “the most sophisticated building in the area.”

The pastor of the church, the Right Rev. Msgr. E. J. Gubler, gave the benediction.

Other participants were: David Dubreuil, Chamber of Commerce president; R. N. Sims, C of C secretary; Ascension county agent Claude Songo; Mrs. James H. Thibaut and Mrs. John Stiegelmeyer, committee members; C. W. McCord, manager of the water plant, and Sidney Goetz, representing the Boy Scouts.

Mrs. Sims said a public planting event is scheduled at an unspecified time for property of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, which has agreed to take part in the crepe myrtle project.