Acadian Folklore Event Added to Dairy Festival

Instituted in 1949 and now one of the major events on the annual Louisiana calendar, the Louisiana Dairy Festival is expected to present one of its finest tributes to the industry.

Roy R. Theriot, state comptroller, will again direct the event he founded, which is scheduled for Oct. 13–15, in Abbeville. This year's festivities will include an extra attraction called the French-Acadian Folklore Festival.

Over 50,000 persons are anticipated to view the three-day frolic with the Mammoth Parade attracting the largest crowd. Held on Saturday afternoon, this parade is considered by some the most spectacular thing next to Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Among other events slated are two additional parades, International Day, Coronation Dance, a milk churning contest, home demonstration competition, cooking contests and a junior dairy cattle judging contest.

The Louisiana Dairy Festival is particularly proud of its emphasis on international goodwill. Consuls and dignitaries of foreign countries are always given special recognition during the weekend's activities.

A special award will be presented to the outstanding humanitarian of the year as selected by the Dairy Festival's judges. Likewise, the year's outstanding milk processor and outstanding dairyman will be chosen.

Queens always play a special part in Louisiana festivals, and the dairy event is no exception. Beauties, from tots to twentys, will vie for honors as Dairy Baby, Junior Queen of Dairyland and Queen of Dairyland, who will reign over the entire proceedings.

Last year former President Harry S. Truman visited the Dairy Festival and drew a crowd of close to 100,000. Theriot admits that it will be difficult to match the showing of 1965, but he is quick to add that the entertainment will not be in the least deficient.

The addition of the French-Acadian Folklore Festival is to encourage the preservation and perpetuation of this heritage that is uniquely Louisiana's. With a sense of some urgency Theriot explains that this new activity is to "start awakening our people to the realization that we are about to lose our great Acadian heritage."

Cajuns seem to be adept when the time is for celebrating and, as the Louisiana Dairy Festival is one of their biggest events, there is no doubt that the mid-October days in Abbeville will be filled with the richest and liveliest South Louisiana fun and hospitality.