Donaldsonville Fete Not to Be Daunted by Spelling

By CLAIRE PUNEKY
(T-P Bayou Lafourche Bureau)

There are those who spell it “crepe” and others who spell it “crape,” but whatever the spelling, Monday, Nov. 28, will be “Crepe Myrtle Day” (or “Crape Myrtle Day”) in Donaldsonville.

This city which last week was proclaimed “The Crepe Myrtle Capital of Louisiana” and “The Crape Myrtle Capital of Louisiana” by Mayor Lawrence Regira will be the scene of some fancy digging at 10 a.m. Monday on the grounds of Donaldsonville elementary school.

The first of the crepe myrtle trees to be planted in an intensified program to be launched at that time will be put into the soil of the school by Mayor Regira.

Then the president of the Ascension Parish School Board, Dr. Percy H. LeBlanc, will step up to the shovel and make room for the first Lady Banksia yellow rose to be planted as a companion piece to the tree.

As the crepe myrtles gain their root-holds in this city, the roses are slated to take to the fences in the city, starting with one recently constructed to enclose the Donaldsonville elementary school playground.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edwin J. Gubler, pastor of Ascension Catholic Church, will give the invocation at the start of the ceremony, and the benediction will be by the Rev. Dr. Marshall Paine, pastor of the First Methodist Church.

Both the city of Donaldsonville and the parish school board have contributed to the beautification program here which got under way when the City Council named Mrs. R. N. Sims chairman of a committee to pretty up this one-time capital city of Louisiana.

Lynn Bouchereau, principal of the Donaldsonville elementary school, is to have a hand in Monday’s program, along with C. W. McCord, manager of the Peoples’ Water Service, which is participating in the program to the extent that a tree will also be planted on that property Monday morning.

As the school program ends, the group will move to Mississippi street and the water plant where Boy Scouts of America will help in the planting.

The program got off to a fast start after Mrs. Sims and her committee members met with William Welch, horticulturist with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, and toured the city toward its beautification. Since then the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District has agreed to help the committee spruce up the city.

Serving on Mrs. Sims’ committee are County Agent Claude Songy, Mrs. John Stegelmeyer and Mrs. James H. Thibaut.

The capital city of Donaldsonville, which boasts many “crepe” or “crape” myrtles, is taking no chances with the spelling, holding the title under both names. It would not do to claim the “crepe” title, and lose the “crape” title to another city, or vice versa.