Early Rice Industry Portrayed

Although Blue Rose Museum, located five miles south of Crowley, Louisiana, is basically a historical display depicting the life of the early settlers of Southwest Louisiana, it is inevitable that it also involves the early rice industry of the state. Not only is rice closely intertwined with the history of this area, but the museum is owned by the family of a pioneer rice farmer and rice breeder whose influence on the industry cannot be underestimated.

In fact, Blue Rose Museum is named for the Blue Rose variety of rice, developed by Solomon Wright of Crowley. Blue Rose Rice was, for many years, the standard of excellence in Southwest Louisiana.

The museum is owned and operated by Mrs. Frances Wynn Wright, whose husband, S.I. Wright, is a son of Solomon Wright. Blue Rose Museum is located on the family farm near the Wright residence.

The building itself is a relic of another day, a home typical of the architecture and design of the time when the Acadians were finding their new home in Louisiana after their expulsion from Canada. Mr. Wright located the building on a bayou bank fifty miles from Crowley and had it transported to its present location.

Establishment of the museum represented the realization of an ambition held by Mrs. Wright for many years. As soon as the house was settled in its new location, it was named Blue Rose. Mr. Wright began furnishing it with the hundreds of items representative of the period when Southwest Louisiana became the new home of the Acadians.

Contrasting dramatically with the various displays are the elegance of life of the more affluent residents of the area with the almost Spartan existence of the poorer Acadians. The life of the Old South opposes the rude implements of early Acadian life.

Visitors to the Crowley area may reach Blue Rose Museum by following Highway 15 South from Crowley for two and one-half miles, turning right and following the Blue Rose signs for another two and one-half miles. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and is closed in the months of January and February. Tours may be arranged by telephoning in advance.