Festival Planned At Village

The Acadian Village and Round the World Tropical Gardens will be the setting for the first annual “Sheep to Shawl” festival to be held July 1-4. The festival will feature demonstrations of shearing, scouring, sorting, hand dyeing, spinning, weaving and hand sewing of the finished product. The demonstrations will be handled by the Acadiana Spinners and Weavers Guild assisted by guild members from throughout Louisiana.

The four-day festival will also include craftsmen from the Acadiana Craftsmen, Inc. who will be demonstrating crafts from clay and metal works to wood carving and blacksmithing. Artists from the Acadiana area have been invited to attend. The crafts showing will be held along the mile of brick walkway throughout the tropical gardens area affording the visitor a spectacular tour of the gardens.

The Acadian Village and Tropical Gardens, located just off the Ridge Road (L.a. 342), southwest of the city of Lafayette, is a relocated and restored bayou community of the mid-1800's. Guided tours of the village will be conducted throughout the festival, spotlighting the demonstrations. The village and gardens will also be celebrating its second “birthday” July 4. Food and entertainment are planned, including watermelon and snow cones, Cajun music and a Pais Do Do on the evening of July 4.

The village and gardens is a project of the Lafayette Association for Retarded Citizens and all proceeds from the festival will be used in programs for the mentally retarded of the Acadiana Area.

“We are hoping that the sheep to shawl festival will become an annual event,” Mrs. Marti Gutierrez, director of public relations for the Acadian Village, states. “Fairs and festivals in Louisiana are a tourism by-word and we want the village and garden to be known for its contribution to this facet of the industry.”

The festival will open at 9:30 a.m. on and close at 5:30 p.m. each day. The festival will conclude with a Pais Do Do Wednesday, July 4 under the pier at the village at 6 p.m.

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