Huge Throng Fills Crowley For Crowning Climax To Festival

(BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

CROWLEY, La., Oct. 19 — The rice queen of 1946 is Miss Carolyn Breaux, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Breaux of Crowley.

She was chosen from among scores of "princesses" yesterday in a contest which was part of the International Rice Festival. She was crowned by Governor Jimmie Davis.

Finalists in the queen's contest were Miss Marilyn Credent, who competed as Miss Bunkie, and Miss Frances Jean Campbell, also of Bunkie, who competed as Miss Seventh Congressional District.

In a building derby which was one of the features of the day an entry sponsored by Miss Geraldine Kennedy of Rayne, sporting the colors of Greece was declared winner.

The ceremony of selecting the queen from what was declared to be the loveliest and most beautiful group of girls ever assembled in festivals and fairs, was performed before a tremendous crowd that broke all previous records here, and was estimated by festival officials, newsmen, and police officers as being between 45,000 and 50,000 persons. Streets were jammed thick, upper stories of hotels, business houses, and roofs of all buildings had people peering down upon the scene.

The continuous 15-hour celebration started early Friday morning when International Day received blessing from the religious leaders of the city and a sermon "Give All Thanks to God for the Harvest" by the Reverend George Bruning of the First Lutheran Church. In a rice field nearby, the Rev. Julius Pratt blessed the growing grain.

The day's activities were highlighted by a parade of 26 floats, all bearing the slogan, "Rice to feed a hungry world," and adorned by princesses from the various cities and nations represented, bringing the international phase strongly.

On these floats, however, were beauties from Belgium, British Empire, Spain, Venezuela, France, and the Netherlands.

Consuls from a score of foreign nations were present for the International Day of the rice festival, and pronounced the spectacle one of surprise with its beauty and dignity. Consuls came from Cuba, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic, China, Greece, Belgium, the British Empire, Spain, France, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, the Netherlands, Venezuela.

Governor Jimmie Davis, who addressed the milling crowds following the coronation of Miss Breaux, stated that the tremendous work done in the rice industry this year was indicative of the return of American business to peace-time pursuits, and showed what could be done when the sinews of war were turned to those of peaceful pursuits.

A large group of French-Canadian girls from Nova Scotia, and all of Acadian ancestry, came to Acadian parish with their sponsor, Dudley J. Lethean of Vermilion parish, and graced the Acadian home on Park Avenue, as well as to perform for the crowds with a concert.