FOURTH OF JULY — The Art Center for Southwestern Louisiana will celebrate Independence Day tomorrow by opening an American art exhibit by two young New Iberia artists, Mrs. Chestee Harrington Minvielle and Christopher Dietlein. Hours are 10-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. tomorrow, and the Art Center is open to the public at no charge.

By FRANCES LOVE

Whether or not you have out-of-town holiday guests to entertain for the Fourth of July, you have a special American art show in store for you and your family at the Art Center for Southwestern Louisiana, 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 1-3 p.m., tomorrow.

Two young professional artists from New Iberia are featured on the second floor with the kind of exhibit that appeals to almost everybody in South Louisiana. Mrs. Chestee Harrington Minvielle’s thirty oil paintings on wood -cuts of familiar area scenes are displayed in professional settings, created by Christopher Dietlein.

Cypress Furniture
Handmade early Louisiana cypress furniture and typical accessories surround scenes that include the Shadows - on the Teche, Mississippi River steamers, sugar houses, South Louisiana landscapes, Creole cabins, and a caricature of Voodoo queen, Marie Laveau. Mrs. Minvielle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hershel Harrington Sr. of New Iberia and Chris is the son of Mr. Harold C. Dietlein of New Iberia and the late Mr. Dietlein.

Recently, a lady from Texas who had heard about Chestee stopped off at the Lafayette airport and rushed to New Iberia by taxi just to see and buy one of these wood-cuts.

At the Sugar Cane Festival in New Iberia last fall Mrs. Minvielle had two of her wood-cuts on exhibit, and they were quickly purchased, Mrs. Virginia Kyle Hine and Dr. Wiltz Chestee were impressed by an artist work and commissioned her to do a new piece so that both buyers could be satisfied.

Other paintings from private collections that have been accumulated for this display include the following: the Bernard Wagon Works, owned by Dr. and Mrs. Harry W. Bernard of New Iberia; old Sugar House, owned by Dr. and Mrs. Harry W. Bernard of New Iberia; Old Sugar House, owned by Mrs. Virginia Kyle Hine and Dr. Wiltz Chestee; Plantation house and Alice C. Sugar Mill, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sutter of Franklin; Louisiana oak and boat, Mayor and Mrs. E. F. Lowry of Texas City, Tex.; Marie Laveau, owned by Mrs. Virginia Kyle Hine; and Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pratt Munson of New Iberia.

Her New Iberia street scenes were inspired by wood-cut engravings that appeared in an 1880 Harper’s Weekly, a popular periodical that was usually bound annually in hard covers by the publishers for permanent use in libraries. Chestee uses soft-toned earth shades that blend with the wood. Kiln dried pine is usually the wood that she likes to carve. Occasionally, she uses walnut.