International Rice Festival

1980
OFFICIAL PROGRAM
Forty-Fourth
International Rice Festival

"Rice Capital of America"
Crowley, Louisiana
October 17th and 18th

Mrs. Joann Broussard,
President
Steve Stefanski, President Elect
Don Earles, First Vice President
John E. Hains, Second Vice President
Bill Williams, General Chairman

This year marks the 44th Anniversary of one of Louisiana’s largest and oldest festivals, the International Rice Festival. Since the inauguration of the first festival on October 5, 1937, over five million people have attended the annual affair. Our celebration serves to call attention to the importance of rice as a food and emphasize its place in the world’s economic picture. The Festival takes place in the downtown area of Crowley and is one of the few festivals held on Friday and Saturday. The celebration would not be possible without the financial contributions from industry, businesses, and individuals. A very special recognition must be given to the many volunteer workers who have given of their time and talents to make this event the success that it is each year. It’s our hope that you will enjoy our celebration and come back to visit with us again in the future.

October 16th
The International Rice Festival honors the Festival Honoree, Rice Farmer of the Year, and the Junior Rice Farmer of the Year. It is held annually the night before the two (2) day event starts at the International Rice Festival Building in Crowley. A special cocktail party honoring this year’s Honoree, Winston “Skeet” Atteberry, sponsored by the Rice Industry, will be held immediately after the Banquet at the Bayou Bend Country Club.

October 17th
The first day of the International Rice Festival is recognized by many as “Children’s Day”. Special events include the official opening of the Festival by the President, crowning of the Junior King and Queen that morning, presentation of candidates for the International Rice Festival Queen, and the crowning of the Queen, and the Children’s Parade. The Livestock Show begins with the judging of the livestock in the morning at the Rice Festival Livestock Barn. The day is brought to a close with the Annual Queen’s Ball held at the International Rice Festival Building.

October 18th
The International Rice Festival continues to be Louisiana’s oldest, largest, and most exciting Festival, as is signified by the large attendance. Last year over 150,000 people attended the affair. The Festival boasts two (2) entertainment platforms. The Main Platform is located in front of the Courthouse and the second, at the intersection of 4th and Parkerson Avenue. Special highlights of the day include the Second Annual International Rice Festival 10,000 Meter Run, starting at the Main Platform, Cowchip Throwing Contest, street dances at night, Acadian Accordion Contest, Fiddler’s Contest, Rice and Boudin Eating Contests, the Rayne Lions Club Frog Derby, and in the afternoon, the grandest of them all, the Grand Parade.

The Lake Arthur Revue,
Oct. 16, 1980