DONALDSONVILLE (AP) — About 50 wise guys, morons and assorted knuckleheads took less than a minute to hurl 500 pies at the climax of a weekend tribute to an underrated stooge.

A few lamebrains showed up thinking it was another Louisiana shrimp festival. But it was actually the third annual “Shemp Festival,” cooked up by three bayou country fans of The Three Stooges comedy team.

Kirk Landry, 30, an assistant fire chief here, James B. LeBlanc, 32, a mechanic, and Aaron Hebert, 32, originated the event in 1985 as a tribute to comedian Shemp Howard, who died in 1955.

“We were just sitting around with nothing to do and someone mentioned that it was Shemp’s birthday. So, we put plastic in the back of a truck, filled it with water and drove around drinking beer and singing ‘Happy Birthday,’” LeBlanc said.

The celebration has grown each year since.

“We don’t want to say that we like Shemp more than the other Stooges,” said Landry. “But it’s just that he is the most underrated.”

About 100 people attended the 1988 festival, including Dennis Demcheck, 34, who made the hour-long drive from his home in Baton Rouge.

“I have never thrown a pie in my life, and I’m looking forward to it,” said Demcheck. “I think I’m looking forward to being hit by a pie, too.”

In addition to Sunday’s “Moron Pie Throw,” weekend events included a “Hoi Polloi Ball,” a parade led by a slice-of-pie float and the

crowning of the pie queen, chosen for being “the most snooty, upper crust socialite hag who degenerates (during the festival) into the most drunken, heathenistic slime.”