LOUISIANA FUR AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1971

9:00 A.M. — Trap Shooting, Parish Elimination

9:30 A.M. — Parish Retriever Dog Trials — Behind Cameron Courthouse

1:00 P.M. — Archery Contest, Parish Elimination — Cameron Elementary School

2:30 P.M. — Junior Fur Skinning Contest

3:00 P.M. — State 4-H Fur Judging — Rockefeller Refuge, Grand Chenier, La.

7:00 P.M. — Program and Parish Queen Contest — Cameron Elementary School Auditorium, Cameron, Louisiana

   Admission: $1.50 Adults, $.75 Children

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1971

9:00 A.M. — Trap Shooting, State Contest

9:30 A.M. — Retriever Dog Trials (open trials)

9:30 A.M. — Ladies Muskrat and Nutria Skinning Contest at the Cameron Elementary School

10:30 A.M. — Trap Setting Contest — Cameron Elementary School Grounds

10:30 A.M. — Men's Muskrat and Nutria Skinning Contest at the Cameron Elementary School

12:00 A.M. — State Archery Contest

2:00 P.M. — Parade — Down Main Street

3:00 P.M. — Senior and Junior Duck and Goose Calling Contest — Cameron Elementary School Grounds

10:00 P.M. — Program, Sideburn, Mustache, Goatee Contest, and State Queen's Contest — Cameron Elementary School Auditorium

   Admission: $1.50 Adults, $.75 Children

7:00 P.M. — Queen’s Ball (immediately following program — Cameron Recreation Center)
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO CAMERON!

Won’t you join in the fun of this unique Louisiana festival for all who love the beauty of God’s creation... NATURE, celebrated in an area truly a hunter and fisherman’s paradise. This year we pay tribute to the cattlemen who pioneered this land over a hundred years ago.

I commend those many folks who worked so hard to make this even possible; their names are legion.

And again, a special vote of thanks to our Police Jury for their support.

Come see us when you can.

Sincerely yours,

J. B. Jones, President
Cameron Parish Fur and Wildlife Festival
LOUISIANA FUR AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

January 8-9, 1971

Cameron, Louisiana

OFFICERS

J. B. Jones, Jr. ................................................. President
A. J. Howard ................................................... 1st Vice President
Ray Dimas ....................................................... 2nd Vice President
Wilmer Smith .................................................. 3rd Vice President
Mrs. Geneva Griffith ......................................... Secretary
Garner Nunez ................................................... Treasurer

FESTIVAL SUPERINTENDENTS

Jules Dronet .................................................. Duck and Goose Calling Contest
Uland Guidry ..................................................... 4-H Fur Judging Contest
Ray Burleigh ................................................... Retrieve Dog Trials
Deil LaLande and Roland Trosclair, Jr. .................... Parade
Mrs. Braxton Blake ........................................ Miss Cameron Parish Queen Contest
Ray Stevens .................................................... Men’s Nutria and Muskrat Skinning Contest
Wade Vincent .................................................. Ladies’ Nutria and Muskrat Skinning Contest
Bob Schwark .................................................... Archery Contest
Jerry Savoie ................................................... Trap Shooting Contest
Earl Mouton ..................................................... Trap Setting Contest
Sheriff Claude Eagleson ....................................... Traffic
Mrs. Charles Perry ........................................... Art Exhibit
Mrs. Ruby Hebert .............................................. Friday Night Program
A. J. Howard ................................................... Saturday Night Program
Mrs. Pat Doland and Mrs. J. C. Reina ....................... Stage Decorations
Alvin Dyson ................................................... Fur Garments
A. J. Howard, Mrs. Geneva Griffith and Wade Vincent .... Publicity
Mrs. Nancy Nunez ............................................ Miss Fur Festival Queen Contest
Pat Doland ...................................................... Queen’s Ball
Eddie J. Conner .............................................. Wildlife Poster Contest
Fredman Theriot .............................................. Bands
Mrs. Whitney Baccigalopi ................................... Scrapbook
Mrs. Don Wagner .............................................. Sideburns, Mustache, and Goatee Contest
Mrs. Charles Hebert ........................................ Fur and Wildlife Festival Booklet
Berton Daigle .................................................. Sideburns, Mustache, and Goatee Contest
Carolyn Chambers ........................................... Scrapbook
Hilda Crain ..................................................... Sideburns, Mustache, and Goatee Contest
Donald Broussard ............................................ Fur and Wildlife Festival Booklet
W. R. Smith .................................................... Sideburns, Mustache, and Goatee Contest
The Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Cameron Parish Police Jury for its continued support and cooperation over the years. We would like to say "Thank You" to the following members:

W. F. Henry, Jr.  
*Ward 3 President*

Horace Mhire  
*Ward 1*

Lyle Crain  
*Ward 2*

Charles H. Precht  
*Ward 4*

Archie Berwick  
*Ward 5*

Charles A. Riggs  
*Ward 6*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival members are indebted to the many people who have contributed their time, effort, and material in compiling the information included in this booklet. Their criticisms and suggestions have been very valuable in organizing and completing this work.
Miss Doylene Lasiter is the 19 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doyle K. Lasiter of 203 Chastant Boulevard, Lafayette, Louisiana. Miss Lasiter is a senior at the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a major in vocal music education. She is the 1970 Queen of the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival and will represent this Association in the Sugar Bowl Game Court. Doylene is a member of the U. S. L. Choir and is adept in playing of the saxophone, oboe, and the piano. Her future plans include graduate study at Loyola University in New Orleans toward a degree in music therapy.
Alvin Dyson, Cameron lumberyard owner, contractor and fur buyer and former Cameron Parish State Representative, was crowned King Fur II at the 1970 Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron. King Fur I, Jack Styron, of New Orleans, manager of The Louisiana Menhaden Company, crowned Mr. Dyson Saturday, January 10, 1970.

A native of Pecan Island, Louisiana, Mr. Dyson came to Cameron in 1934 as a shrimper and built one of the first shrimp houses in Cameron. Mr. Dyson has been in the fur business for many years and is presently the manager of The Miami Corporation’s vast fur producing lands in Cameron Parish.
Cherie Kay Griffith

"1970 Miss Cameron Parish"
Cherie Kay Griffith

"1970 MISS CAMERON PARISH"

Cherie Kay Griffith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Griffith of the "Oak Grove" community, Grand Chenier, Louisiana. She is a 1970 graduate of South Cameron High School. She is eighteen years of age and has dark brown hair and hazel eyes.

Miss Griffith is a freshman at McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana, majoring in Lower Elementary Education. She hopes to complete her college degree and return to Cameron Parish to teach. She lists her hobbies as designing and constructing her own wardrobe, water skiing and cooking.

Cherie Kay was editor of "The Tarpon" (school annual), Pep Squad leader, President of the 4-H Club, a member of F. H. A., Beta Club, Science Club, National Honor Society, Basketball Manager, and Feature Editor of the school newspaper. Among the many honors received in high school, she was named "Outstanding Teenager of America", member of the Teen Fashion Board of McCall Magazine, "Miss Pep Squad", "Most Beautiful", "Best Dressed", "1970 FHA Sweetheart Queen", and winner of the Betty Crocker Award.

Outstanding in 4-H Club work, Cherie Kay has won three crowns in her eight years of participation. She won the "National Egg Cookery Queen" 1967 in Chicago, Illinois. Also, she won the National Egg Cooking Contest. Other 4-H achievements have been 1st place in the Rice Cookery Demonstration Contest in 1966 at the International Rice Festival in Crowley, 1st place in Louisiana and the National Egg Cooking contest, 1st place in state in Rice Cookery Demonstration in 1969 and 1st runnerup with her Soil Conservation Team Demonstration in the state. She has also won the State Citizenship Award and a trip to 4-H Club Congress to Chicago, Illinois, where she was 2nd runnerup in the National Contest.

On Cherie Kay's original recipe using rice as a base, she has won over $1,300. This recipe, "Shrimp and Rice Fiesta", included in the booklet (recipe section), was used with varying main ingredients such as shrimp, wiener, eggs, etc.

Miss Griffith represented Cameron Parish and the Louisiana Rice Industry in the Agriculture booth. Cherie Kay has given over 150 demonstrations to clubs, and civic groups on rice, eggs, and dairyfood cookery, soil and water conservation, sewing, and safety. As 1970 "Miss Cameron Parish", Cherie Kay has represented Cameron Parish at various Festivals throughout Louisiana and also at the National Farm Bureau Convention in Washington, D. C., where she presented Congressman Edwin Edwards with Cameron Centennial Badges and a personal invitation to the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival and Centennial Celebration in Cameron.
Parade Photos of the Past
Contestant Photos of the Past
THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ATTRACTION

ORIGIN — Entrepreneurs of Cameron at mid-century realized the value of the fur industry and initiated plans to promote the industry in order to retain much of the revenue in our own state. The chairmen of all local organizations and other interested personnel were contacted about trying to call attention to the fur industry of Cameron. As a result of this, the Cameron Lion's Club, in 1955, decided to sponsor the first Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival. A Board of Directors was established to plan and co-ordinate the activities. Hadley Fontenot was elected to serve as president of the board, assisted by vice president Leslie Richard and Secretary-treasurer Mrs. Marie Vaughan.

After many months of hard work, the first Festival was staged in Cameron, Louisiana on December 2-3, 1955. The results were so gratifying and complimentary to the fur industry that the committee agreed to continue the event.

SPONSORING AGENCIES — The idea of the Fur Festival in Cameron was conceived through various approaches. Namely a) to expand the fur industry through proper control and care, b) Cameron Parish was one of the leading fur parishes of the state, c) Cameron Parish also had more refuges with large amounts of revenue derived therefrom in order to finance experimentation, d) there had never been any movement elsewhere in the state to publicize this source of income and e) Mr. Leon Hebert, an adept muskrat skinner, had been selected to represent Louisiana at the National Outdoor Show at Cambridge, Maryland, in 1954. Mr. Hebert was to compete for the national title in response to a challenge posed by Maryland Senator Edward Miller to Louisiana's United States Representative T. A. Thompson.

The first event was sponsored by the Lion's Club; later a board of directors of the Cameron Fur and Wildlife Festival with all local organizations pledging assistance in whatever assignment they may be given. Cameron Parish State Representative Alvin Dyson, Louisiana United States Representative T. A. Thompson, Sports Director of KP LC-TV Sam Tarleton, and representatives of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission were outside agencies who contributed much to the beginning and promoting of the Festival.

Today, there is a Fur and Wildlife Festival Board assisted by numerous individuals. The board participates in parish-wide planning in searching for new ideas and ways to improve the annual event.

GROWTH AND EXPANSION — The initial event attracted very little competition since there were no funds allocated for awards. Competitive events were likewise few in number, and entertainment was contributed locally.

The only awards granted were a plaque and a fur stole given to the champion muskrat skinner and the Fur Queen, respectively, and an all expense paid trip to Cambridge, Maryland, at the National Outdoor Show.

The next and all succeeding events have been able to reward winners in each competition because of a subsidy of $5,000 approved by the Louisiana Legislature. The maid from each participating parish receives a fur stole. The girl chosen as queen of the Festival also wins a trip of her choice, either to the National Outdoor Show at Cambridge, Maryland, or to the Mardi Gras Ball at Washington, D. C.

Only two contestants vied for the crown in 1955, representatives of Vermilion and Cameron Parishes, although all fur-bearing parishes were eligible to have a contestant. Other contests were muskrat skinning, 4-H fur judging, and duck and goose calling.

Subsequent festivals have added areas of competition to include pirogue racing (now discontinued), a parade, skeet shooting, essay contest, band concert, retriever dog trials, oyster shucking (now discontinued), art exhibit, go-cart races (now discontinued), fur fashion show, trap setting, and archery. These have always encouraged the most proficient participants from the various communities displaying skill and talent for state honors.

In 1969, an addition which has attracted much interest has been King Fur, a companion to the Queen. Reigning as King Fur I is Jack T. Styron, general manager for Louisiana Menhaden in Cameron and the menhaden industry in Cameron was honored. King Fur II is former State Representative Alvin Dyson, a contractor and fur buyer of Cameron and the fur industry of the parish received special recognition. This year, 1971, will honor the beef industry and the king remains to be revealed. The honoree is selected by a committee composed of the president of each Home Demonstration Club in Cameron Parish. His identity is kept secret until the Friday night program of the Festival.

CHAMPIONS — Space is not available to list all the winners in all categories but of special interest and the forerunner of all competitive events is the muskrat skinning contest. Since its inception, Cameron Parish has been able to retain the Louisiana Championship and has produced the following who have participated in the National competition:

1955 — Leon Hebert of Cameron
1956, 1957, and 1960 — John Broussard of Creole
1958 — No Festival because of devastation wrought by Hurricane Audrey. With the same determination of the expelled Acadians, almost two centuries ago, the Cameronites came back the ensuing year to renew activities.
1961, 1962 — Isaac White of Hackberry
1969 — Bobby Lalande of Cameron

COMMENTS — It is the feeling of all concerned that the annual celebration in Cameron has very adequately fulfilled the goals that the enterprising young citizens had in mind when this program was begun. It is a gala event in which a large percentage of the citizens of all areas of the parish can participate, either in the planning, the producing, the participating, or as a mere spectator.

Competition and participation has not only been restricted to Cameronites but has stretched all the way across the breadth of the coast line of the state of Louisiana and as far inland as fur bearing animals travel.

With the 1970 Festival centering around the Centennial theme, it may be classed as the most successful and far-reaching Festival so far. Spectators thronged the streets of Cameron for the three day event and much ancient history on the culture, customs, living facilities and folklore was displayed that will have a lasting effect on the youth of today.
COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion, Richard Bros. Post 176
Ladies Auxiliary to V. F. W., Doxey-Vincent Post 10019
Knights of Columbus, J. P. Boudoin, Sr., Council No. 3014
Cameron Parish Home Demonstration Clubs
South Cameron Athletic Association
V. F. W. Doxey-Vincent Post No. 10019
Catholic Daughters Court Mary Olive, Creole
Knights of Columbus, Our Lady Star of the Sea Council No. 5461
Cameron Lions Club
Catholic Daughters, Our Lady Star of the Sea
Cameron Parish Home Demonstration Council
Cameron Volunteer Fire Department
Mallard Gun Club
Cameron Retriever Club

In the last seven years of the Fur and Wildlife Festival, PRINCE has won five First places and two Second places.
Owner — Ray Burleigh