THE small Southwest Louisiana town of Breaux Bridge plans to welcome a multitude of visiting families next Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, and invite them to "pass a good time" in "La Capitale Mondiale des Ecrevisses" as participants of its biennial Crawfish Festival.

Robert L. Domingues, festival president, announced the celebration will be centered at a 68-acre area between Interstate 10 and the center of Breaux Bridge, with camping facilities for families being provided in the portion that borders Bayou Teche.

In the past the festival has crowded motels in nearby Lafayette, St. Martinville and Opelousas, and has brought...
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La capeline (sunbonnet) covers head of many a woman at festival.

‘des Ecrevisses’

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family after family into town until the fun-filled Breaux Bridge scene became a standing-room-only one.

Visitors from all over Louisiana, and from outside the state as well, are attracted by the fame of the festival's entertainment, of the succulence and spicy aroma of its title-role "mudbugs," and of the hospitality with which the area's Acadians greet young and old alike.

Early birds like members of the Pont Breaux Saddle Club set up camp Friday night, boiling messes of crawfish and perhaps a big pot of crawfish etouffee, then sit around the campfire sipping a few beers and wait for Saturday to dawn and the festivities to begin.

Those festivities include day-long playing of French music, crawfish race preliminaries and finals, ladies' crawfish peeling contest, crawfish eating contest, queen's coronation ball, and a festival parade that will feature horse-and-buggy entries. A special attraction this year, said Domingues, will include

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In crawfish race, entries are placed in center of board. First to reach outermost ring wins.

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Mountains of savory boiled crawfish are consumed at two-day Breaux Bridge celebration, especially by contestants in crawfish-eating competition, such as those pictured in the candid photos below.

'"des Ecrevisses'

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troop-landing maneuvers by a National Guard special forces helicopter unit.

In the crawfish races, entries are placed in the center of a big panel marked with concentric rings. The first crawfish to reach the outer ring wins. Spectators and owners urge their favorites on—"Go on, Ti-Jim!" "Keep moving Ti-Joe!" (Former champions bore such names as Cush Cush, Cochman, Ti-Louis.) Excitement fills the crawfish-perfumed air and whets a man's appetite, but good.

"Let's see, what shall I have? A couple of pounds of boiled, a dish of etouffee and rice, a piece of French bread. Oh yes, and a cold beer to wash it down. Great! Now I think I can handle the horse and buggy parade, me, and some dancing in the streets to some good Cajun music. Then a few more beers while I watch the crawfish eating contest."

And Sunday night?

"Mais cher, this has been fun, no? But I guess that's all she wrote. 'Til next time at good ole Pont Breaux."

DIXIE, April 23, 1972