Lafayette Pageant To

Celebration Of Yuletide
Due Tonight

LAFAYETTE, (AP) — Lafayette's big Christmas parade, one of southwest Louisiana's most colorful Yuletide pageants, is expected to attract visitors from all over the southwest area tonight, said Lee Lafosse and Ed Abdalla, parade co-chairmen.

The giant pageant will include a reception for Santa Claus at the Municipal Airport in Lafayette, where he will arrive by airplane with an airplane escort; a colorful parade complete with beautiful floats, bands, and over 500 children in costume; a variety show on a specially built stage in the downtown business section, and, finally, a giant skyline display of fireworks and the lighting of the community Christmas tree.

Santa Claus will throw out from his float over a ton of toys, candy, fruits, and other gifts to the thousands of children expected to line the long parade route, the chairmen said.

Over the downtown streets will be thousands of enmeshed strands of Christmas lights, with elaborate store-front displays. Floats in the parade will depict the Nativity scene and nursery rhymes.

Over 50,000 people are expected in the city for the pageant, Abdalla said.