Folks Along Bayou Set Cajun Festival

By CHRISTINE LINDLOF
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CHAUVIN — “Lagniappe on the Bayou” is the theme of a real Cajun-styled festival and fair set this weekend in this small Terrebonne Parish community.

“Lagniappe” is French for “something extra” and goes back to the days when a storekeeper would add a little “lagniappe” to a customer’s regular purchases as a friendly gesture.

And they’ll be “something extra” for everyone at this small community fair which features the trades and crafts of the Cajun way of life — now and in the past.

On Bayou Petite Caillou

Shrimping and trapping are the major industries of this 1,500-family community located on Bayou Petite Caillou, and one of the main features of the fair will be exhibits in which residents will display the art of net making and trawl weaving.

Old-time quilt making will also be shown, as well as parching and other processes involved in grinding coffee. There will be coffee ground at the fair and packaged for sale.

“Pecanne Grale” — an old-fashioned French candy — will be available as well as French tea cakes and all sorts of seafood specialties of the area.

Sponsored By Boosters

The event is being sponsored by the St. Joseph Catholic School Boosters Club to raise money for the educational needs of the school.

Gerald Picou, assistant principal and science teacher at the school said that the school, since it was built about 10 years ago, has served to bring the town together and is the center of activities in the community.

The school is the only high school in the town and has an enrollment of about 450 students. It is staffed by the Benedictine Order.

Begins Saturday

Activities begin at noon on Saturday and continue through Sunday evening. “We’ll stay open all night if there are people there,” said Jon Hataway, reading instructor and choir director at the school.

There will be an old-time fais-do-do Saturday which gets underway around 8 p.m. featuring country and western recording artist Vin Bruce. For the teenagers, there will be rock dancing in the Little Caillou Center with music provided by “Inc.” A color television set and several boats will be raffled off during the fair, and an auction is also slated during the two-day event.

Meals Available

Reasonably priced meals will be available and a street fair with rides and games will also be on the premises.

Entertainment will be provided by various area performers and a Keno (a game similar to Bingo) will be available to those who want to stop and sit a while.

The little community has gone out in a big way for a festival which promises a “bon temps” for everyone.