Manor House to Be Festival Scene

The Destrehan Manor House grounds will be the site of the annual fall festival of the River Road Historical Society Nov. 15-17 from noon to 9 p.m. The festival will feature arts, crafts, food booths and other activities. Proceeds will go toward the restoration of the 187-year-old mansion.

The festival, a fund-raising event, will feature art and crafts exhibits and demonstrations and will be attended by artists and craftsmen from throughout the United States and Canada.

The Manor House, scene of the festivities, is located on the River Road along the Mississippi River about six miles from New Orleans International Airport. The site was once a sugar plantation.

The Manor House is one of the oldest plantation homes in Louisiana still originally intact. The house is constructed of bricks and mortar of river sand and was built in 1787 by Robert Antoine Robin de Longy. The home is presently owned and being restored by the River Road Historical Society.

The festival, produced and directed by the New Orleans Arts and Crafts Council, will be carried out in the “Plantation Days” theme. Exhibitors will be in suitable attire.

Artisans will be demonstrating such techniques as stained glass, pottery, weaving, macrame, quilting, glass-blowing, metal sculpturing, leatherwork, woodcarving, hammock making and many types of gold and silver jewelry.

There will also be Louisiana food booths offering such dishes as gumbo, jambalaya and red beans and rice.

Also featured will be an art and antique auction, hayrides, pony rides, puppet shows, magic shows, a square dance, games of chance, mint juleps, Irish coffee and other surprises.

Proceeds from the festival will go toward the restoration of the 187-year-old Destrehan Manor House.