PRETTY GIRLS and jumping frogs add fun and excitement to the International Rice Festival in Crowley.

Numerous Events Feature International Rice Festival

In 1937 some 80,000 people gathered in Crowley to celebrate the first National Rice Festival; on Oct. 21 and 22 of this year, some 80,000 to 100,000 people are expected to attend festivities of the event which is now the International Rice Festival.

This year's festival is expected to be the biggest and best ever, as 1966 has been proclaimed International Rice Year. The United States Department of Agriculture is helping promote this year's festival, and many top officials plan to attend.

Since its inauguration 30 years ago the festival has grown at an amazing pace. Such outstanding events as the International Frog Derby, the Livestock and Rice Exhibit, many unique contests and the selection of an International Rice Queen add to the excitement of the celebration.

Each year some outstanding figure of the Rice industry is selected as "Honoree of the Festival" and a farmer is named "Farm of the Year." This year's winners will be announced shortly before the festival.

This year's festival will be held at its usual site which now includes among its facilities a youth center, festival auditorium, livestock exhibition building and a municipal swimming pool all of which are jointly owned by the city of Crowley and the International Rice Festival Association.

Festival President J. B. Broussard will officially open the celebration at 9:30 a.m. Friday Oct. 21, following special thanksgiving services and the opening of the Livestock Show. The Creole Cooking Contest is slated for 10 o'clock the same morning with some of the world's best cuisine, "Cajun style," being judged.

The Children's Queen will be crowned at 11 a.m. and the Rice Grading Contest will follow at 1 p.m. The Children's Parade will take place at 2 p.m. and entertainment will continue throughout the afternoon.

The Annual Rice Festival Banquet will be held in honor of the 1966 International Honoree and the Farmer of the Year at 7:30 that evening in the Rice Festival Building.

Broussard will again open festivities Saturday morning at 9:30. Afterwards the Mayor of Crowley will speak and the Honoree and Farmer of the Year will be introduced.

Saturday afternoon's events will be highlighted by the ever-popular International Frog Derby. The winner of the derby will represent Louisianans at the famous Calaveras County Frog Derby.

The Rice Eating Contest will follow the frogs and all visiting festival queens will be introduced at 1 p.m.

The 1966 International Rice Festival Queen will be crowned at 2:30 that afternoon and the Grand Parade begins at 2 p.m.

The new Rice Royalty will be honored at a 7 p.m. dinner in the Festival building and the celebration will draw to a close with hot presentation and introduction of her court at the Queen's Ball.

Louisianans are fortunate to have such a fabulous international festival located in their state. Crowley is sure to be filled with involving people enjoying festivities honoring one of the state's top crops.