Parish observes centennial birthday

Another chapter of Acadia Parish history was made Saturday, October 11, when the day was dedicated to commemoration of the first 100 years of Acadia, formed by carving out a part of Imperial St. Landry and set by Legislative action to begin a century of Progress which ended with the enthusiastic celebration Saturday, culminated by unveiling of a permanent marker on the grounds of the Parish Court House where the Centennial observance was held, with Police Jury President Joe Barronet.

Planned by the Acadia Police Jury with President Baroney serving as ex officio, Chairman and Dan Rogers and D.J. Dupuis taking active chairmanship, the day was an old-fashioned rally with visiting, contests, recognitions and a final tremendous Centennial Parade reflecting early days of Acadia in colorful remembrance.

Dan Rogers, Helen Arsenment of Rayne, and Dave Petitjean, Jr., were Emcees during the day and kept the program moving at a "fun pace," highlighted by dedication of the historic Centennial tablet. A presentation by Louis Morris, representing Secretary of State Jim Brown, who brought the framed official document creating Acadia Parish, public on display.

"Mr. Pete" Dugas of Roberts Cove, 101 years old, and Laurent S. Boudreaux, 98, of near Rayne, were honored as oldest male citizens with Susan Hodge, 102, Crowley, as the oldest female.

Winners in all the events are listed in this article, with special thanks going to all the chairmen and committees, including Hubert Gottle and the Cajun bands who entertained, "Bayou Cajun Ramblers," "Flight," "Preston Venable's Band," "Tippy Crochet and his band," and "Water Hole Jammers."

Honorined during the day were the Junior Centennial Queen, Tonya Kay Miller, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Miller of Iota, and the Centennial Queen, Linda Kaye Savoie of Church Point. Special appreciation has been voiced to Dr. R.L. Savoie of Church Point, who organized the Centennial Parade and held it together, in spite of rain just before the starting hour of 3 p.m. When the showers cleared, sirens sounded start of the 100th birthday event, the streets were lined with receptive spectators, and the Parade was a tremendous event. Three school bands from Iota, Church Point and Crowley added much enjoyment.

Senator Cecil Picard, Representatives Donald Thibodeaux and Dale Sittig headed participating Parish officials, Police Jurors, School Board members, Mayor Robert Istre of Crowley, Ralph Stutes of Rayne and Harold Beauch of Church Point, and all had a wonderful day visiting with friends and sharing the "Party."

Adding a special entertainment feature, the "See-Saw," and Square Dance Group from Lafayette, and their caller, Chuck Burnum gave an enjoyed performance to start the afternoon program.

And no report of the day can be complete without very special commendation and thanks to the Executive Council of Acadia Homemakers Clubs and members who played a "triple role" in success of the day, providing a delicious noon luncheon for the visiting officials and judges, donning their Centennial bonnets and taking part in the morning costume competition, then waving to all their hosts of friends as they rode in a special Homemakers entry in the Parade. Under direction of Mary Ann Sagrera, each club was assigned special responsibilities and foods to be prepared. Thanks, ladies!

It's impossible to name everyone, judges, participants, spectators, leaders, all who were responsible for the Centennial success but to each of them, Acadia is grateful for a memorable "Happy 100th Birthday!"

Among winners in the morning events included three categories in the Men's Beard Contest:

Moustache — 1st-Stephen Lambousy, 2nd-Donald Alleman, and 3rd-Michael Breaux.


VanDyke-1st-Joey Webb.

Women's Centennial Dress Contest, two categories: 15 to 50-1st-Bonnie Morgan, 2nd-Betty Thevis, and 3rd-India Dupuis.

And "Less Young" — 1st-Delores Humble, 2nd-Mary Ann Sagrera, and 3rd-Valerie Hundley.

At the noon hour Hubert Gottle kept the program moving with a well-planned band program until 1 p.m. when the Invocation was given by Msgr. Metrejean. Next on the program was a Square Dance performed by a Lafayette troupe called the "See-Saws," and from that point Dave Petitjean, Jr. was Emcee to complete the introductions and presentations. Among these were:

- Plaque presented to Acadia Parish Extension Council of Homemakers Clubs.
- School Poster Contest winners in the three divisions: 1st-Kelly Lawson, S. Crowley Elementary; 1st-Keith Mouton, Esterwood Junior; 1st-Allen Ami, Crowley High.
- Displays in Financial and Municipal offices:
  - Town of Church Point for Centennial display in City Hall, Mayor Harold Beauch receiving the plaque from Alice R. Quibodeaux, chairperson.