Festival Visitors Already
April 7, 1964

BREMAX BRIDGE -- The rear dining room at Min's was jammed with tourists, and the main dining room was packed with the younger set last Friday night.

... and delicious crawfish smells were all over the place. ... fried crawfish and cold beer. ... Talk about something good!

I stopped and talked to a group of college students who are staying in Broussard until the Festival, April 17-20. They were Larry Patin, a USL freshman from Baton Rouge; Frank Chase, a Rice University sophomore from Lafayette; Richard Reaux of Lake Charles, another Rice University sophomore from Beaumont; Jimmie Randolph, a freshman USL student from Lafayette; Jimmie Zimmerman, Rice University sophomore from Beaumont; Nock'et (I trusted you, my friend) Girouard from Houma, a student at Terrebonne High. A very polite and intelligent group of young men, they are looking forward to the Festival.

While talking to them, "Frere" and Gloria Kern came in, and the mayor officially welcomed them to our town. I think the Kerns make an ideal "first" couple for Breaux Bridge, and I've never seen them too busy to fill their roles as host and hostess. After the relays at St. Bernard, the high school set came in, and I noticed Ray Robin, Billy Delhomme, Frank Richard and Jimmy Yongue sitting around eating crawfish dogs and drinking soft drinks. As far as the young ladies were concerned, it looked as if they had just come from a rehearsal for the Crawfish Queen contest. Instantly recognized in the crowd were such striking beauties as the Warren Finley's daughter Bess; the Ned Broussard's Bonnie; Kathy Erwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Erwin; and Aleta Bernard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.T. Bernard, who combines beauty and a wonderful personality. Also contributing their share of beauty to the surroundings were Cheryl LeBlanc, Sue Hughes, Brenda Broussard, Maxine Nargassins and Renee Patin.

I LOOKED UP at the low, overcast sky ceiling, and heard the sound of a plane high overhead, heading for the Lafayette airport. ... The only way I'll ever get to see all of the far off places I've always wanted to be to fly there ... and darn it! ... I can't work up any enthusiasm for flying unless I can carry a parachute with me ... so maybe I'd better visit Mrs. Young at the library and see what she has in the way of travel books and pictures. ... (good idea, with Library Week coming up).

LARRY CORMIER wheeled up on his bike and asked "Where's puppy?" ... "I'm sorry to inform you that "puppy" was killed by a car on the highway." I told him. A wry little smile came over his features, and there was a lump in the throat of the sensitive boy. Larry was "puppy's" favorite friend and also a big help to me in exercising the little collie. "Well, Mr. Manning" he said, "I guess you'll have to get a sack of crawfish and go to Melville for that dog over there"...

Larry is one of my advisors in writing this column and he performed the same service for our mutual friend, the late "Jess" Badon. ... In one "sitting" and in rapid fire succession he "threw" these gems at me; Policemen are some of the strongest men in the world because they can hold up a car with one hand. And one strawberry told another "if you weren't so fresh you wouldn't be in this jam" ... and there are two things that Larry said he couldn't eat for breakfast and those two things are dinner ... and supper.

I ENJOYED READING the remarks my favorite high school columnist made last week in the DW concerning journalism. To paraphrase a famous quotation, I'd like to make this observation: "Think not what journalism can do for you, but think of what you can do with journalism" ... A person who goes ahead and develops into a good writer can bring joy and intelligence into the lives of invalids and others whose only contact with the world is through the printed word, I have always felt that this knowledge is a spur that keeps good writers writing and writing ... and writing.

In a much lighter vein of thought, ... journalists are pretty powerful, too. Correspondent James Barrios strolled into Simon's drug store last Saturday, and immediately Carl Simon dropped everything he was doing and rushed to the young man's side ... as did Woody Marshall who came in a few minutes later. James was telling them about how he planned to report the party of "Les Freres de la Barbe" ... he intended to mention people in his write-up who wouldn't be there but who were qualified because they had beards, such as deGaulle, etc.

I sure hope he mentions the old geezer who used to be Roy Roger's sidekick ...