Proposed 'Rice Museum' In Crowley Gets Started

CROWLEY — The Crowley Chamber of Commerce office announced that actual work has begun on making the proposed Rice Museum a reality.

Cleanup work was begun last week on the building and grounds of the proposed Rice Museum site, according to Webb Guillot, Rice Museum board member and chairman of the building and grounds committee.

The museum is being built as a dedication to the farmer, the miller, and all others who have been such a vital part of Southwest Louisiana rice history.

Myrtle Fontenot, assisted by Ralph Cowen, and both members of the Board, have compiled a list of items that enumerates the needs of the museum. These items are for outside display. They were assisted in this project by Clyde LeBlanc.

Mrs. Fontenot appeals to all area citizens to join in the search and procurement of the following important items which pertain to rice and its early history in this area. She advised that only the Rice Museum Board members are authorized to accept items. Those persons wishing to donate items are advised to call: Crowley Chamber of Commerce, 783-3051 or 783-3067; Myrtle Fontenot, Box 36, Estherwood, 783-4938; or Clyde LeBlanc, 523 Western Avenue, 783-1394.

Items needed include:

- A single wood plow, a single blade gang plow, a double blade gang plow, a three blade gang plow, a disc plow with tongue, a disc plow for 4 mules, a wooden harrow (any size), a mule roller with tongue, and a set of springs (Tooth Harrow).
- Also needed are a wooden drag, a wheel rice broadcaster, a wagon broadcaster, a mule drill, a four mule levee pusher, a two mule double plow with ditch pusher, a levee two mule scoop, a relief water pump, and a Fairbank 1-cylinder motor pump.

The museum needs old shovels, 20 sickles, 20 rice hooks, a half of twine, an old binder with tongue, a wooden threshing, a "tinky boiler" or steam engine, a 75-100 ft. thresher belt, a horse or mule saddle (old) two brown or white water jugs, five or six wooden rice wagons, and an oxen yoke.

Other items sought include 10 pitch forks, a warehouse wagon, a tital tractor, an old tractor (any make), a sack sewing thread, a sewing sack needle, a rice mower, a hay knife, a hand rake, a two-wheel two-mule rake, a one-mule wooden baler, a bundle of bale wire, an antique truck, and the first rice combine purchased in Crowley or the area.