1983 Goose And Duck Caller Contestant

Crowley Streets Alive With Festival Goers

DOWNTOWN CROWLEY

Rice Festival Begins Friday

CROWLEY — The International Rice Festival is still going strong after 48 years of annually celebrating Acadia parish’s number one crop.

Since the festival was first started Oct. 5, 1937, more than 6 million people have attended the annual fair which emphasizes the importance of rice as a food source.

This year marks the 48th year of the festival. It will be held Friday and Saturday in downtown Crowley.

Friday is recognized as children’s day. The Junior Rice Queen and King will be crowned at 11:30 a.m.

Other events Friday include the creole cooking contest at 10 a.m. at the rice festival building. Creole cuisine prepared by men and women from throughout southwest Louisiana and Texas will be prepared from rice and rice byproducts.

While judging is taking place at the Junior Queen and King Pageant, champion rice eaters will be competing in the Rice Eating Contest at 10:30 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a children’s parade. The theme of the parade is “Countries United With Rice”. Rice is used in making the floats and the decorations. The route begins at the Courthouse to Second Street then up Parkerson Avenue back to the Courthouse.

The Rice Festival Queen’s contest begins at 7:45 p.m.

Musical entertainment begins at 4 p.m. by the Country Empire Navy Band from Memphis. At 5:30 p.m. the “High Tide” Navy Band from New Orleans will perform.

Saturday’s schedule includes cow chip throwing, harmonica, fiddle and accordion contests and a grand parade to end the day.

A frog jumping derby will begin the day at 10 a.m. at the main festival platform.