Rice miller to be honored at festival

CROWLEY - A lifelong rice miller will be honored at a banquet Oct. 19 as part of the celebration of the 53rd annual International Rice Festival to be held here in October.

Jean Royby Vincent will be recognized, said festival president Glynn Mayard.

Vincent is secretary-treasurer and sales manager of Liberty Rice Mill Inc. of Kaplan. He presently serves on the rice festival board of directors.

Vincent was born in 1926, and was graduated from Kaplan High School in 1943 and immediately began working at Liberty. He began as a laborer before being promoted in 1970 to his two current positions.

During his tenure, Vincent has seen the volume of rice milled increase five-fold. The mill now distributes rice to various sections of the United States, mainly in Puerto Rico and also in the export channels.

The Kaplan mill employs over 100 workers.

In 1957, the mill developed an insurance agency in partnership with Conrad M. Kaplan. Vincent serves as its secretary-treasurer.

He has also served as financial secretary of the Knights of Columbus for a number of years and was cited by the group for outstanding work.

Some of Vincent's other positions include: commander of the Kaplan American Legion Post, president of the Kaplan High School Boosters Club, co-chairman of the Pirate Den's Youth Organization, and co-chairman of the Kaplan Public Schools Building Committee.

Serving his 15th term on the Rice Miller Association's board of directors, Vincent is also a member of its Grade Standards Committee.

In 1968, Vincent was selected Kaplan's outstanding citizen for his work in youth conversation.

In 1969, his family received a local Jaycee outstanding service award for participating in a foreign student exchange program.

Vincent has also served on the following: Kaplan Youth Commission; Vermilion Parish Surplus Commodity Commission; Kaplan Park and Recreation Commission; Holy Rosary Parish Council; and the October Fete Steering Committee.

He and his wife, Leatrice, have five children: Gwen, Jessica, Todd, Joel and Michele.

Vincent and his wife are eucharistic ministers at Holy Rosary Parish in Kaplan.

He is one of three children of the late Raoul and Eloire V. Vincent.

Jean Royby Vincent