'Springtime in Crawfish Land' Will Be Theme of Festival

By CLAIRE PUNEKY

BREAUX BRIDGE, La.—This picturesque community in Southwest Louisiana's Teche country has earned for itself the title of "Crawfish Capital of the World, and rightly so.

Each year now, since the city celebrated its centennial back in 1959, Breaux Bridge has been the domicile of the Louisiana Crawfish Festival.

"Springtime in Crawfish Land" will be the theme of the 1967 festival, scheduled for April 22, under the able guidance of its president, Raymond Pelletier.

'LITTLE FESTIVAL'

This ninth annual event will be what Crawfish Festival leaders call "the little festival." The big one, with a major assortment of events going on for several days is presented every two years.

Miss Michelle Ritchey of Breaux Bridge was chosen last year over a large number of contenders to be the queen of the Crawfish country, and she has worn the crown of her royal rank throughout the past year.

The reigning queen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Ritchey, will relinquish her title and scepter on April 22 when her successor is selected by a panel of judges.

The coronation of the new queen is to take place following the competition that will get under way at 8 p.m. on April 22.

A new junior queen will be chosen to succeed Miss Susan Irwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Irwin of Breaux Bridge. Miss Irwin, like Miss Ritchey, has ruled over the junior subjects of the Crawfish kingdom since her selection at last year's festival.

GALA EVENT

The festival, at which crawfish in many ways is served to the thousands who pour into the Crawfish capital, has grown out of the 100th anniversary celebration of Breaux Bridge in 1959, when a gala event was staged and Crawfish was declared King of this countryside.

In 1960 a celebration almost equaling the centennial was held. After that it was decided to conduct the festival in the form it has at present. A big celebration is put on in the even years, and a smaller event in the odd-numbered years.

Although the festival this year will be limited to the coronation event and the Festival Ball that will follow selection of the two queens, many visitors are expected in Breaux Bridge to feast on the delectable crustacean that will be available in great quantity throughout the day.