Teche country offers charm
Breaux Bridge

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Right at our back door are more fascinating things to see than you'll ever find time for, but tourists from distant points such as Colorado, New York, Canada and even France are seeking them out.

However, you can arrange to take "mini-tours" each weekend during the summer and discover your state — Lovely Louisiana. Take the family along, too, they'll enjoy it.

You've heard of the fabled Teche country in South Louisiana. It is an area of enchantment and so well known that some Louisianians don't even know it.

If you can wend your way over to New Iberia, you'll find this the center point for striking out in all directions of the Teche country.

This week, our first stop will be in Breaux Bridge. "Crawfish Capital of the World," or as they translate it in Cajun La Capitale Mondiale de L'Ecrouisseur.

You'll find that crawfish is indeed king in Breaux Bridge. There are crawfish signs to be seen at every restaurant.

But what surprised us most is to discover what a charming little town Breaux Bridge is. It is one of the neatest towns you can find. Even the older houses and buildings have a scrubbed, fresh look about them.

There's a unique air about Breaux Bridge that spells "charm." The people are friendly — and talented. It seemed obvious during such a short visit that many of these people are quite artistic. It can be noted in some of their handcraft which includes jewelry.

If you're taking the family along on this weekend trip, there are two things you will want to put on the schedule for Breaux Bridge — stop and have a crawfish dinner and don't fail to take a ride by the town's fire station.

The reason for the crawfish dinner is pretty obvious.

The reason for the fire station visit is this: You'll never come across another one quite like it. It is a Louisiana Colonial-style home for the men's quarters, with the attached garage section for the fire engines. It is elegant and was recently and especially built for the fire department.

We were told that the interior is quite plush, and it was obvious from the outside that it has fine draperies.

Even the town's telephone directory carries a big red crawfish design on it and has done so since 1965, Robert L. Domingues, a member of the Crawfish Festival Association committee, told us. The festival began in 1960 as an outgrowth of the town's centennial in 1959. The festival is held every spring.

You'll hear French spoken in every business place you enter. The town's name in French would be, "Pont Breaux." Incidentally, the town's bridge crosses Bayou Teche.

Just about nine miles from Breaux Bridge is Henderson which is known as the "Game Fish Capital."

Henderson is a mecca for fishermen, and people from all over South Louisiana have camps there. A popular gathering place there is a restaurant located right on the waterfront.

An ad on Henderson in the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival souvenir booklet contains this line, "The catfish is so fresh, it slept in the Atchafalaya last night."

Incidentally, we want to point out that in leaving Lake Charles to make this trip, the Interstate 10 highway to Lafayette gets you there in about an hour's drive. Breaux Bridge is eight miles from Lafayette.