Welcome to Acadia Parish

Cajun Prairie Country... Acadia Parish!

We invite you to a real Cajun experience in the heart of Cajun Prairie Country. LEARN our history and folklore; VISIT our elegant architecture of Crowley's huge historic district & Cajun gift shops. Visit the Historic Rice Theatre; tour Mouton Accordions & Music where accordions are custom made and demonstrated; tour the Crystal Rice Plantation with its Blue Rose Museum, collection of vintage antique cars, and Aqua-Culture tour on crawfish & rice. In some of the most beautiful surroundings imaginable, you can catch a glimpse of wildlife as they migrate along a recognized flyway from their summer homes. All this and more here in Crowley, the Rice Capital of the World and Tree City U.S.A.

Experience the local heritage at the tiny pilgrim's chapel in the German settlement of Roberts Cove then travel to Mermentau to visit the amazing European-style castle. While traveling to these two amazing locations, travel the Zydeco Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway and visit the Kelly's Landing Agricultural Museum to learn about the importance of agriculture in our parish while viewing the antique farm equipment and the remarkable collection of toy farm equipment.

The charm of the Frog Murals and Tree Frogs explains why Rayne is the Frog Capital of the World and Louisiana City of Murals. Rayne is also listed on "Ripley's Believe It or Not" as having the only cemetery, St. Joseph Cemetery, in
which the graves face north and south.

After visiting the murals of Tee-Mamou Mardi Gras in Iota, tour the Bon Cajun Instruments Shop were Bon Tee Cajun Accordion are custom made. Church Point, the Buggy Capital of the World, is home to the LeParc de Vieux Depot and many Cajun Gift Shops. While in Richard, visit Charlene Richard's grave for prayer and meditation. (A proposed Cajun Saint in nearby Richard).

CELEBRATE with us at our fairs and festivals. ENJOY the taste you long for that begins right here in Acadia Parish-Louisiana, the Heart of Cajun Prairie Country. That remarkable Cajun cooking is at its very best in any of our local restaurants. Boudin, Cracklins, Gumbo and other fine Cajun Foods allow you to experience the savoring flavor of our spices. And by all means, you must dance the 'Cajun two-step' or tap your feet to the unique beat of the Zydeco music!

After a day of touring, RELAX in one of finest motels or unforgettable Bed & Breakfast or at an RV campground. All are centrally located and within minutes of all major parish attractions.

Once you experience Acadia Parish, you are sure to return!

Gwen Hanks
Sincerely,
Gwen Hanks
Executive Director

Church Point, Louisiana

Buggy Capital of the World, Cajun Music Capital of the World
Located at the intersection of LA Hwy. 35 & 95
102 Church Street, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-5692, fax: (337) 684-6891, www.churchpointlouisiana.net

The name Church Point was derived from the original name of the settlement, Plaquemine Brulée and the location of the first chapel. Jesuit missionaries serving the chapel referred to the site as "La Chapelle de la Pointe de Plaquemine Brulée," or Church at the Point. The name was eventually anglicized to Church Point. Many old timers still refer to the town as "Pointe de l'Eglise." Church Point's claim of the "Buggy Capital of the World" was secured in the 1920's when many people traveled miles to attend services here, and is now celebrated at the Annual Buggy Festival.

Crowley, Louisiana

"Where Life is Rice and Easy"
Located off I-10 Exits 80 & 82
426 North Avenue F, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 788-4100, fax: (337) 788-4146, www.crowley-la.com

Known as the “Rice Capital of America" because of the large number of rice mills that line Mill Street, there are many other points of interest in this historic city, including a pre-1903 skyscraper, the Art-Deco Rice Theatre, a 1900 opera house, many beautiful churches and modern buildings. Crowley is a designated “Tree City USA" by virtue of the oak trees that line its streets, is a Main Street City, and is home for the regionally acclaimed Miller Stadium. Crowley offers many events throughout the year, including Carnival d'Acadie, International Rice Festival, July Fete and Main Street Alive.

Estherwood, Louisiana

Village of Estherwood
Located 6 miles west of Crowley on Hwy. 90 (Old Spanish Trail)
124 North LeBlanc Road, P.O. Box 167, Estherwood, LA 70534
(337) 783-0464, fax: (337) 783-0596

Like other towns created by the coming of the train, Estherwood was named by, and probably for a railroad official or member of his family. One opinion of how Estherwood's name came about is a combination of two names, the result of a compromise made to end a controversy over whether to name the place Wood, for a Dr. Wood, or Esther, for the wife of the section
foreman of the railroad. Another version explains the “wood” part as follows: the station was a re-fueling point for the early wood-burning engines, and the name was derived from the large quantities of wood which were stored near the station. Before the railroad came through the place was known as Coulee Trieve, so named for an early settler, Jean Baptiste Trieve who had built a cabin on the coulee about 1816. A mysterious and sinister figure, Trieve was believed to have been a pirate. One of the early civic leaders of Estherwood was Jacob Kollitz, who established a place of business near the site of the old pirate’s cabin in 1891. When the Village was incorporated in 1901, Kollitz was one of the aldermen. The village had a population of 300. The Kollitz home is still in existence, and is presently owned by the estate of Ms. Marilyn LeLeux. Another Estherwood landmark is the Hoyt home, which was built in 1899 by Edward T. Hoyt, better known as “Jasmine Lawn.” Although this home has had several owners since the Hoyt’s, it is now in the ownership of Edward & Paula Gonzalez. Estherwood also has one house that is listed on the Historic Registry, “Estherwood Manor.” It is a beautiful two-story residence situated on N. Leblanc Street, and is presently owned by Steven O & Laura Smith. This small community has had its share of contributions in keeping up with the times. Estherwood is known for being large enough to provide for our families the necessary education, but small enough to look out for our fellow neighbors.

**Mermentau, Louisiana**

**Village of Mermentau**

Located 14 miles west of Crowley on Hwy. 90 (Old Spanish Trail) 104 7th Street, Mermentau, LA 70556

(337) 824-8466, fax: (337) 824-6973

In the last quarter of the 18th century, there was an Attakapas chief by the name of Nementou. On April 16, 1784, he sold land on Bayou Plaquemine Brûlée to Antoine Blanc. Nementou is later mentioned as the chief of a village on the river of the same name. Eventually, through a clerical error, Nementou became Mementou and this was then corrupted into Mermentau through confusion with the French word mer, which means “sea.” The Mermentau area was once reputedly a refuge for smugglers, outlaws, slave runners, and pirates. It was a crossing point for brave travelers on the Old Spanish Trail, but had such a bad reputation that until well after the Louisiana Purchase no one would go to the area to find out how many people lived there. On November 11, 1899, Mermentau overcame this legend and achieved legal village status.

**Morse, Louisiana**

**Village of Morse**

Located on Hwy. 91, 4 miles south of Midland 232 South Jules, Morse, LA 70559

(337) 783-7555, fax: (337) 783-7555

When the railroad was extended southward from Midland into Vermilion Parish in 1896, a station was created at Morse, about four miles south of Midland. It was built to serve settlers who had bought land from W.W. Duson and was named for a railroad official. A post office, known as Loma, was established on April 30, 1898. The name of the village was changed to Morse on July 1, 1900. It was named for S.F.B. Morse, a Southern Pacific official. Morse was incorporated as a village on March 27, 1906. Alcee Henry was the first mayor.

**Iota, Louisiana**

I-10 Exit 76 take LA 1120 North, 6 miles to LA 98, 1 1/2 miles 116 Duson Avenue, Iota, LA 70543

(337) 779-2597, fax: (337) 779-2599

The mural of Tee-Mamou Mardi Gras (located on old Bourgeois General Store, built in 1914), allows you to experience the “Tee Mamou-Iota Mardi Gras Folk life Festival.” Mineral springs made Iota the home of Pointe-aux-Loups, an early health spa. “Pointe aux-Loups,” translated to English is “Wolf Point,” one of the oldest places named in the Acadia Parish area. It was once a well-known summer resort because of the medicinal springs there.

**Rayne, Louisiana**

**The Frog Capital of the World, Louisiana City of Murals**

Located right off I-10 Exit 87 P. O. Box 69, 801 The Boulevard, Rayne, LA 70578

(337) 334-3121, www.rayne.org

Explore the past. Enjoy the present. Rayne was not built in a day. It goes back to the 1800’s when the railroad came to town. First called Pouppeville, but was later changed to honor the engineer who laid the tracks – Rayne. Today, folks know us for our frogs, but it all started when a trio of Parisians, Jaques Well and his brothers, began a profitable export business, shipping our hoppy residents to restaurants across the country. There’s also St. Joseph’s Cemetery, listed in Ripley’s Believe It or Not! as the only known U.S. cemetery facing north-south. This is only the beginning, and to learn more, you’ve just got to come visit. Open your eyes to the beauty that surrounds you. In Rayne, art is everywhere. It is inescapable. Murals leap out at every turn, created by masters of the art form and citizens with an eye for capturing the uniqueness of the area. The Bernard-Bertrand Museum, a home with its own colorful history, is now home to wonderful works by area artists. Step by step down Louisiana Avenue, stroll into the pages of a Louisiana history book. Your eye is drawn to architectural details that take you back in time. And antique shops are for browsing and buying or reliving a bit of the past. Historic charm, mesmerizing murals, antique attractions, Old Louisiana come to life. Welcome to Rayne, Louisiana, City of friends and frogs. Where the simple things leave the biggest impression. And simply strolling through the streets is one of the most pleasant experiences you can have. For a day or two, there’s just so much to do – in Rayne!
Accommodations

Crowley Inn
2111 North Cherokee Drive, Crowley, LA 70526
Exit 80 on to service road
(337) 788-0970

59 Rooms. Restaurant. Free motor coach parking, group rates, pool, eighteen-wheeler truck parking. The Crowley Inn is located two miles from downtown Crowley.

Best Western of Crowley
9571 Egan Hwy., Crowley, LA 70526
Exit 80 on to service road
(337) 783-2378

46 rooms, free USA Today and complimentary coffee. Free deluxe continental breakfast. Remote cable TV with HBO, ESPN, CNN, CNBC. All room direct dial phone and data port motor. Restaurants within walking distance. Hair dryers and iron/board in all the rooms, coach parking, pool, group rates. Best Western of Crowley is located two miles from downtown Crowley.

Super 8 Motel
Life's Great at Super 8!
3001 Daulat Drive, Duson, LA 70529
Exit 92 on to service road
(337) 873-8883 or Toll Free 866-873-8883
Agros8@aol.com, www.Super8.com


Comfort Inn of Rayne
1422 N. Polk Street, Rayne, LA 70578
Located I-10 at Exit 87
(337) 334-0060

Beautiful new property, 53 guest rooms — all interior corridors, king rooms with Jacuzzi and recliner, double guest rooms, free continental breakfast, free USA today, free fax & copy service, hair dryers, 25” remote cable TV with HBO, radio alarm clock, business center, meeting facility, swimming pool.

Days Inn
Church Point Hwy., Rayne, LA 70578
Located off Exit 87
1-800-DAYS-INN (1-800-329-7466)

No matter where you travel in Louisiana, our convenient location is right off I-10. At your friendly Days Inn, You’ll always find clean, comfortable rooms and kids 12 and under stay free.

Bed & Breakfasts

Bob's Tree Preservation
Recycling Facility
Log cabins/B&B
740 South Main Street
Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-TREE (day)
(337) 684-2942 (night)
1-888-620-TREE
www.bobstree.com

(3) Private log cabins, full kitchen, fully furnished. No smoking. No pets. Children welcomed. The cabins are made from 100% recycled lumber. Every piece of wood that comes into our possession has unique characteristics, our carpenters focus on this unique lumber and bring them out in the form of furniture or cabins. Truly a walk in time – 4 miles of walking paths – Gated – Thousand of trees and wildlife – Tour of trees by appointment. All major credit cards accepted.

La Maison de Marie Bed & Breakfast
24303 Crowley-Eunice Hwy., Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-3661

Come enjoy a memorable stay in the heart of Acadiana Cajun country, true Southern hospitality, country charm, nature and tranquility in a beautiful natural setting of majestic tall trees, native flowers. Tour our grounds or just enjoy the view from our spacious decks. 2 bedrooms with private baths, a sitting room with a sleeper couch. Can accommodate up to 6 or 7 family members. Outstanding Handicap accommodations. All entrances have ramp approaches. Covered parking, laundry, TV, phone, continental breakfast. No smoking. Daily 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

The Seal Guesthouse
(North of Crowley) 123 Seale Lane, Eunice, LA 70535
(337) 457-3753, fax: (337) 457-3753

The Seale Guesthouse offers a wide variety of accommodations from suites to 2 and 3 bedroom cottages all with queen size beds, Victorian antiques, hardwood floors, old fashioned wrap-around porches, 60 acres of huge trees, creeks, ponds and a turn of the century old grocery store which is used for receptions, reunions, rehearsal dinners, parties, etc. The old store was actually robbed
by Bonnie and Clyde during their reign of terror in North Central Louisiana. Perfect choice for overnight visitors, long term stays, intimate weddings, receptions and reunions. Just 2 miles south of Eunice on Hwy. 13 or 18 miles North of Interstate 10 at Crowley, LA. It is the perfect location to relax, enjoy Cajun and Zydeco music, food and some of the friendliest people on earth. MC/V.

**The Carriage House**

220 East Third Street, Crowley, LA 70526  
(337) 783-1744 or 783-8373  
keigleystephanie@hotmail.com, www.thecarriagehousebab.com

The Carriage House Bed & Breakfast is located in the heart of the Historic District of Crowley. The 1902 home is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The English Tudor style two story carriage house features 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, upstairs screened porch, patio, living area, full kitchen. Available with or without breakfast. No smoking or pets. Within walking distance of downtown shops.

**La Maison Pointe aux Loups**

2165 Eunice-Iota Hwy., Iota, LA 70543  
(337) 779-2485, contact: Gibson Miller  
www.skybusiness.com/Pointe_Aux_Loups

Welcome to Pointe Aux Loups Bed & Breakfast. Step back in time in a century-old authentic Acadian (Cajun) house. Allow yourself to relax and enjoy a time gone by. Sip coffee while sitting on a cypress swing on the front porch. Sleep in authentic Antique iron beds. Eat a meal at an antique cypress table. Whether you are traveling or just want a weekend get-away, Pointe Aux Loups provides a perfect destination. All rooms non-smoking. Located 3 miles north of Iota on Hwy. 91. Hours vary by season.

**Hummingbird House**

**Bed & Breakfast**  
110 N Cunningham Street  
Rayne, LA 70578  
(337) 334-8169  
apetit@cox-internet.com  
www.hummingbird-house.net

Hummingbird House is located in the old section of Rayne, just three short blocks from the building murals. At various times throughout the year local area tours are available. Take a tour of a working Crawfish farm or attend one of the many festivals in the surrounding areas. At Hummingbird House you can relax and enjoy watching hummingbirds feeding, walk in the rose garden, or learn to china paint. We also offer in-house massages by a licensed massage therapist. At certain times during the year we have tea parties, scavenger hunts, make and take miniature classes, and china painting instructions.

**Maison D'Memoire B&B Cottages**

8450 Roberts Cove Road, Rayne, LA 70578  
(337) 334-2477, fax: (337) 334-4809  
info@maisondmemoire.com, www.maisondmemoire.com

Recapture the precious memories of the past in our private, authentic cajun cottages. Indulge in the blessings of a country weekend. Where the atmosphere is warm and personal pictures setting long to be remembered. One of those rare places that seem to have it all. Private lake, nature walks, Jacuzzi suites and a delicious full breakfast delivered to your door to enjoy in the privacy of your suite! Our unique guesthouses have the warmth and coziness of visiting Grandma's and the luxury of a hotel. We also have a retreat center on property for special events or meetings!

**The Hoffpauir House**

4257 Roberts Cove Road, Rayne, LA 70578  
(337) 788-1050, fax: (337) 788-1050  
hoffpauirhouse@aol.com, www.hoffpauirhouse.com

Willkommen, Bienvenue, to the quiet countryside of southwest Louisiana. We are nestled among the wooded acres of Roberts Cove, LA in the heart of Cajun Country. Come sit, relax and enjoy the tranquil setting that surrounds you. Imagine sitting in the peace and quiet of your own private porch, gazing across the wide open spaces. Get back to nature while sipping your freshly brewed morning coffee. Is a picnic more your style? Select a bottle of vintage wine and cheese and sit along the banks of our fresh water pond. It's view is breathtaking.
Campgrounds & RV Parks

David's RV Trailer Park
825 East Ebey Street, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-2023 or (337) 684-5371
15 RV and campers spots with full hook-up.

Saddle-Tramp RV-Campground
1/2 mile north of Church Point city limits
For more information contact:
Joy Richard (337) 684-2026 or
Teasie Cary (337) 684-2739
50+ plus camp sites, water & electricity hook-ups, shower stalls with restrooms & dump sites, club house with central ac/heat accommodating 300 people with full kitchen facility for rally masters. Bandstand with 30x30 covered concrete pavilion. Within walking distance of fast food restaurants. Local hospital and city park. Overnight, weekend, or rally stays welcomed.

A&M Campground
(Lyons Point, LA) 3108 Henry Road, Morse, LA 70559
Call for reservations: (337) 783-2138
Allison & Margie Henry - Owners - Good Sam Life Member. Located 8.6 miles south of Crowley on Hwy. 13, turn right at Parish line, don't cross bridge, go .2 miles turn left at sign. Club house with complete kitchen. We welcome clubs. We cater. Come enjoy peace quiet with us.

Acadian Oaks Park Campground
8424 Roberts Cove Road, Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-2134 or (337) 334-9955 after 4:00 p.m.
30 RV and camper spots with full hook-up.

City of Rayne
RV Rally Facility
P.O. Box 69, (801 The Boulevard) Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-3121, fax: (337) 334-6607
rayne@rayne.org, www.rayne.org
620 RV hook-ups. 30 and 50 amp electricity. 19,000 square foot Civic Center adjoining RV park. Call to reserve space for your next rally.

www.acadiatourism.org

Attractions

Le Vieux Presbytère
Parsonage Home
Corner of Rue Iry LeJeune & South Rogers Street, Church Point, LA 70525
This building was the old Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Rectory. The Diocese of Lafayette donated this priest's home to the Town of Church Point. The 1887 structure is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. This is one of the last structures in south Louisiana to use folk craft of mud wall construction which is known as bousillage. For more information call the City Hall office, (337) 684-5692.

Crystal Rice Plantation
6428 Airport Road
Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-6417
fax: (337) 788-0123
crpwright@cs.com

"One step into the past and two steps into the future"

No other words can describe the memorable experience awaiting you at the Crystal Rice Plantation. The diversity of this unique Acadia Parish plantation will surely be long remembered. Crystal Rice Plantation features a restored 1848 Acadian Cottage. The home is built of Louisiana cypress, handmade brick and a mixture of mud and moss. As a memorial to the late Sol Wright who developed a revolutionary variety of seed rice called the "Blue Rose" in 1912, the museum is so named. The last stop on the tour is an Aqua-Culture Tour, which shows how two different crops crawfish and rice, are grown on the same land at the same time. This tour takes you through the seeding, harvesting and processing of this delicious crustacean. Group tours available year round by appointment. Crawfish boils and catering available for groups, ask for our menu. Five miles south of Crowley on Hwy. 13 south.
Historic Rice Theatre
323 North Parkerson Avenue
Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 788-4103, fax: (337) 788-4144
ricecity@bellsouth.net

The Historic Rice Theatre is the home of foot-stomping, finger-snap-ning, toe tapping, hand clapping, Cajun, Gospel and Country Music nights. Join locals and visitors from around the world as they dance in their seats or on our new dance floor. Hours vary by season. Special events are also scheduled. Admission.

Kelly's Landing Agricultural Museum & Tours
1109 Robert's Cove Road, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 788-0546

Take a nostalgic walk through the past as you view the farming tools of our fathers and grandfathers. The equipment of yesterday was simple and, quite often, handmade. Tour the antique farm equipment and toy tractor collection. Appointments only.

The Gallery
220 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-3747

You'll find the most original creations—including paintings, handcrafted jewelry, Cajun crafts, needlework, ceramics, woodcrafts and much more. Unique treasures for your home and garden by area artists. Sponsored by Crowley Art Association. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mouton Accordions & Music
23466 Crowley-Eunice Hwy., Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-2246, fax: (337) 783-9177
moutonmusic@aol.com, www.moutonaccordions.com

Come in and see our great selection of Cajun and Swamp Pop cd's & cassettes. Check out our great prices on accordions and musical instruments. We welcome all tourists. Located 5 miles north of Crowley on Hwy. 13. Open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Present this ad for special discount!

Grand Opera House of the South
505 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 785-0440, www.thegrandoperahouse.org

Situated in the heart of historical downtown Crowley is a 102 year-old, second story opera house. Closed since 1939, the "Grand" as it was called back then, is under a $3.2 million dollar restoration. Once complete, this 22,000 sq. foot opera house will be a full performing arts venue seating approx. 600. Tours are given Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 10:00 a.m., or by appointment for groups of 5 or more.

Wortman Pottery
Studio and Showroom
1769 Potters Road, Duson, LA 70529
(337) 873-8584, fax: (337) 873-3011, wortpotters@juno.com

Visit our pottery studio and showroom on a working rice farm and take home a piece of Cajun Country. Located 8 miles west of Lafayette off US Hwy. 90 between Rayne and Duson. Look for our signs one mile west of Duson. Stoneware and porcelain, functional pottery designed to enrich daily life. Est. in 1977. Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m.-6 p.m. MC/V.

Bon Cajun Instruments
886 McMillan Avenue, Iota, LA 70543
(337) 779-2456, fax: (337) 779-3080
boncajun@charter.net, www.leebenoit.com/boncajun.

Handmade accordions, triangles, scrubboards, spoons and Mardi Gras costumes, Prairie Cajun style. Owners Larry Miller and Jackie Miller. Larry has 25 years experience making Cajun accordions.

Le Petit Chateau deLuxe
820 Castle Cove Road, Mermentau, LA 70556
(337) 783-3641, contact: Philip Desormeaux

French architecture and beautiful setting gives one a sense of being in France right here in Louisiana. Castle grounds are filled with native trees, shrubs, and various flowering plants. Landscape construction started in 1955. Later construction of the Chateau started in 1962 and continues to flourish. Tours Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m., by appointment only. Admission fee.

The Bernard-Bertrand House
1023 The Boulevard, Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-8347, fax: (337) 334-1154, ladykgin@aol.com

The first Mayor of Rayne, J.D. Bernard's home, serves as the City's Cultural Center and contributes a cultural richness to the lives of visitors and residents throughout the region as it hosts exhibits, performances, lectures in the humanities, art classes, workshops and special events.
Points of Interest

St. Joseph's Cemetery
401 South Adams Street, Rayne, LA 70578

The cemetery dates back to 1872. St. Joseph's Cemetery, listed in "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" as the only known U.S. cemetery facing north and south. But this is only the beginning, and to learn more, you've just got to come visit.

Gravesite of Charlene Marie Richard
Proposed Cajun Saint
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cemetery, Richard, LA

Charlene Marie Richard was born January 13, 1947. After being diagnosed with acute lymphatic leukemia, she died on August 11, 1959, at the age of 12. During her confinement in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette, Louisiana, Charlene would offer her prayers and suffering to God each day for the benefit of others.

Le Parc du Vieux Depot
102 Church St., Church Point, LA 70525

Site of the Railroad Depot and loading platform. Seasonal-Cajun Music Jam session.

Chartering & Sightseeing Services

Magnolia Chartering Service
8509 Egan Highway, Crowley, LA 70526
1-866-824-9833 or (337) 783-9627, fax: (337) 783-9629
magnolia@direcway.com

Comfortable coaches for schools, church groups, shopping trips, private and special organizations, family trips, crew changes and more. Let Magnolia handle your traveling needs.

Acadia Tours with Alice
521 East 3rd Street, Crowley, LA 70526
800-651-8004 or (337) 783-5640
alice@acadia-tours.com, www.acadia-tours.com

Tour with Alice and meet an Authentic CAJUN accordion craftsman, enjoy a country Dinner with a FARMER who raises RICE & Crawfish. Experience Victorian elegance while touring a home and the Grand Opera House of the South. Enjoy our WETLANDS, with a swamp tour. Visit an authentic ACADIAN cottage filled with pristine antiques. All tours FUN & WITH SOUVENIRS. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. ALL TOURS, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

www.acadiatourism.org

Fairs & Festivals

Church Point Buggy Festival
837 East Ebey Street, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-2739
www.churchpointbuggyfest.com

Held the first weekend in June (Thursday & Friday night and all day Saturday & Sunday), the Buggy Festival includes a Sunday parade in which many townspeople ride in buggies or other horse-drawn vehicles. At the festival site in the town park, Cajun musicians perform continuously on the festival stage, and Cajun cuisine is on sale throughout the weekend. There are also other events, including a trail ride, a Cajun French accordion contest, Queens' contest, and a French speaking contest. Contact: T.C. Cary (337) 684-2739

Courir de Mardi Gras
1036 East Ebey Street, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-2739, fax: (337) 684-2739
www.churchpointcourirdemardigras.com

Courir de Mardi Gras, held Sunday prior to Fat Tuesday. Run starts at 8:00 a.m. ends downtown for a parade at 1:30 p.m. All events start and end at Saddle Tramp Club East Ebey Street, colorful costumed horseback riders, wagons, buggies, live music on the couirire. Chase the chickens, catch the greased pig, spectacular events. Traditional gumbo, boudin, and beverages available. Contact: Joey Richard (337) 684-2026, (337) 684-2739.

International Rice Festival
110 East 9th Street, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-3067, fax: (337) 783-3064
ricefest1937@hotmail.com, www.ricefestival.com

The International Rice Festival is one of Louisiana's oldest and largest agricultural festivals. Since the inauguration of the first festival on October 5, 1937, over seven million people have attended the annual affair. Our celebration serves to call attention to the importance of rice as food and emphasize its place in the world's economic picture. The festival takes place in the downtown area of Crowley and is one of the few festivals held on Friday and Saturday. It is generally held the third weekend of October. Special events include: Rice Cook-
Carnival D'Acadie
11 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
Call City Hall: (337) 788-4100
Crowley celebrates Fat Tuesday Rice City style with Carnival D'Acadie in downtown Crowley. The two-day carnival kicks off with a street dance the Monday evening before Mardi Gras and continues through the celebrated Tuesday. Party-goers enjoy live entertainment, favorite festival foods, a costume contest and a traditional parade. The Grand Mardi Gras parade is held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon and includes bands and floats with plenty of beads! The celebration grows each year with new features. Call Crowley City Hall at (337) 788-4100. Join our Rice City revelry!

Evangeline Oil & Gas Festival
1400 Old Evangeline Hwy (Hwy. 100), Evangeline, LA 70537
(337) 824-4995, fax: (337) 824-4995
The Evangeline Oil and Gas Festival is celebrated in the birthplace of Louisiana Oil, Evangeline, Louisiana. The Festival is planned on the third weekend in September. Events include live music, food, crafts, bingo, auction, and other events. Also in conjunction with the festival is the Annual Matthew Miller Skeet Shoot and the state accredited Miss Oil and Gas Festival Pageant. So mark your calendars and join us for a weekend of fun, food, and good music.

Tee Mamou Iota Mardi Gras Festival
116 Dusen Avenue, Iota, LA 70543
(337) 779-2226, fax: (337) 779-2227
www.iotamardigras.com
Prairie Cajun Mardi Gras at its best! See the last of the totally traditional Prairie Cajun Mardi Gras groups singing, dancing, and chanting their 400 year old chant in French, all wearing handmade screen masks, costumes, and capuchons. The "Mardi Gras" arrive about 2 p.m., but the festival is an all-day event in downtown Iota, where only traditional Cajun foods are served and Cajun crafts are displayed and sold. Live Cajun and Zydeco music all day on an outdoor bandstand and dance floor. Visit our "Children's Tent" featuring the best young Cajun musicians in the area! Free admission.

Morse Recreational Festival
232 South Jules Avenue, Morse, LA 70559
(337) 783-7555, fax: (337) 783-7555
The main goal of the Morse Recreational Festival is to raise money which will in turn allow for the buying of land, building and upkeep of a recreational park for youth. The festival is held every July. It is a small town festival with live music, street dances, Cajun food booths, and carnival rides. There is a grand parade which is held on the Saturday afternoon of events. For more info call Morse Town Hall. (337) 783-7555

Rayne Frog Festival
107 Oak Street, Gossen Memorial Park, Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-2332, fax: (337) 334-8341
raynechamber@earthlink.net, www.rayne.org/chamberhtml
One of Louisiana's top ten festivals, drawing over 55,000 people to Rayne every Labor Day weekend. Held at the Frog Festival grounds in Gossen Memorial Park next to the Rayne Civic Center, just off I-10. Continuous entertainment with 10 bands on main stages, offering Cajun, Zydeco, swamp pop, rock & roll, and country music all weekend. Great food, including Cajun specialties, seafood, burgers, frog legs, and much more. Special attractions include carnival rides, arts and crafts show (next door in civic center), Queens contests, frog racing and jumping contests, petting zoo, Folklife Signature Awards, grand parade, free parking, and a giant tent for shade. Admission Fee.

Robert's Cove Germanfest
German Heritage of Louisiana
7212 Robert's Cove Road, Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-8354, fax: (337) 334-5950
germanfest@aol.com, www.members.aol.com/germanfest/
St. Leo Church grounds, Hwy. 98 approx. 3 miles NW of I-10, Rayne. Robert's Cove Germanfest is unique in that this cultural event takes place in a small community whose roots are of German origin and is situated in the middle of "Cajun Country." The two-day event provides activities for all ages. The central theme is expressed with native foods and drinks – sausage, bread, potatoes, sauerkraut and sugar cookies. While at the Germanfest take time to tour the new German Heritage Museum. Admission Fee. The Germanfest is held on Sat & Sun the 1st weekend in October.
GJ’s Seafood & Steaks
6515 Church Point Hwy, Branch, LA 70516
(337) 334-8055
Cajun all the way! Live Cajun music every night. Lunch: Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner: Wed.-Sun. 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Seafood buffet on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Come see the Old Antique cars from 1919-1955. Owners, Gary & Jackie Fruge.

Sunny’s Fried Chicken
111 East Ebey, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-5051
In business over 30 yrs. specializing in Fried Chicken, Fried Shrimp, Poboys and Plate Lunches. Sun.-Sat., 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

Boudin King Cajun Way Family Restaurant
1805 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 788-2929
We have a come as you are atmosphere. Friendly employees who are ready to serve you the freshest great tasting Boudin, gumbo, red beans and rice, Poboys and seafood dinners. We also have salads topped with fresh boiled shrimp. We also sell souvenirs such as cookbooks, T-shirts and caps. Mon.-Thur. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. American Express.

Fezzo’s Seafood, Steakhouse & Oyster Bar
2111 North Cherokee Drive, I-10 Exit 80, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-5515, fax: (337) 783-6466, fezzoscrowley@aol.com
Serving “down home” lunch specials, specializing in flame grilled marinated steaks and only the finest seafood. All in a family dining atmosphere. Boiled Crawfish in season, Poboys, salads and pasta dishes. Rich in Cajun tradition. Buses welcome with reservations. Mon.-Thur. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. On and off premise catering. AE/D/MC/V

Frosto
228 North Avenue E, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-0917, fax: (337) 783-7070
Frosto is a 50’s style drive-in serving the best tasting old fashioned hamburger in town. A local favorite is a fried shrimp or homemade onion rings. Have a delicious malt/shake or one of our many other desserts, all made from scratch. Try one of our origi-

**C'est Bon Restaurant**
1400 Railroad Avenue (Hwy. 90), Mermentau, LA 70556  
(337) 824-5015, fax: (337) 824-7770

Serving Cajun plate lunches daily. Seafood dinners and short orders also available. Specializing in boiled crawfish, boiled crabs and boiled shrimp. (Only available in season.) Our dress is casual. No reservations needed. We have reasonable prices. Mon.-Tues. 5:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Wed.-Fri. 5:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. MC/V.

**Chef Roy's Frog City Café**
Try What Acadia's Finest Has to Offer!  
1131 Church Point Hwy.  
Rayne, LA 70578  
North of I-10  
(337) 334-7913  
fax: (337) 334-7935  
www.chefroy.com

Acadia's Finest Cajun Restaurant, Creole, Soul, French, Mexican specialties. Chef Roy is world traveled, representing Louisiana and U.S.A. Through his travels he promotes Cajun food, culture, music and folk life. As Corporate Chef, he has opened restaurants and catering establishments in 30 states, Canada, France, Belgium, and Mexico. We have a restaurant, full service lounge, banquet and wedding facilities, as well as a 48 ft. trailer kitchen for off-site catering services available nationwide. Plus, a drive-through B-B-Q and boiled seafood hut, available when in season. AE/D/MC/V.

**Frog City Travel Plaza**
1418 North Polk Street, Rayne, LA 70578, (I-10 & LA 35)  
(337) 334-3764, fax: (337) 334-7729, frogcitytravel@aol.com

Frog City Travel Plaza is your one-stop shop for gasoline, diesel, gifts, ice cream, pizza, audio books, souvenirs, etc. Get fine Cajun cuisine in our spacious restaurant. Replenish your supplies from our convenience store. View the beautiful murals. Open 24 hrs. daily. RV dump on site. AE/D/MC/V/CB/DC/CITGO.

---

**Warehouse Restaurant & Loading Dock**
205 East Louisiana Avenue, Rayne, LA 70578  
(337) 334-7741, fax: (337) 948-3904

Step back in time, while you stroll through the historic century old building that served as the mercantile trading and storage facility for the Mervine Kahn Company. Home of “The Original Beef Bacon.” The Warehouse specializes in preparing House Tartar Sauce, Remoulade Sauce, and Thousand Island Dressing. The Ballroom is available for business meetings, private parties, receptions and reunions. Catering is available for your private parties. Private downstairs daytime hours are available for clubs or social luncheons. Located in historical downtown Rayne, Louisiana “Where Cajun and Gourmet Meet.” Open Tues.-Sun. 4 p.m.-till.

---

**Traveler's Services**

**Acadia Animal Clinic**
7433 South Hwy. 13, Crowley, LA 70526  
(337) 783-7642, fax: (337) 783-7676

Dr. Jeffery Artall. Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Closed Sundays. MC/V. Large & small animals seen, including cattle, horses, and any livestock. Boarding Kennel, and grooming services available. After hour emergencies call (337) 785-8860

**Acadia Graphics, LLC**
407 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526  


**Crowley Veterinary Hospital**
19131 Crowley-Eunice Hwy., Crowley, LA 70526  
1/4 mile N of I-10  
(337) 788-0614, fax: (337) 788-2833

Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sat. 8 a.m.-12 Noon. Crowley Veterinary Hospital, Boarding Kennels. All pets exercised, twice daily in large exercise yard. Complete Medical and Surgical Care. AE/D/MC/V

**Bruce's I-10 Wrecker Service Inc.**
1414 West 2nd Street, Crowley, LA 70526  
(337) 783-4491, fax: (337) 785-9222


---

www.acadiatourism.org
Manuel Tire Company
821 North Parkerson, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-4404, fax: (337) 783-7336
720 East Ebey Street, Church Point, LA, (337) 684-5491
350 West Laurel Street, Eunice, LA, (337) 457-7381
Complete tire and automotive services, including RV’s and Trailer. Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. AE/D/MC/V.

Park Avenue Cleaners
701 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-7814, fax: (337) 783-7810
Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-12 noon. Professional dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services. Same day service available. All work guaranteed.

Passport Travel & Cruises
516 S.E. Court Circle, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 788-1307, 1-800-738-8687
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. A full service travel agency. Remember- without a travel agent, you’re on your own.

Point de l’Eglise Acadia Genealogical & Historical Society
P. O. Box 160, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 546-1112, Winston Boudreaux winston@directway.com, www.rootsweb.com/~lapehgs
The society provides members and non-members information on Acadia Parish families. Research information may be acquired through publications sold by the society or through fee-based research by the volunteer members. Annual membership is $15. The society meets quarterly on the 2nd Saturday of Feb., May, Aug. and Nov. For more information write to the above address.

Le Vieux Moulin
“A Journey in Time” “Un Voyage dans le Temps”
402 West Canal Street, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-1200
The Shop that has something for the one who has everything. Handmade clocks and clock repairs, handmade Cajun jewelry, handmade accordions, fiddles, triangles and Zydeco boards. From Shop and Art Studio. Handmade: Cajun statues, Cajun Mardi Gras costumes, capuchons, quilts and baby blankets. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Plaquemine Brulée Press
528 N. Moss Street, Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-2134, cajunmart@msn.com

Edomia’s Soaps & Gift Baskets
Office location and ordering department:
9265 Grand Prairie Hwy., Church Point, LA 70525
Shopping location “Market Days”:
110-A Rena Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503
(337) 406-0450, Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Office & ordering: (337) 873-4887, fax: (337) 873-4402, 24 hours betty2@ mindspring.com, www.rogerservices.com
Experience the luxury of our homemade soap and natural bath products. Bring a lifetime of memories to that special person with our beautiful gift baskets. We do it all, your imagination is the only limit! Visit our fine products and gifts at “Market Days” or you can call or fax your order in. We ship and deliver. Major Credit Cards Accepted, Business & Corporate Accounts

Michael’s Meat Market
1407 Crowley Rayne Hwy., Crowley, LA 70526, (337) 783-3999
We have a wide variety of meats. We have boudin and cracklins everyday. 11 different kinds of homemade sausage and andouille. We also have seasoned meats. Custom cut meat upon request. Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Crowley Rent-All Center Inc.
715 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-2601, fax: (337) 783-2648

We rent and sell small contractor, equipment and supplies, homeowner equipment and supplies, party and wedding equipment and supplies, medical equipment and supplies. Medical uniforms (sell only) We deliver! Mon.-Sat., 7 a.m.-5 p.m. AE/D/MC/V.

Harmon Greenhouse Nursery
1020 Jasmine Road, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 788-3293

Bedding Plants, Roses, Fruit Trees, Shade Trees, Herbs, Vegetable Plants, Organic Matter, Pots & Planters and 3 greenhouses. Mon.-Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. AE/D/MC/V.

Rice City Liquor
630 North Parkerson, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-9856

Rice City Liquor was opened in the forties when liquor was sold only in the package stores. In the sixties we added homemade tamales made fresh daily. Another specialty is homemade chicken salad which can be purchased in a container or by the sandwich. We also make up gift baskets. If we don’t have a particular item, we will be happy to order it for you, if time allows. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Wed. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-12 noon.

The Gift Box
1327 North Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 788-3249, fax: (337) 788-3002

We are a unique shopping experience. We handle Yankee Candles, Home and Bath Fragrances, Gourmet Coffee, Seraphim Gold Wing Dealer and much more. Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. D/MC/V.

Hollier’s Muffler & Pottery
711 South Parkerson Avenue, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-3914, fax: (337) 783-3914

We carry in stock chimneys, water fountains, pottery, vases, wooden crosses, olive jars, Piñatas, pewter, pure vanilla, Mexican blankets and much more. We accept all major credit cards. Carroll & Linda Guidry owners.

Coleman’s Sausage & Specialty Meats
Hwy 98 1 mile west of Iota, LA 70543
(337) 779-3425

We have a large selection of specialty meats ranging from Sausage, Tasso, Boudin, Stuffed Briskets, Stuffed Pork Chops, Ponce, Roasts, Smoked Ribs, Turkey Rolls, Deboned Stuffed Chickens and much more. Come by & see what we have to offer. Open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. a.m.-12 noon.

Worthmore’s 5-10-25 Cent Store
100 West Louisiana Avenue, Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-3763

Everything and anything you want, we have it! Est. in 1936, Worthmore’s is truly a step into the past with all its nick-knacks and memorabilia. Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Closed Sundays.

Meche’s Family Drug Store
913 The Boulevard, Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-3399

Gift items available, Birthday, Get Well, Balloons Ceramic, Mugs & Products, Religious Articles, Over The Hill Unique Gifts, Anniversary & Wedding Frames, Candles, Potpourri, Exclusive Dreamscicles Dealer. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Facilities
Point-Aux-Loux Springs Ballroom
153 Old Springs Lane, Iota, LA 70543
(337) 779-3510, contact: Debra Hebert

An historic building two miles west of Iota on Hwy 98. It was built in 1930, and was a pumping station for rice irrigation in Acadia Parish. It has been renovated into a ballroom for social gatherings with in-house catering, offering hors d’oeuvres and cajun cuisine.

Acadia Rice Arena Facility
South Cherokee Drive, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-1442, www.acadiatourism.org

Seasonal events and activities including rodeos, youth 4-H & FFA livestock shows, & tractor pulls. For calendar of events call Acadia Parish Tourist Commission: 1-877-783-2109.

ATM LOCATIONS
BANK OF COMMERCE & TRUST CO.
P.O. Box 246, 326 N Ave G, Crowley LA 70526
(337) 783-2261, Fax: (337) 783-5029.
24-HOUR ATM SERVICE: 326 N Ave G, Crowley LA 1415 N.
Parkerston, Crowley, 300 N. Adams Ave., Rayne, 207 Duson St., Iota.
CASH ADVANCES on Visa/MC, Traveler’s Checks, Money Orders & Certified Checks.
Lobby: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Lobby: 3:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Fri.
Drive-thru: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Fri.

EVANGELINE BANK & TRUST CO.
425 N. Avenue G, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-0412, Fax: (337) 788-3483
ебткр@evangelinebank.com
24-HOUR ATM Service, Wire Service, Traveler’s Checks, CASH ADVANCE on Visa/MC.
Lobby: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.
Lobby: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. & 3:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Fri.
Drive-thru: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

FARMERS STATE BANK & TRUST CO.
110 W. Plaquemine St., Church Point, LA 70525
(337) 684-3801, Fax: (337) 684-6676
24-HOUR ATM SERVICE, CASH ADVANCES on Visa/MC, Traveler’s Checks & Money Orders.
Open on Saturdays 8 a.m. to 12 Noon.

FIRSTBANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
128 N. Parkerson & 1941 N. Parkerson, Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 783-4014, Fax: (337) 783-9159.
24-HOUR ATM Service, CASH ADVANCES on Visa/MC, Traveler’s Checks and Wire Transfers.
Lobby: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.
Lobby: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Fri.
Drive-thru: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.

RAYNE STATE BANK & TRUST CO.
200 South Adams Avenue, Rayne, LA 70578
(337) 334-3191, Fax: (337) 334-3297
custserv@raynecommunity.com, www.raynebank.com
24-HOUR ATM. Visa Cash Advances, Traveler’s Checks, Certified Checks. Open: Sat. 9 a.m.-12 Noon.
History of Acadia Parish

The first settlement of what is now Acadia Parish was made by the exiled Acadians who were induced by the Spanish Government to come to this area with gifts of large tracts of land, cattle, and agricultural implements. Life was simple, their homes were constructed of mud mixed with moss, their food was plain, and there was little trade. They engaged in stock raising, and later raised corn and cotton.

Acadia Parish was part of St. Landry Parish. In those days of poor transportation, people found it a real hardship to travel by horseback, canoe, or pirogue to distant Opelousas, the parish seat. In 1886, the Rayne newspaper, The Rayne Signal, proposed a division of the old parish with the creation of a new one. The proposal was soon supported by many prominent men throughout the area, and in an election, the people voted in its favor, almost two to one. Thus was born Acadia Parish on October 2, 1886. The name Acadia was suggested by a priest from Rayne, Father Anthoioz.

A burning question was the location of the new courthouse. Rayne was the commercial center, and many thought that it deserved the honor. The Southwest Louisiana Land Development Company offered five thousand dollars ($5,000) and land for the new building if the parish seat was located at Crowley. After much discussion, the voters went to the polls on March 1, 1887. Victory went to Crowley, the police jury held its first meeting April 12, 1887, they consider plans for erecting the courthouse. The first decision was to build a frame structure costing six hundred dollars, but later it was decided that a brick building costing ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00) would be erected. The new courthouse was ready for use in 1888.

About that time, Crowley was a small village with only one store. The town had been founded by the Duson Brothers. W.W. Duson was a merchant in Rayne who later opened a real estate office and also became the owner of the Rayne Signal. He had a great dream of developing the land, and used his newspaper to advertise it as “The garden spot of the World.” He decided to build a town on the prairie between Rayne and the Mermentau River. He purchased one hundred and seventy four (174) acres, which he bought at about forty-five cents ($.45) an acre. He then convinced his brother, C.C. Duson to help him with the enterprise as a partner.

One mile away from the Duson land was a railroad switch which was known as Crowley's switch. It was named after Pat Crowley, a railroad man. The Duson Brothers got Mr. Crowley to use his influence with the railroad to move the switch to their land with the understanding that their town would be named after him. The Dusons advertised their land, and the railroad ran excursions to show people from far and wide the attractive features of the new development. Many came and many stayed to make up Crowley's first families. The Dusons gave land to erect churches, and they took the lead in many community projects. They were also leaders in the development of irrigation of the land and rice farming.

David Abbott and his three sons discovered how rice could be raised in the higher portions of the land, and how water could be taken from the bayous by buckets for irrigation purposes. J. F. Shoemaker of Crowley was one of the early farmers to experiment with the growing of rice. Solomon Wright, who came from Indiana, carried on experiments which led to the development of the Blue Rose variety, noted for its good yield as well as the fact that it milled well. The Rice Experiment Station east of Crowley has done much to the further advancement of rice cultivation. The first rice mill in Acadia Parish was built by Squire Pickett in 1893. Today there are many rice mills in the area supplying thousands of barrels of rice a year.

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company built the Rayne station in 1880. Rayne was incorporated as town in 1884. The Rayne Milling and Manufacturing Co., Rayne's first rice mill, began operation in 1888. The first Rice Festival was held in Crowley in September, 1927.
Sol Wright was the first king and his daughter was the first queen. In 1946 the festival was enlarged into the International Rice Festival, with entries and exhibits from other rice producing countries of the world.

Since the turn of the century, farmers of Acadia Parish have realized a sizable income from such crops as cotton, eggs, soybeans, crawfish, sugar cane, and frog farming.

In recent years, the discovery of oil has brought people to Acadia Parish from many places. The Jennings Oil Company, the Jennings Heywood Oil Company, and the Crowley Oil and Mineral Company were among the first in this area. Gas pipeline companies employ many Acadia Parish residents.

Acadia Parish enjoys a modified subtropical climate throughout the year, enhancing the allure of the area’s recreational and cultural activities. The parish is part of Acadiana and offers residents and visitors museums, theaters, historical attractions, famous Cajun restaurants, and numerous community playing fields and courts, as well as a local country club.

Those who enjoy outdoor sports will be pleased with the variety of recreational opportunities such as camping, swimming, fishing, hunting and boating. There are eight parish libraries and many festivals that take place each year for the pleasure of all.

Our citizens enjoy a quality of life that makes us unique. Let us prove to you why so many visitors want to stay in the area for many days, week, and months.

Take your time and review the many points of interest our parish offers and the many year round fairs and festivals. Travel our scenic byway and experience the Cajun Prairie Culture through the heart land of Acadiana. Enjoy the unique diversity of Cajun and Zydeco French music. While traveling on the byway be sure to pick up some authentic gumbo or boudin.
Come Visit with Us!

We invite you to a real Cajun experience in the heart of Cajun Prairie Country.

ACADIA PARISH
Tourist Commission
P.O. Box 1342, Crowley, LA 70527-1342
Toll Free: 1-877-793-2169 • Fax: 337-793-2142
opc@bellsouth.net • www.acadiatourism.org