Week-Long Trail Ride Starts Here

Evangeline Parish will be the starting point for one of four cross-state trail rides, all of which will culminate in Baton Rouge Feb. 21 for the annual LSU Livestock Show. Steve Tate, one of the local organizers of the event, says the week-long ride will start from Wilson Campbell's store in Pine Prairie Saturday, Feb. 14. The ride from Pine Prairie, like those originating in Walker, Judice and Mansfield, will all end up at LSU Feb. 21.

"The Cajun Trailride" will go from Pine Prairie to Ville Platte on the first day, and riders will camp out at Ville Platte City Park Saturday night. Saturday night a big dance is planned at the Teenage Center, and the public is invited to attend this function where music will be provided by a disc Jockey. A low admission charge will be required.

Tate said anyone who wants to participate in this ride to Baton Rouge, or any particular leg of the ride, is invited to do so. On Feb. 14, riders plan to take a lunch break at Burleigh's Arena, and they plan to get to Ville Platte by 3 p.m. that day.

Tate said he expected 75 to 100 riders the first day. On the following day, riders will go from Ville Platte to Washington, and on that leg Tate said he expects about 150 riders. It is expected also that about 75 riders will make the distance from Pine Prairie to Baton Rouge.

The purpose of the rides are to promote the LSU Livestock Show, Tate said.

Tate added riders will have police escort the entire distance. No one on foot or bikes will be allowed to participate. All participants must ride horses or in one of the wagons which will be accompanying riders.

The Shady Oaks Riding Club in Lawtell is one of several riding groups supporting the trail ride.