

Landing re-enacted

On July 24, 1701, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac arrived on these shores to establish Fort Pontchartrain de Trott. On July 24, 1976, Cadillac's landing will be re-enacted as part of Detroit's 275th birthday celebrations. The French Festival of Detroit, Inc. will stage the event, which will take place at approximately 10:15 a.m. Sixty participants, posing as fur trappers, French marines, Indians and priests will stage the event, which will take place from the Coast Guard station just west of Belle Isle. At Cobo Hall, the entourage will be transferred to barges, then come ashore. After landing, the group will appear before the dignitaries in the reviewing stand of the Pontchartrain Hotel. The marines will perform a manual of arms which the complex procedure of loading the muskets and firing them simultaneously. And they will present a letter of good will from the French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to the City of Detroit. The group will then proceed east on Jefferson to meet the historical procession (approximately 10:50 a.m.) that

will be approaching from its origin at Lafayette Park. After a presentation of flags they will join the procession, behind the Indian representatives, and return to the Pontchartrain, proved north on Washington Boulevard, east along West Fort Street, Michigan and East Congress back to their point of origin at Rivard and Larned. In the re-enactment Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac will be portrayed by Warren Wilkinson; his commandant will be Pierre Augier with William Phelan as First Lieutenant and Roland Poulin as Sergeant. Dan Crane is theatrical director for the event. Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander Gary Liming and Lieutenant Tom Martin will coordinate water transportation. A replica of the entrance to the original Fort Pontchartrain, Detroit's first landmark, will be constructed in front of the Hotel Pontchartrain as part of the city's Bicentennial celebration.

'Star' overheated

Nine years after the appearance of Bobbie Gentry's only hit record, "Ode to Billy Joe," Warner Brothers has released a movie purporting to solve the mystery of "the happenings on the Tallahatchie Bridge." Gee, what timing. In town to promote the film, which is also called "Ode to Billy Joe" that opened in the area Wednesday, was 20-year-old Glynis O'Connor, who plays Bobbie Lee Hartley, the narrator in the song. Bobbie Lee is Billy Joe's partner in throwing a mysterious "something" off the bridge just before Billy Joe played by Hobby Benson commits suicide by throwing himself off. Why was the movie made now? "A LOT OF PEOPLE had come to Bobbie Gentry asking if they could write a movie of the song," Glynis said. "She didn't trust any of them. She figured they'd do a stereotypical portrayal of the South the song takes place in Mississippi. Then along came Max Baer, who previously had produced "Macon County Line" and "The McUllochs" after becoming well-known for his portrayal of Jethro in "The Beverly Hillbillies." She trusted him," Glynis said. The script, which supposedly is more or less true to the song, was written by Herman Baucher, who wrote the script for "Summer of '42."

Glynis raved about the script. "We made the film entirely on location in Mississippi," she said. "It would be so hot down there, and I'd say to myself, 'Why am I doing this? Why don't I quit and become a doctor or something?' Then I'd go back to the hotel at night and read the script and I'd say, 'This is why...'" "It's really funny in parts," Glynis added. "At the same time it deals with basic human emotions and feelings and portrays them very realistically." Landing the role of Bobbie Lee, according to Glynis, is an example of her luck in the casting department. "I've never really played any mediocre parts," she said. She has previously appeared in four movies: "Jeremy," "Someone I Trusted," "Altogether Now" and "Halo Blue Harlow." She has also been on two television series: "Sons and Daughters" and "As the World Turns." GLYNNIS SAID that "Ode to Billy Joe" is probably her best movie so far. She also claims to have enjoyed making it, but her stories about the heat on location make one wonder. It was so hot, we would hang around in the grocery store just because it was air conditioned. When the theater was open no matter what was playing we'd go in. I saw "Jaws" six times.



Glynis with co-star Hobby Benson

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