

Bologna It's a major part of community's heritage

By TOM FRAZIER
Gazette staff writer

ADELPHI — Few villages can pin such a sizeable part of their heritage to bologna.

However, that is exactly what Adelphi, population 400, has done. For the past eight years, Memorial Day weekend has been declared Adelphi Bologna Festival and this coming weekend is no exception. The festival, which started out as a one-day fish fry to raise funds for the village fire department, is now a four-day event. The official opening is this evening, and activities will continue through Monday.

George E. Armstrong, who was born in Adelphi 77 years ago, helped trace the beginning of bologna making in the region. Armstrong said a man named Augustus "Gus" Santo immigrated to Adelphi from the strategic Alsace-Lorraine region in Europe, an area highly valued by both Germany and France for years and under the sovereignty of both, depending on who won the preceding war. Santo got the bologna business rolling in the village. It was later taken over by a man named Robert Haynes.



George Armstrong has lived in Adelphi for 78 years. He remembers when the town was more than "a bedroom community."

Armstrong can remember the meat being peddled "all over the county" when he was a boy in the early 1900s.

According to volunteers Jane Stevens and Leona Barnes, the Bologna Festival is "quite a job."

"There's a few grumblers and numpsters who like to complain about it," said Mrs. Stevens, "but we still go on and do what we have to do."

Both women will be busy working in the bologna booth, directly opposite the main stage at the festival. "We don't mind the work," said Mrs. Stevens, "because we can see the entertainment from here."

The booth, made in log-cabin style of rough hewn logs, was donated by the Adelphi Fire Department. The fire department will also have its fish fry all four days of the festival for those who tire of bologna. There will also be homebaked goods, canned foods and a country store along with a flea market, ceramics display and musical entertainment.

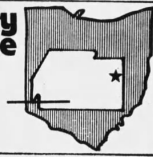
Marcella Thatcher, a waitress at the Corner Inn Restaurant, said people in the village know how to cooperate.



Marcella Thatcher, a waitress at the Corner Inn Restaurant in Adelphi, said the annual festival is the work of a lot of people.

Community Profile

Adelphi



"All in all, the people work together pretty well. It's not the work of one person," she said of the festival.

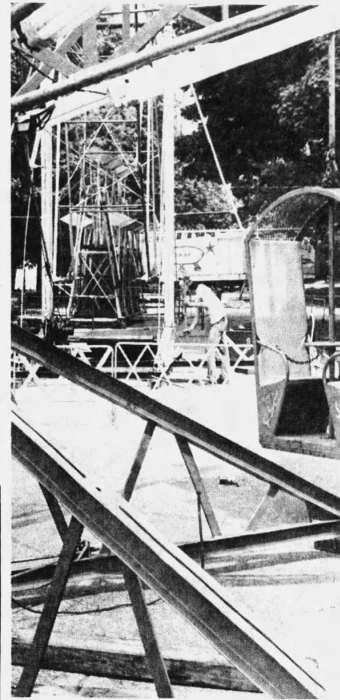
Adelphi came into being in 1894. The village was surveyed by General Nathaniel Masie for Reuben and Henry Abrams, brothers. Adelphi is Greek for brothers. The Colerain Township village was incorporated in 1948. Pickaway County borders it to the north and Hocking County is to the east. George Armstrong said at one time the village had four lawyers, two doctors, two dentists, two hotels and a newspaper, The Adelphi Border News, established in 1870.

"If you wanted a suit or you wanted a pair of shoes, you could get it right here," he said. "This is mostly a

bedroom community anymore."

Armstrong, who is president and chairman of the board of The Ross County National Bank in Adelphi, said people will travel from Adelphi to Columbus and the Ohio River to work. "You should hear the cars around 5:30 or 6 a.m. leaving for work," he said.

Armstrong began teaching in the mid 1920s and spent 33 years with Zane Trace High School, then Centra.



Preparations for the Bologna Festival get a finishing touch as the rides are constructed in the midway. This is the ninth annual festival, with all proceeds going to the Adelphi Fire Department. The festival will have musical entertainment, a talent contest and a Miss Bologna will be picked.

Festival schedule

FRIDAY

6 p.m. — Midway rides
7:30 p.m. — Judging for Miss, Little Miss and Little Mr. Bologna.
8-12 p.m. — The Justice Family provides music for round and square dancing.

Saturday

11 a.m. — Children's games on North Street beside township hall.
1 p.m. — Baking contest on main stage.
2:30 - 3 p.m. — The 100-year-old Adelphi Band plays.

4 p.m. — Bologna Festival Parade with grand marshal Harry Armstrong.
5 p.m. — Recognition of other festival queens.

6-8:30 p.m. — The Country Knights of Washington Court House perform.
9-12 p.m. — Dewey Reinghauser and square dancing.

Sunday

2 p.m. — Talent show at main stage.
6 p.m. — Gospel music.

Monday

3-6 p.m. — The Pleasant Mountain Boys from Lancaster.

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