

Festival Opening: Everything Organizers Envisioned, But It's Only The Beginning

By Patricia Brown
E-G State Editor

Flags and banners were flying, and downtown Lancaster looked grand Thursday afternoon as the city and its visitors enthusiastically embraced Lancaster Festival USA.

In spite of temperatures which soared into the 90s, a good crowd of spectators lined the route of the opening day parade. They turned out in cool and casual clothing, staked out shady spots and enjoyed the spectacle.

The parade was all its organizers hoped it would be, unstructured, fun and full of charm. Children and

animals, an unbeatable combination, predominated.

The Kroger wagon pulled by four Belgian horses led off the parade. Aboard was the little girl with the gap-toothed smile and the Lady Liberty crown who appears this year on the Festival posters and brochures. The crowd broke into spontaneous applause as they passed.

The Fisher Catholic High School and Adelphi community bands stepped smartly along, and other musical groups and the rollicking notes of a steam calliope added to the festivities.

Horses and ponies pulled a Conestoga

and other types of wagons, one of which was attached to three black ponies and what looked for all the world like a tiny zebra. Also in the animal contingent was a small goat, and a gorilla in an open car.

Towering over the crowd as he pedaled by was a man on a high-wheeler, and all sizes of youngsters rode bicycles with decorated wheels.

Members of Frontier Players trooped along, and although they had to be very warm in their costumes, they smiled and waved cheerily to the crowd. There were assorted bands of children.

Other smart steppers included baton twirlers. Old cars chugged and oogahed along, and the Statue of Liberty rode by on a float. There were balloons and clowns and children with painted faces.

Today's events were to begin at 10 a.m. and continue through 9 p.m. Two late in the day free performances were scheduled for the bandstand, Capital Brass at 5:30 p.m. and Flint Ridge, Appalachian music, 7-8:30 p.m.

The Primary Acting Company of Louisville will present Spoon River Anthology, the only ticketed performance of the day, at 9 p.m. at St. John Church. There will be no intermission, and no one will be seated after the one hour and 15-minute program begins.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, the grand opening of "Masters of American Art: An-

draw Wyeth and Bob Timberlake," will occur at Ruthven Gallery 1, and grand opening of the "Michael Karas Exhibit" is scheduled for the same time in Ruthven Gallery 2.

The Americana Players will present a 1920s Revue at noon at the bandstand, and the Old Car Club will show vintage autos in Zane Square, noon-4 p.m. Capital City Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers will appear at the bandstand at 1 p.m.

At 2 p.m. Tom Jordan's electronic music can be heard at the Festival Gallery. Also at 2 p.m. the opening of The Stuck Collection: "Woven Coverlets—An American Tradition," is set for 2 p.m. at the Garret of Fairfield County District Library, along with a lecture by Jean Stuck, and followed by a reception.

From 2-4 p.m. the Hotfoot Quartet, bluegrass and jazz-swing, will appear at the bandstand.

At 8 p.m. the first big outdoor concert, to be held at Ohio University-Lancaster, and presented by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Christian Badea, will include a finale of Roman candles and Sousa marches.

At the concert, "The People of America: An Ethnic Celebration," dancers from Zivili and Ballet Met will be featured, and winners of a getaway vacation to Hawaii will be announced.

What Is Value, Place On Covered Bridges?

By Mark Williams
E-G Staff Writer

Fairfield County is not doing enough to preserve its decreasing number of covered bridges, says the president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges.

In an interview Thursday, Marion Meyer said, "Fairfield County just does not want its covered bridges. They have a wealth of them. It's a shame."

Meyer made the comments while about 30 members of the society are

said she doesn't object to having them moved.

She said the project involving the village of Pickerington where the Busey Road covered bridge is being moved to a park is a good idea if the bridge can't be kept in its location.

Though the small size and weight limitations mean that many bridges can't be used by trucks and farm equipment, Meyer said those bridges on isolated roads can be reinforced. She said these bridges, some more than 100

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