

Hot weather deters crowds Haymarket heats up at Heyday

By Eric Snyder
Staff Reporter

Despite extreme temperatures in Lincoln this past weekend, officials have declared the "Haymarket Heydays" celebration a success.

The festival, which took place in the Haymarket district of Lincoln, featured the dedication of a park on Thursday, a street dance on Friday night and an all-day Farmers Market on Saturday.

Sally Ogelsby, programming assistant for Historic Haymarket, said organizers were "very pleased" with the turnout for the festival, but that ten degrees in temperature would have

made a "vast difference" in attendance.

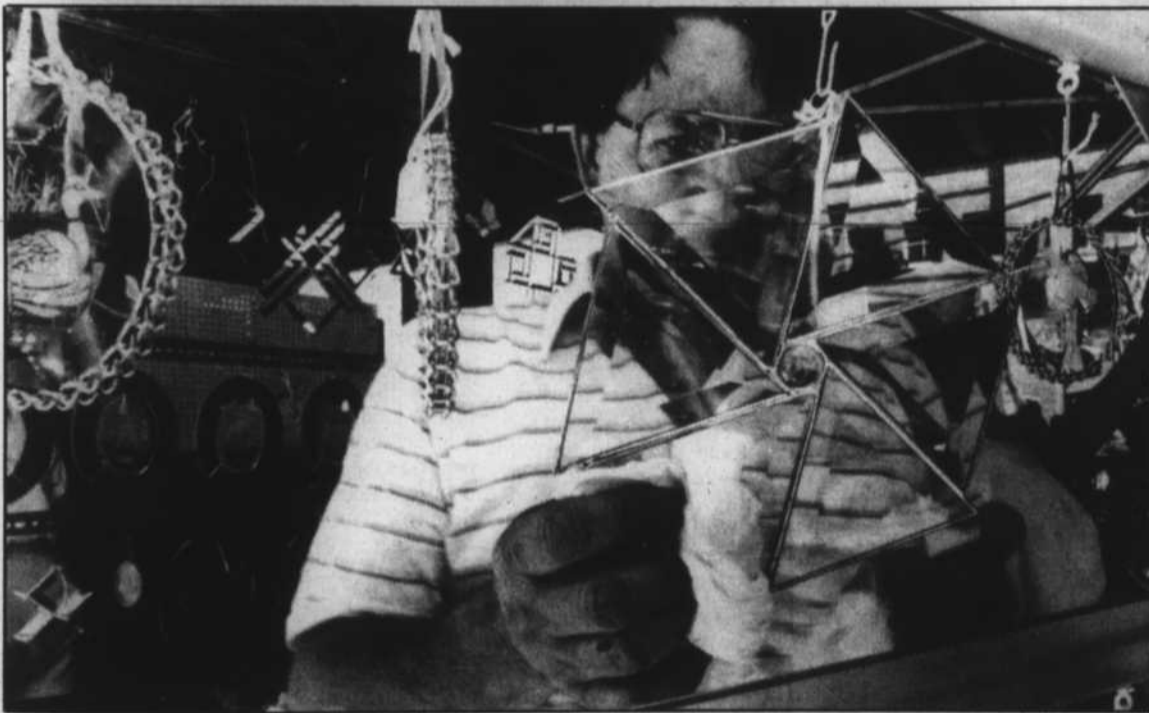
Ogelsby estimated that more than 25,000 persons ventured out to the festival this past weekend, despite the heat. The largest crowd congregated Saturday morning and numbered almost 15,000.

Although Ogelsby said she felt that the high temperatures may have hurt attendance, at least one merchant in the Haymarket believed that the heat helped local businesses. Sarah Pleskac, of the Haymarket General Store and Deli, said the store experienced "overflow" crowds during the weekend.

"We were quite busy compared to our normal crowds," she said. Pleskac said the heat helped the businesses because people were hot and went inside to get something cold to drink.

The festival had five major sponsors: Historic Haymarket, Family Service, Gillette Dairy, Burlington Northern, and KFOR/KFRX radio. As a result, all events were free to the public.

Overall, everyone involved said they were pleased with the outcome of the weekend's festivities. Ogelsby said she and the Historic Haymarket would like to help with a similar celebration next year.



Photos by William Lauer

Brandon Aspegren, 3 1/2 years old, son of Eric and Lisa of Lincoln, explores the train-modeled jungle gym at the train station.

Doris Buechel (left) and Mary Merritt are decked in Sartorial splendor courtesy of the repertory theatre at UNL. The women were registering people for complimentary tickets at the Lied Center.

Naomi Brugter, 6 years old, gobbles pancakes Saturday morning.

Glenn Schuette polishes his glass display. "It's a never-ending battle," he said.