

Hot Heydays

Summer festival brings arts, crafts

By Heidi White
Staff Writer

For the past three or four years, Joyce and Art Polley have taken part in remembering Lincoln's past in a creative way.

The Polleys, owners of Keepsake Creations, ran one of several booths at the craft fair at the sixth annual Haymarket Heydays this weekend.

They travel to Lincoln from Osceola for the Heydays to sell crafts like quilted pillows, knickknacks and log birdhouses.

"The Haymarket is fun because there's so much going on," she said.

The three-day celebration had something for everyone with craft booths, voter registrations, wagon rides, a dog show and much more.

Teri Lindstrom Vosicky, marketing director for the Downtown Lincoln Association — Historic Haymarket district, said there were record sales over the weekend for the pancake feed and drinks at the dances.

"We had real great crowds, despite the heat," she said.

Vosicky said Haymarket Heydays is a way to reflect on Lincoln's beginnings, especially the involvement of Burlington Northern on the city's growth and development.

"It's a way to keep in touch and reflect," she said.

Local restaurants — Valentino's, Runza and Papa John's — along with specialty vendors selling funnel cakes and corn dogs, surrounded the Haymarket. Village Inn also participated by sponsoring a pie-eating contest.

Performances were given throughout the weekend by groups including the Capitol City Cloggers and many local bands, such as Baby Jason and the Spankers. KFRX broadcasted live from the event on Saturday.

Joyce Polley said there is some competition in selling crafts at the Heydays.

"It's kind of hard to come up with new ideas," Joyce said. "There's so many talented people."

She said one idea she did have that sold well was a plastic bag holder

made of cloth with a doll's head on the top.

After retiring from the business of aerial photography 10-years ago, the couple began making crafts as a full-time business. She worked eight to 10 hours a day cutting and sewing and he made the birdhouses.

"I'm like a lot of people," Joyce said. "I have to have busy work. I've always knitted and crocheted."

Patty Fenstermacher, a music teacher from Cozad was another craft merchant at Haymarket Heydays.

After finding out about the Heydays in a Nebraska tourism book, Fenstermacher decided to try selling her faux flower creations in a fair for the first time. She usually sells them at open houses in her home.

When making her crafts, she said she never started out with something specific; she just let something come out of it.

While Fenstermacher said she was having a good time, she did have a bit of trouble keeping her flowers on her table when breezes came through.

"They aren't made for wind," she said.

Jabrisco, a Haymarket restaurant, participated in the Heydays along with Lazlo's, a neighboring restaurant with the same owner.

Scott Hall, a manager at Jabrisco, said the two restaurants co-sponsored the beer booth at the street dances held on Friday and Saturday nights.

Hall said he thinks the Heydays help bring in new customers and more business to Jabrisco.

"We were definitely busier than usual and busier than last year (during the Heydays), and I've seen a lot of new faces in the dining room," Hall said.

Hall said he thought the Heydays were a success this year.

"It's an exciting thing to be a part of and a lot of people had a good time," he said.

Left: Dr. David Wood works on a model train during this weekend's Haymarket Heydays. (Photo by Tanna Kinnaman)

Top: Liza Mendoza, instructor of the Zapatos Allegres, dances the bottle dance Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Marni Speck)

Above: Juliana Thompson uses an umbrella to beat the heat. Temperatures for the Heydays remained in the 90's. (Photo by Tanna Kinnaman)