

Fellowship and fun are keys to Festival

To achieve true love, brotherhood and friendship within a community, it helps to have an event which can stimulate a coming-together of people.

And this is exactly what the annual Plymouth Fall Festival offers to all Festival goers who want to take a little time out from their normal routine.

As always, the Festival takes place on the weekend after Labor Day. This year, the four-day event begins on Thursday, Sept. 6, and lasts through Sunday, Sept. 9.

During the Festival there is something for everyone to enjoy — both young and old, resident or visitor.

ONE OF THE major parts of the Festival is its wide selection of food sure to tingle all taste buds.

The four major dinners occurring each day and night highlight the menu. Spaghetti soothes the appetite on Thursday, fried fish on Friday, beef ribs and pancakes on Saturday and, of course, barbecued chicken all day Sunday.

To complement the dinners are a variety of snacks and goodies which are sold in booths by other organizations.

Besides food there are a host of other

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CREDITS

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activities which truly add to the festival atmosphere.

Games for children, arts, crafts and antique sales and exhibits, musical entertainment, a dunk tank, and the simple pleasure of strolling down the streets of Plymouth talking to friends, make the also are held at Central Middle School which is at Church and Main Streets — north of Ann Arbor Trail and kitty-corner from the city hall.

Other activities are held at the Plymouth Cultural Center which is on Farmer Street. Easy access is gained to the Cultural Center from Theodore which inter-Festival a special showcase which no one ever forgets.

WHETHER YOU live in Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Garden City, Redford, Westland, Farmington, Southfield or elsewhere, you are one of hundreds of thou-

sands of people who have a chance to absorb all the beauty and fellowship which is characteristic of the Festival.

For the visitors who will visit Plymouth for the first time, it's very simple to reach the downtown area.

If you travel west on Plymouth Road, that thoroughfare turns into Main Street about two miles west of Newburgh Road, bringing you to the heart of the city.

Another route is to take I-275 to Ann Arbor Road, head west on Ann Arbor Road to Main Street (the third signal) and then north to the center of town.

And in the center of town at Ann Arbor Trail and Main is where you will find Kellogg Park, which is the central spot for most of the Festival activities.

For everyone who is interested in knowing when and exactly where all the Festival activities take place, all you have to do is turn to the center of this Fall Festi-

val edition for a complete schedule of events and a map highlighting major happenings.

Besides Kellogg Park, some activities sects at Main Street right by the C&O Railroad tracks.

YES, THE FESTIVAL means fun for everyone, and the 1979 version should be better than ever.

And for Plymouth residents, the Festival is always an extra-special happening.

For one reason, the money earned by the non-profit community organizations from the dinners and booths is put back into the community.

But another reason, and maybe more important, is the ever-present sense of pride represented by the continuous success of the Festival, which is something the people of Plymouth never forget.



This was taken in 1962 — the third year after the Rotary Club began holding its chicken barbecue in Kellogg Park.

Plymouth — Past & Present

The Festival all began as a picnic



By Sam Hudson

Depending on the weather, this year's Fall Festival, to be held September 6-9, could attract as many as 100,000 people.

Forty different organizations from the Plymouth-Canton area will serve meals, staff art and antique shows and provide entertainment in the Park.

The event has grown enormously since the late 1950s when it began as a community picnic attended by a few hundred local residents.

Barely 500 were present 23 years ago when the outing, which grew into the Fall Festival, was held at a local playground.

And only one organization — the Plymouth Rotary Club — conceived, planned

and provided the manpower that made the event a success in its early years.

THE PLYMOUTH Fall Festival grew out of a family-type outing sponsored over two decades ago by local Rotarians.

The idea for the event was suggested by Don Lightfoot, then a member of the club's Youth Activities Committee. Don proposed to the Rotary Board of directors that the club sponsor a chicken barbecue dinner to raise funds to be used to buy equipment for a playground at the corner of Joy and Wing.

Those who attended the outing, held at the playground on May 20, 1956, were primarily from Plymouth. In later years, as the festival grew, people have been at-

tracted to the annual event from numerous communities throughout Michigan.

A second Rotary picnic was held June 9, 1957, at the Hamilton Street playground. As in the first and succeeding years, the Rotarians prepared and served the chicken dinners.

The price of the meal then was \$2 for adults, and \$1.25 for children. The profit, \$505, was again donated by the Rotary Club for the purchase of playground equipment.

In 1958, the site for Rotary's "Third Annual Plymouth Community Chicken Barbecue," held Sept. 18, was the athletic field of Plymouth High School (now Central Middle).

Tickets that year were reduced to \$1.50

for adults and \$1 for children. The purpose was raise to money for Rotary's Youth Benefit and Community Service Fund and "to extend a warm welcome to our neighbors to visit Plymouth."

All of the displays in the park were covered with gaily-striped parachute silk tents. At 3 p.m. the Plymouth High School Band, which had performed at the dedication of an addition to the post office, marched to the park and gave a concert. Throughout the afternoon, Margaret Wilson's Penn Theatre showed old-time movies at 10 cents admission.

ANOTHER POPULAR feature at the

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