

Prokop 'panics' over festival

By FELICA KOBYLANSKI

What does the general chairman of the Founder's Festival do? "He hits all the panic buttons," says this year's chairman, Pete Prokop.

"Generally I'm responsible for the coordination of all the committee people." Since January, Prokop has had monthly meetings with the different committees. Additional meetings are held to straighten out problems as they occur.

"I'm in contact with the first and second vice chairmen," Prokop said. "Pat Fallon, the first vice chairman, is responsible for special events—fireworks, parades, the queen's pageant Sunday in the park."

"The second vice chairman, Bob Devyak, is in charge of booth and concession activities." That position was held by Prokop last year.

Prokop, a Farmington attorney, said the roster of active committee members lists about 26 people. "Approximately 20 of those are very active," he added. All committee positions are staffed by volunteers.

The festival committee basically deals with the non-income producing

events. "The Community Center Antique Show, the Jaycee Rodeo... these are not festival committee things," said Prokop.

The committee relies solely on local businessmen for contributions. "We've always felt the business community benefits from the festival so we haven't found it necessary to go to the residents for support."

"This year more of our activity has gone into fund raising," Prokop said. "We've just not had as great a response as in previous years."

Some of the usual events will be missing from this year's festival, but Prokop noted "there will be at least one new thing—a bike parade or contest."

Of course there will still be the festival, fireworks, the Miss Farmington pageant, carnival-type games and the parade.

"Betti Hluff has been our parade chairman for several years," Prokop said. She lines up the bands and floats for the event.

"This year there will again be more than 100 units participating," Prokop said excitedly. "That makes us one of the largest local parades."

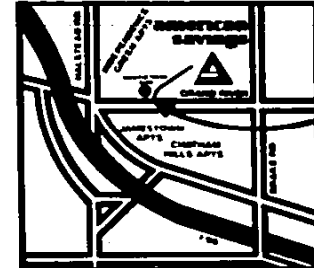
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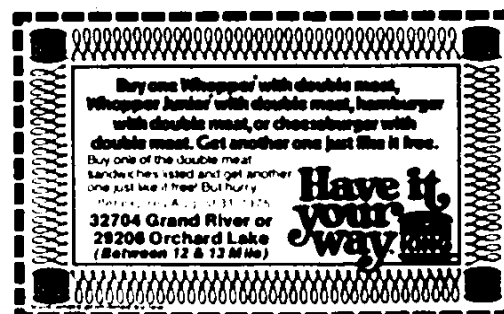
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