

Balloons added a party atmosphere to the electrified gaslight posts.

Fashions Draw Crowds To Gaslight-Era Scene

FRANKLIN—About 1,000 fashion-conscious admirers of the quaint village that time forgot swarmed to see the fall, 1960 presentation by Franklin Village Fashions last week.

The doors swung open at five old-fashioned village homes which have been restored to their gaslight-era charm. In each of them, models paraded in fashions from the Pennypinchers and the Margi Franzel shops. The mannequins displayed hair styles by Gerald and Chett, and drew attention to the latest in foods, cuisine and home fashions as they strolled through the Hunter's Whip and Franklin Interiors.

The five establishments are the member-firms in Franklin Village Fashions. All are located within a two-block area on Franklin road in the heart of the village.

THERE THE FVF group, in their inaugural open house, serenaded visitors with

the omm-pah-pah music of the Franklin village band. They also refreshed them with cider and donuts from a Franklin landmark, the cider mill.

Rain interfered with the plan to shuttle visitors from shop to shop in antique cars, but an old-fashioned fire truck lent atmosphere to the event.

The village fashion group plans another open house next spring.

"THIS IS the sort of cooperative merchandising venture you can have because the village is small," said Franklin Interiors owner James Branstrom, whose galleries of home furnishings are housed in the 137-year-old former home of a Franklin pioneer.

The transformations taking place in the century-old homes along Franklin road, Branstrom said, are "a way to restore these buildings and still keep the atmosphere."

Photos by
Marv Stasak



A favorite through the ages, good old-fashioned popcorn, was available to visitors at a stand outside the Pennypinchers store.



A new addition to the Franklin road scene this fall is The Pennypinchers. The store is housed, Franklin stove and all, in this 100-year-old structure.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, September 29, 1960

Grandparenthood is a dividend one gets for having been a parent . . . and it contains, for the affectionate grandparent, many joys and satisfactions. The classic reference to this is: Grandma and Grandpa may enjoy all the blessings of little and then bigger grandchildren—without unceasing, confining responsibilities of parenthood. It also provides one with further opportunities to add to one's own children's happiness.

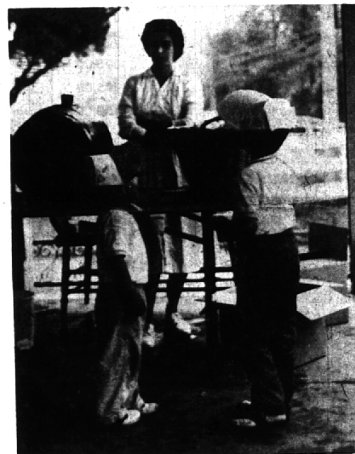
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Popular gathering place for part of the crowd was the porch in front of the building housing Margi Franzel, Inc., and Gerald and Chett, hair stylists.



Sipping cider threw one young visitor into deep reflections.



Two guests at the open house found their special interest drawing them to the table where donuts were dispensed.



Most famous Franklin landmark of all, the cider mill, draws thousands yearly to see the big presses operate as they have for over a century. The mill is at 14 Mile and

Franklin road, within sight of four of the five fashion group establishments.