

FIRST ROUNDUP TOOK PLACE IN 1952
Covered wagons appealed to children.

First Fall Festival, Then the Roundup

By NITA HARD
Special Writer

One of the most enduring traditions to survive the subtle changes in community character of Franklin Village is its annual Roundup.

Long, long ago, the old-timers tell us, when the area was truly rural it was commonplace to celebrate the harvest of crops each fall with ball games, square dancing and picnics. There was a feeling of exaltation to be relieved of the chores that consumed the spring and summer months.

There was also a compelling urgency, they report, to see kin and neighbors before winter closed in and travel became difficult over snowbound hilly roads.

Except for a few reminiscences, there are no formal accounts of these events, but apparently the harvest spirit lived on long after the great oaks spread their comforting shade on the graves of those who had participated.

IT WASN'T until the late spring of 1944 that the Franklin Community Association "conceived" the idea of holding a fall festival.

At a June meeting of the association, James Ewing reported that his committee had taken an informal poll of their neighbors and learned that they couldn't see much point in just showing off their victory garden produce as they had in 1943. So, he suggested that several other events could be included for a more interesting fall festival and fair. The Victory Garden Fair Committee was charged with enlarging the scope of the plans and the very first fall festival, granddaddy to the annual Roundup, became a full-fledged, three-day event, on Sept. 8, 9 and 10 of 1944.

(It is interesting to note that in the minutes of the same meeting, after Ewing's report, the Franklin Community Association president, Clifford Harrison, tried to resign his post but was persuaded to stay.)

ON THE first night, Friday, there was a formal opening ceremony at 6 p.m. Garden produce and flowers were on display in a tent on the village green.

Ribbons were to be awarded for the best of these and for canned goods prepared by the Victory Gardeners.

Emil Bates was chairman and his committee prepared rigid rules

and regulations for the judging of these.

Outer leaves of cabbage had to be removed. Cauliflower, trimmed. Swiss chard standing in water. Squash and pumpkins had to have two to three inches of stem showing. Quality, not size, counted.

In the old Community Hall on Franklin Road a colorful carnival of games headed by Rudy Hanson made a lively evening to inaugurate the festival.

ON SATURDAY morning entries of the garden products were judged and a pep parade was held with the march forming on the village green at 10:30 a.m. and culminating at the hall for judging by Harry Martin.

Families brought basket lunches for picnics on the village green and at 2 p.m. a horse show was conducted which was open to all members of the community and the Michigan Horsemen's Association.

The music of Tim Doolittle's band put riders and mounts through a

series of 11 games which featured musical chairs, a figure quadrille, trick riding, bending race, square dance, relay races and boots and saddle contest. Prizes of \$5 were awarded to winners.

IN THE LATE afternoon a country auction was held by Ross Campbell and at 9:30 p.m. Bobby Grayson's Orchestra with Mel Curry at the piano in the Community Hall provided music for a fall festival ball. The nondancers were lured to a midway behind the hall for a variety of games of chance.

Sunday morning, Rev. Clifford Hoffman conducted an outdoor worship service in the natural amphitheatre of the Franklin School grounds. A basket dinner was brought to the village green following the service and the rest of the afternoon was spent in playing or watching a baseball game, a badminton tournament and a variety of children's games.

Minutes of the Franklin Community Association on Oct. 8, 1945, indicate that the second fall festival had a deficit of \$429 and so it was not held again the next year or the next.

New Features Since 1962

Since the Roundup of 1962, new features have been added. All-star Little League and Babe Ruth League games are held early in the morning.

A Roundup Teen-age Queen is selected and crowned on the steps of the Community Church. She and her court lead the parade that now lasts 20 minutes as go-carts, bicycles, floats and old cars follow the Franklin Village Band.

An Art show exhibits the crafts and talents of local artists. The Franklin Historical Society has a booth and there is a midway of skill games that were once a part of the annual community Halloween party, no longer held.

In recent years the Roundup has been scheduled for the early part of September. More and more thought is given to having the Roundup before the young people leave for their various colleges. It is felt that these are the ones who have grown up in the 12 years of annual Roundups and it is a traditional sendoff for them.

BUT IN 1952, Harvest madness haunted the Franklin people and enough new families had moved in to provide fresh vigor and enthusiasm to encourage the Community Association to once again consider sponsoring a fall event.

Dr. Lynn Hershey, a psychiatrist, was made general chairman of this revival. Throughout the lazy summer months his committee met to redefine the program.

The ideas were more conservative. One day of revelry was enough, they agreed. But a new flavor had entered on the scene. Victory Gardens were a thing of the past.

With horseman Harry Rotiers as president of the association—Hershey also had a full stable—the fall event took on a Western tone. It's hard to explain why the first Franklin Roundup and Barbecue, on July 24, 1952, was called the Cheyenne Roundup, but it was.

THE COLORFUL theme of the wild and woolly West has continued. It caught the imagination of a community that had slowly grown through the war years. With Hershey's wagon-master-like persistence everything was planned to match the theme.

Franklin Government: Do-It-Yourself Project

By SALLY RUHF
Special Writer

In Franklin, the hallmark is the village green. Around it a rustic tradition is carefully and deliberately maintained by its government.

The green, an expanse of grass, owes its origin to the greens of the Middle Ages where the villagers found sanctuary from siege as well as pasture for their flocks. It is owned by the village and is used for social and recreational events. No cars are parked on it.

BEHIND THIS charming facade of country living lies an efficient, highly organized group of citizens who work hard to preserve their stellar reputation.

The government, with one paid employee, Mrs. Oliver Garwood, as city clerk, the police department with William Dickey as village marshal and the independent Fire Co. with William Albee as fire commissioner use their talents on a

volunteer basis to hold taxes to a minimum. They work to make Franklin Village an enviable place to live.

The 2½ square miles of village was incorporated in 1958. It is governed by village home rule. The president is Robert Oberschulte, who holds this elective post.

Strong zoning ordinances are in effect and restrict the population, as three-quarters of an acre is decreed as a minimum home building boundary. The village charter states that the rural atmosphere be kept intact. The roads as a result are not paved; nor do sidewalks exist.

LOW TAXES and do-it-yourself municipal projects are a point of civic pride.

In 1957, a charter to establish authority was drawn up by the police department with Jack Roberts as first marshal. Today 20 men assist the marshal in his multiple 24-hour-a-day duties. Six phones in six homes alert the men when emergencies arise in the village.

The fire company is an independent organization supported by contributions from the citizens.

Since its inception in 1949 after years of "bucket-brigading," it became a nonprofit corporation under Bill Albee. It is managed by a board of commissioners whose functions include training, maintenance, a junior auxiliary of young men.

WE OFTEN THINK of firemen as "pinochle-playing, long-red-underwearers." The Franklin fire-fighters are the antithesis of this image.

In the words of a city official, "these men are hardworking, intelligent, and efficient, they devote their spare time away from their jobs to doing good for the community."

The logistics of their response to an emergency is as impressive as any military campaign. Four dispatchers put out the alarm over nine monitors. Eight day-side volunteers, the banker, the service station attendant, the barber among them, and 30 men at night are alerted within minutes.

8 Postmasters Have Served In Franklin

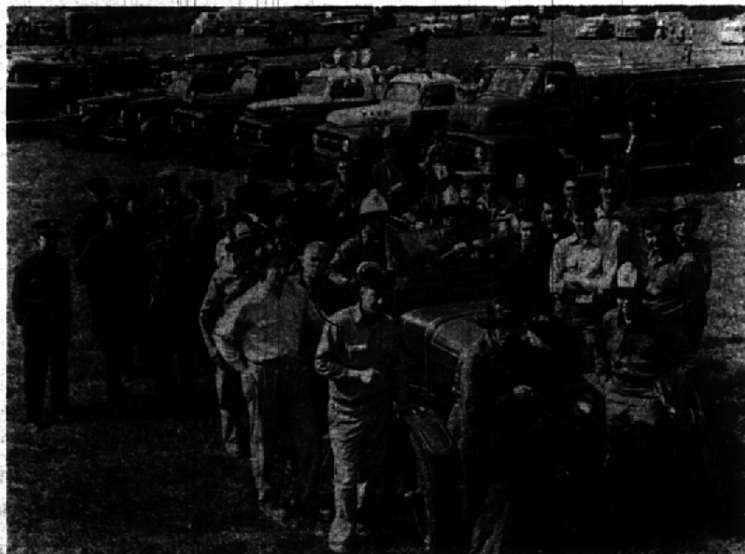
By ELIZABETH VAN LOAN
Special Writer

In its 136 years of existence, the Franklin Post Office has had only eight postmasters. Abner, Rust, postmaster from 1869 until 1903, holds the record for longest tenure.

William W. Jones, the incumbent, is a close second with 32 years. He was appointed by Walter F. Brown, postmaster general under Herbert Hoover, but plans to retire July 1 of this year.

Franklin Post Office was established in 1828 when the community known as Stoughton Bullock Settlement in the Michigan Territory became the village of Franklin.

FIRST postmaster was Dr. Ebenezer Raynolds, grandfather of Dr. George Raynolds of Birmingham. Dr. Ebenezer, a native of Vermont, had migrated to the Territory after spending a year in New York State.



AREA FIREMEN GATHER AT 1st FRANKLIN ROUNDUP
That's an Old Ford Model T pumper in the foreground.