FIRST RUNDUP TOOK PLACE IN 1952

Covered wagons appeared to children.

Franklin Government: Do-It-Yourself Project

By SALLY RUPF

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 green, owes its origin to the green of the Middle Ages when the villagers found sanctuary from storm and 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.

REHEARSING charming facets of country living is an efficient, highly organized group of citizens who work hard to preserve their stellar reputation.

The government, with one post employee, Mrs. Oliver Garwood, as city clerk, the police department with William Dickie as village marshal and the independent Fire Co., all volunteer workers, depend on the residents for their talents on a volunteer basis to hold taxes to a minimum. They work hard to make Franklin Village an enviable place to live.

The 2½ miles of village is incorporated in 1958. It is governed by village hall rules. The president is Dr Horace H. Bower, who holds this elective post.

Strong zoning ordinances are in force, and the restrictions, under the new act, serve as a minimum building line on thecmd bounding line. 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 pride.

In 1957, a charter to establish a code was drawn up by the village alert. This was signed by Jack White as first marshal. Today 25 men man the marshal in his multiple 24-hour-a-day department.

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 "pipe-line-playing, long-red-uniformsmen." The Franklin fire-fighters are the antithesis of this image.

In the words of a city official, "these men are hardworking, intelligent, and efficient, theydevote 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 firehouses put out the alarm over the radio, and the captain, chief of the fleet, the engineer, the hose team, the medic unit, the water truck are on their way. The first alarm is an all-time signal for the alarm, which is heard throughout the village.

A series of 11 games which featured musical chairs, a figure quadrille, trick riding, horseback riding, square dance, relay races and boats and saddles contest. Prizes for $5 were awarded to winners.

IN THE LATE afternoon a country auction was held by Ross Campbell at 3:30 p.m. Ruby Grayson's O'Connell with Mel Cor- rory at the piano in the Community Hall provided music for a fall festival. The auction attracted a large crowd. A horse and buggy 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 basketball 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 $424 and so it was not held again the next year in this form.

But in 1942, harvest dances hounded the Franklin people and enough new families had moved in to provide a great deal of concern to encourage the Community Association to again sponsor a fall festival. The dance was so successful that it was the first Franklin Roundup and Barbecue ever to be sponsored by the Franklin Community Association.

NOW, 20 years later the Roundup has become a major event in the calendar of the Village of Franklin.

By NITA HARD

Special Writer

One of the most enduring traditions in the village is the Annual Roundup.

Long ago, the old-timers used to tell, 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 cheerfulness from the chores that consumed the spring and summer months.

There was also a compelling reason, they report, to see kin and neighbors before winter closed, 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 agreed their comfort shades on the gravels of those who had participated.

IT WASN'T until the late spring of 1946 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 use too much in just to showing off their victory garden produce as they had in 1943. So, he suggested that several sports be included in a more interesting fall festival and fair. The Victory Garden Fair was finally approved at the association meeting, and plans were made for a fall festival and fair event, on Sept. 8, 9 and 10 of 1944.

It is interesting to note that at the minutes of the same meeting, after Ewing's report, the Franklin Community Association president, Clifford Hopper, tried to remind the audience that post pastimes was needed to stay.

ON THE first Friday, there was a formal opening ceremony at the village green, with speeches from the members of the community. Ribbons were awarded for the best of these and for causing the most people to enter the garden.

Since the Roundup of 1962, new features have been added. The 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 closing night of the event, on Sept. 8, 9 and 10 of 1944. The king and queen are selected and crowned at the Royal Court Festival, held the night of the Roundup, on Sept. 8, 9 and 10 of 1944.

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Area firemen gather at 1st Franklin Roundup

That's an Old Ford Model T pump in the foreground.