

30th Harvest & Herb Festival scrapbook

Harvest and Herb Fest

The show goes on
despite the weather
and the railroad

In the words of Scott and Arlene Allison, co-chairs of the Ada Area Chamber of Commerce Harvest and Herb Festival:

30 years of a glorious fall festival in Ada Ohio, and this year we have 30 minutes of “HOLY COW! What else can happen?”

Our typical, perfect, sunny, fall day was replaced this year with cloudy rain. Our traditionally spectacular parade was interrupted by a harder rain, wind, thunder, lightening and then literally divided in half by the railroad gates going down. But the parade **MUST** go on, until an actual train of 100 plus cars decided to pass by.

In the 30 years of the festival this was only the third train appearance. Then, believe it or not, an over sized load made it's way up Main Street, retracing the parade's path. That has happened only one other time in Harvest and Herb history. What a day! But we all survived, eventually dried out and the day carried on...weather improving and laughs and support never ending.

And, despite the rain, Ada's 2015 Harvest and Herb Queen's Court was shining bright.

This year's court: Queen Sidney Faine, 1st Runner-up Miss Libbie Milks, 2nd Runner up Miss Olivia Gonder, 3rd Runner up Miss Olivia Guyton, 4th Runner up Miss Mackenzie Wills, 5th Runner up Miss Ashley Sumner, 6th Runner up Miss Morgan Sutton and this year's court members Miss Mara Guyton, Miss Anna Stransky, Miss Katey Stuart and Miss Kaylee Newton.

**Please enjoy these photos by Monty Siekerman -
and watch the Icon for more photos all weeklong**



Yes, the sun did shine on the Harvest and Herb Fest, but not until late in the day.



Members of the Dance Fusion Studio dance in the street during Harvest and Herb Fest. Entertainment went on as scheduled despite occasional rain showers. Dance Fusion, from Bellefontaine, will open a studio at Health Trends. They will have an open house there from 4 to 7 pm on Friday, Sept. 25.



This is how you watch a parade in the rain. Pictured: Virgil and Donna Campbell. Attendance along the parade route, usually filled with people, was sparse this year due to liquid precipitation.



Umbrellas hanging in a tree sums up this year's Harvest and Herb Fest. The rain protectors were kept handy since sometimes there were showers, other times fine weather. Those who braved the fickle elements enjoyed the day and meeting friends, some of whom traveled long distances for the street fair.



This photo pretty well tells the story of the 30th annual Harvest and Herb Fest in Ada on Saturday...on and off rain, 4 tenths of an inch to be exact. But the inclement weather didn't keep everyone at home as this picture illustrates with Murphy Shorkie and Jessica Chen strolling down Main with umbrella in hand. Attendance was not the usual shoulder-to-shoulder crowd, maybe a third as many people checked out the offerings of arts and crafts, food, and church, civic, and university organizations.



A full contingent of members from Grace Gospel Church braved the elements and loaded onto a wagon for the Festival parade Saturday morning. Can you think of Bible stories having to do with rain?



Thirty-five Ada band and flag members, in rain gear, march in the Festival parade. As performers know, the show must go on, and so it did.



Mayor Dave Retterer is all smiles despite the rain. (Note the convertible top is not down.) Since the mayor is not in charge of the weather, he could still smile as he passed out candy to children along the route. The Harvest and Herb Fest has had an incredible run of good weather, this being the first with rain in 30 years.



Dawn Steiner and Autumn at the Harvest Pride Tortilla Chips booth, chips made in Ada at Ada's newest industry. Appropriately so, the booth was located outside 302 Carryout where the chips are sold on the retail level. "Very good chips," munchers commented.



The Gossmans, a well known local farm family, participated in the parade with a decorated golf cart. Pictured are Grandma Marie with Dakota (left) and Slade. A golf cart decorating contest was new to the Festival this year. Today, golf carts are handy modes of transportation for many other uses in addition to golfing, like parading. The Gossmans won the golf cart decoration contest.