



Hand in hand, Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Field explore the various attractions in a stroll around the Motherhouse grounds.

Nazareth Fest Notes 25 Years

Text and Photos By Pat Petraske

It all began 25 years ago as a simple sit-down dinner at Nazareth Academy. Now it has become a two-day festival where big and little people can test their skill at the shooting gallery, fish pond or hoop toss. Popcorn, cotton candy, hot dogs and soda sustain them on their rounds.

Six hundred Sisters of St. Joseph pitched in for the annual Fall Festival Sept. 8 and 9 on the grounds of the Nazareth Motherhouse. Proceeds (the net was \$18,000 last year) will be used primarily for the 90 retired and ill Sisters of the St. Joseph Infirmary. "They sold over 1,100 tickets for the dinner since they couldn't work on the grounds themselves," said Sister Mary David McCall, chairman.

Bright fall weather drew a "record breaking crowd," 3,710 of whom ate the dinner prepared by the Sisters. Everything from decoupage to donuts could be purchased in a quick stroll around the grounds.

At one booth, Sister Christine Francis offered the African Violets and other plants she had raised despite an affliction that has kept her in the infirmary since 1960.

Another popular booth was filled with rows and rows of bread made by the Trappist Monks. Nine hundred loaves were sold to visitors anxious to taste once more the special flavor of the home made.

A microphone system tied the festivities together. Parents were reunited with their wandering children, home-made ice cream was hawked continually and amused listeners were told how a hurried Sister came to the festival wearing unmatched shoes.

On the second day, 89-year-old Bishop James E. Kearney took the mike. Calling the retired sisters "treasures," he praised the festival because "the Sisters never ask for anything, but they deserve everything."



Kings of the popcorn booth, Ellsworth Deeley (left) and Fred Hildreth, await their next hungry customer.



Chris Davis invents his own sport called grabbing the popcorn; he holds the coveted prize.