

Remembering

Kids' Day

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by

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Prophetstown Area Historical Society
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Kids' Day

There are a good many Prophetstown residents today who have no memory of our Kids' Day. When our family came to town in 1964 it was still the major event of the year, with huge crowds, lots of kids, carnival rides and much more.

The first Kids' Day was held in 1930, an outgrowth of Rooster Booster day. The rides were always set up on Washington Street (with some on the side streets). Washington Street also happened to be Illinois Route 78. One time, while George Brydia, our former mayor, was in the Illinois General Assembly, the State tried to close Rt 78, shortly before or during the set up. With a phone call or two, Brydia solved that problem. Eventually, in 1980, Kids' day was moved off Washington Street, over to near the high school. It also went from a 2 day to a 3 day event.

There are some blank spaces, but we do know quite a bit about how many attended. It was, for a long time, a very big deal!

Year	Kids Registered	Total Attendance	Additional Info
1935	900		
1936	2,020		
1937	2,825		
1941	2,842		"Drizzly" shower toward end of show.
1942	2,914		
1943	2,782		Drizzle in the morning
1944	2,927		Largest in 15 years
1945	1,500 by noon with many more to come.		
1947	3,000		
1948	2,745		
1950	2,796		
1951	3,374		
1958	3,030		2.38 inches of rain in 2 hours
1959	3,304		
1960	3,150		
1961	3,130		
1963	3,325		
1965	3,100	10,000 estimate	
1966	over 3,000	11,000 estimate	
1967		12-14,000 estimate	
1968	3,009	near 15,000 estimate	
1969	3,544		
1972			Rain drenches window paintings.
1974	2,871		Violent storm hit.
1976	nearly 3,000		
1980			3 days, moved to near high school Rolle Bolle tournament scheduled
1981			First year Kid's Day & 4 th of July celebration held together.
2008			Mini Kid's Day held. Carnival on Railroad Street
2009	very small crowd		Held in conjunction with our Sesquicentennial celebration.



1930 Kids' Day setup.

ge Eight The Prophetstown Echo, Prophetstown, Illinois Wednesday, July 9, 1930

COME TO PROPHETSTOWN SATURDAY FOR

KIDS' DAY

FREE MERRY-GO-ROUND RIDES, ICE CREAM CONES, BALLOONS, & SOUVENIRS FOR THE CHILDREN. MUSIC BY ERIE CHILDREN'S BAND, FLINT'S ORCHESTRA, AND ROCKFORD BOY SCOUT DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS.



1930 Sack Race.



KIDS DAY

**PROPHETSTOWN
WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 29**

The day the Kids look forward to is here. This is the Big Event of the summer -- the day the Kids have the keys of the city -- and a program has been arranged to make them happy.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

FERRIS WHEEL

Free Rides

Free Picture Show

Free Sandwiches

Free tickets good for trade any place in town
Every Kid Register with Glenn Wheat and get your tickets.

PARADE FOR CASH PRIZES STARTS AT 10:00

Make entry with Dr. G. W. Nelson, chairman of parade committee

EGG RACES

FOOT RACES

CONTESTS FOR CASH PRIZES

Make entries with Brace Frary, chairman of sports committee

BASEBALL == Lyndon vs Prophetstown

At McNamara's Park, 2:30

TWO BANDS -- CONCERT AT 8:00

BIG PAVEMENT DANCE 9:00 TO 12:00

THIS DAY IS SPONSORED BY THE PROPHETSTOWN BOOSTERS



PROPHETSTOWN'S MAIN BUSINESS BLOCK looked like this yesterday afternoon from the top of the Frank Dudley furniture store building. Autos were forbidden and the street was turned over to more than 3000 youngsters who were guests of honor at the annual Kids' day celebration sponsored by

the Prophetstown Booster club. Weather was sunny but not too hot, not too cool—just right for such a big day.

Lunch stands did a brisk business and the rides were guaranteed a good patronage because the Boosters gave free tickets to all children who registered.

—Dispatch photos.

1944 Kids' Day.

RIDES · SHOWS · FUN

For Every Kid in This Area

KIDS' DAY

IN PROPHETSTOWN

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

Something doing all day and evening — Come early and spend the day!



FREE RIDES

Three tickets good on any ride will be given to every boy and girl 13 years old and younger. Register at desk in front of Farmers National Bank, between 8 a. m. and 7 p. m.

7 BIG RIDES!

Ferris Wheel, Octopus, Merry-go-round, Live Pony Ride, Kiddie Auto Ride, Kiddie Train, Mechanical Pony Cart.

Kids' Parade at 10:30 C. S. T. CASH PRIZES

PRIZES OF \$10, \$7.50 AND \$5 FOR BEST DECORATED CHILD'S VEHICLE, PET, BEST COSTUME, ETC. JUST BE IN TOWN WITH YOUR ENTRY AT 10 O'CLOCK. OPEN TO CHILDREN OF ALL AGES. SEE L. M. SCHIPPER FOR DETAILS.

FREE SHOW by favorite TV Stars

FULL 1½ HOUR SHOW ON STREET PLATFORM BEGINNING AT 7 P. M., C. S. T., BY YOUR FAVORITE WOC-TV ENTERTAINERS IN PERSON — GEORGE SONTAG, WARREN VASEN, MARJ MEINERT, KEN FULLER AND OTHERS. BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS WILL ENJOY THIS BIG SHOW. HUNDREDS OF SEATS. ALL FREE!

Window Painting Contest! Prizes!

ALL MATERIALS FURNISHED. CHILDREN 8 TO 16 ELIGIBLE. CASH PRIZES IN EACH AGE GROUP. GET DETAILS AT PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OFFICE. PAINTING TO BE COMPLETED BY MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 14.

Races and Contests for both Boys and Girls!

MANY CASH PRIZES. IN FRONT OF LIBRARY BEGINNING AT 1:30.

AFTERNOON CONCERT BY CHAMPIONSHIP PROPHETSTOWN SCHOOL BAND

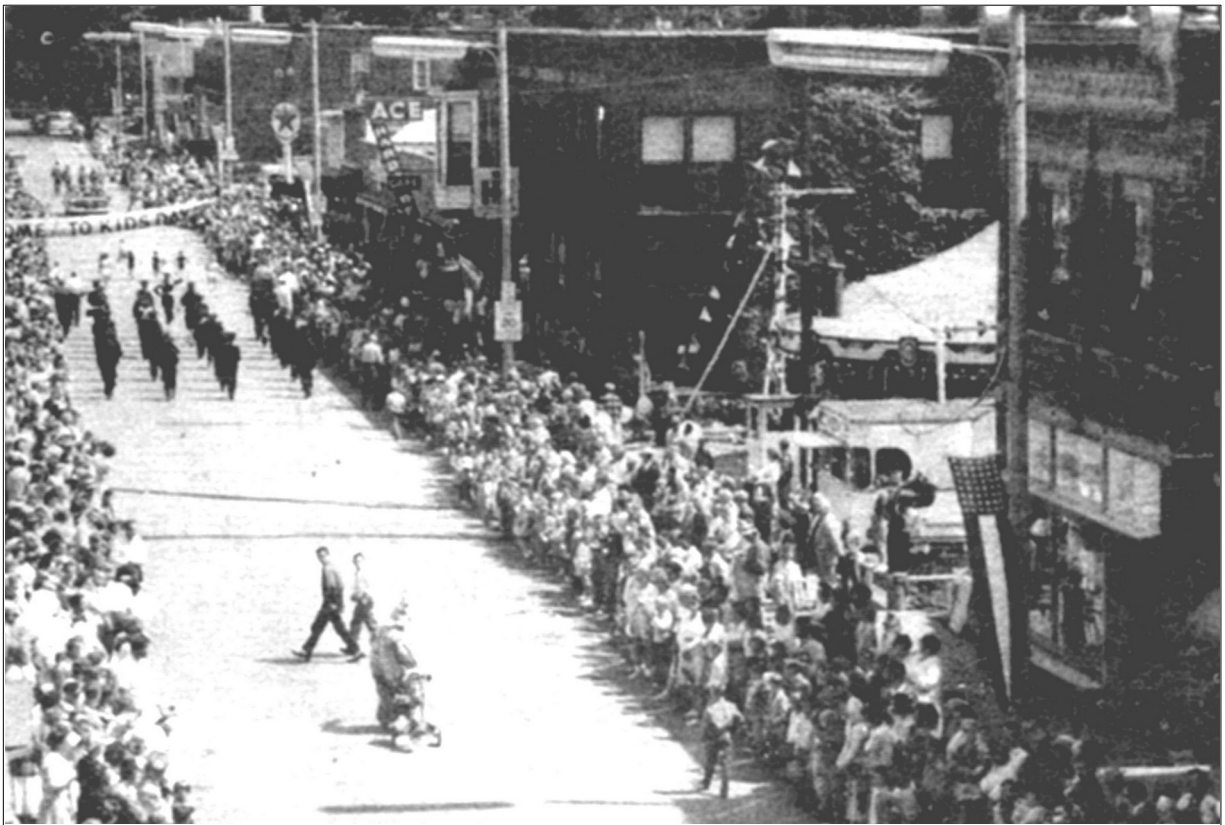
On free act platform beginning at 3 P. M.

Games and Concessions of All Kinds

Plenty of Place to Eat

Sponsored by the Prophetstown Boosters





1959 parade. Notice the Thicksten Popcorn stand on the right.

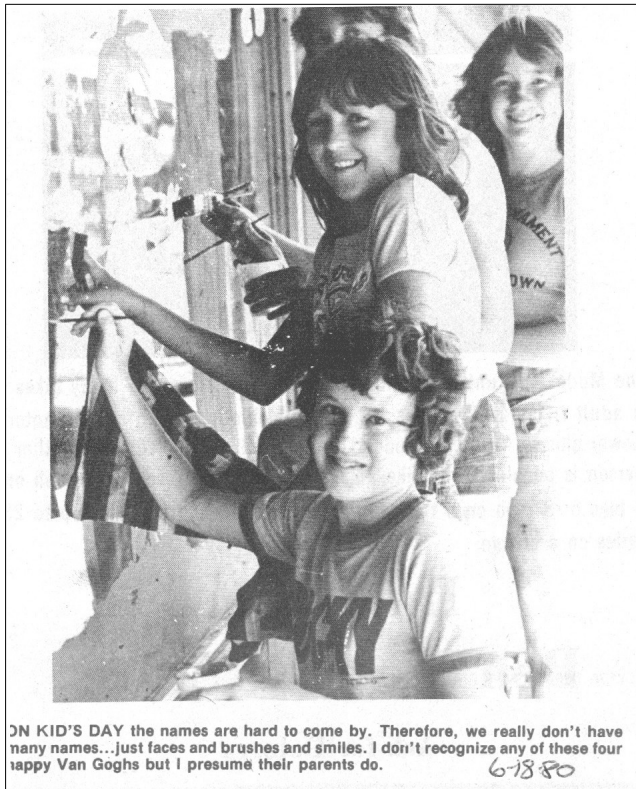




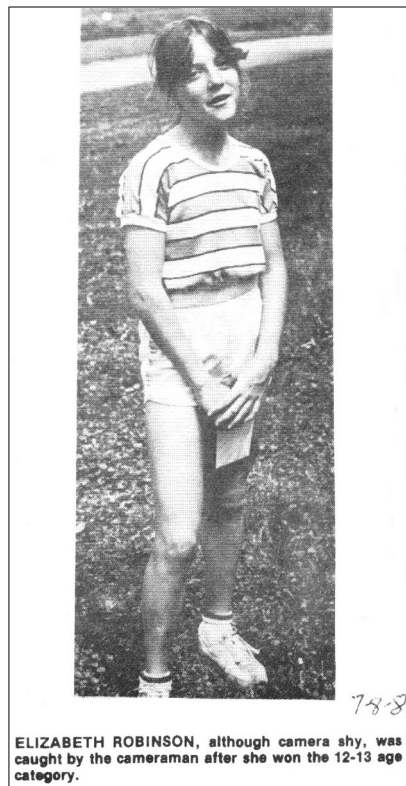
1969 Kids' Day.



1976 parade.



1980 Kids' Day window painting.



1981 race winner.



The last time Prophetstown had a Kids' Day was during our Sesquicentennial celebration in 2009. It was a very sad day for us who recall the Kids' Days of the past. Very few people attended, as can be seen in the above photos. We heard one of the ride operators remark that: "Next week we are going to . . . where the people will appreciate us more."