

Meet

Mrs. “Georgie” Mathis

Kid’s Day

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by

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Introduction

Once upon a time Prophetstown had a yearly celebration called Rooster Booster Day. Though many people looked forward to it, mainly the farmers and the kids, it left something to be desired. Roscoe Mathis was President of the Booster Club, whose goal it was to improve life in Prophetstown. This group began to think about a way to improve Rooster Booster Day, but it was Roscoe's wife, Margaret "Georgie" Allison-Mathis, who came up with the suggestion for a "Kids' Day." As you saw in the previous Kids' Day article it became the major event in Prophetstown for many years.

In June 1968 Prophetstown set aside a day to honor those responsible to the creation of that event. You can read about it on the next page.

Monday, June 17, 1968

Kid's Day For Prophetstown Grown To Big Annual Event

In the city of Prophetstown, "Kid's Day" traditionally follows the observance of Mother's Day and Father's Day. The event here has grown in such popularity within this '1500 plus city' that the attendance last year was estimated at a minimum of 12,000!

A special joy in this observance locally is the "togetherness" which is evidenced among the entire family . . . and members of the Prophetstown Booster Association who sponsor this annual event, bears the "entire family" in mind and provides activities throughout the day for each member of the family to enjoy.

Everyone is welcomed to circle the date of Thursday, June 20, on their personal calendar.

This is the 40th anniversary of "Kid's Day in Prophetstown" and on this anniversary date the 'founders of Kid's Day' will be especially recognized. They are Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Mathis of 202 Locust St., Prophetstown. They will have a place of honor in the big parade of Thursday, June 20, and will be riding in an open car in the parade . . . which will begin at 10 a.m.

The event will have a two-fold special meaning for each of them as their entire family has arranged to be here in Prophetstown for the occasion. This will include their sons and daughters, namely, Mrs. Charlotte Madsen of Miami, Fla.; Mrs. John (Margaret) Poulter, Mrs. Georgiana Thede, William Mathis and James Mathis, each of Prophetstown, and 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Included among the great-grandchildren will be the family's proud new arrivals this year of 'twins', Stanley and Elizabeth Ann, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Robinson. Mrs. Robinson is the former Jo Ann Thede, daughter of Mrs. Georgiana Thede.

How Kid's Day Started

Kid's Day is the result of a suggestion offered by "Georgie" (Mrs. Mathis) to her husband 40 years ago, when he was president of the Prophetstown Booster Association.

In those early years, an annual event of "Rooster-Booster Day" was observed in Prophetstown with farmers of the area invited to bring in their 'June' roosters to the city for the Booster Association to buy. The feathered birds were placed in a large wire cage erected in the center of the main street of the business district.

The promotional event was arranged to bring the farmers and their families to town and was enjoyed as an exciting time for the city residents to see the fun of weighing in 'of the birds'. Roscoe, reported on interview, that the roosters were later sold in a lot to a Chicago area market for the best price they would bring.

Because the "Rooster-Booster Day" proved just a short activity event and did not evolve an attraction to keep the visitors in town for any length of time, members of the Booster Association felt a new promotion was needed.

Mathis, explained finally at one of the monthly meetings, each member of the Booster Board was asked to go home and think of an attraction that would prove to be more popular and which could be held.

It was the idea of 'Georgie' . . . when she said, "Why don't we have a DAY FOR THE KIDS?" . . . which drew the enthusiasm of all and it was thus, that "Kid's Day . . . was born."

The first Kid's Day, former president Roscoe Mathis, reported consisted of having a merry-go-round set up in town, and sandwiches given free to the children with free gift tokens given to all youth by the merchants of the town. A street dance was also set up and thus the entire family was provided with entertainment.

The annual event grew more and more popular and as the years went by . . . more and more area friends from distances further and further away began circling the date of Prophetstown Kid's Day on their June calendars. More and more attractions were added to the day's event and today . . . the entire city is turned into a gigantic carnival with every minute of the day filled with fun and activity for the kid's with the parents having the enjoyment of the day's . . . "family togetherness."

Also, to receive special recognition will be Prophetstown former Mayor and former State Representative, George S. Brydia and Mrs. Brydia.

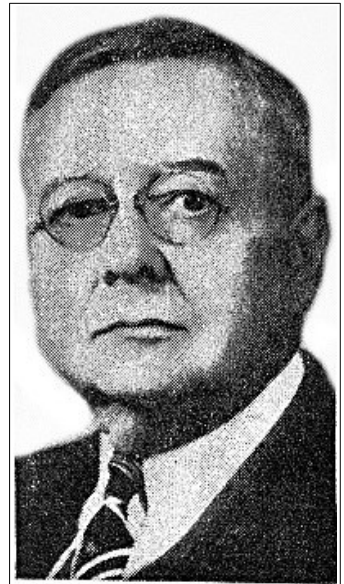
Brydia suffered a crippling stroke two years ago which required extensive hospitalization. However, on the occasion of the Kid's Day observance of 1967, and with the help of friends, he was placed in a wheelchair and Mrs. Brydia steered him through the thoroughfare of Prophetstown Kid's

Day event affording him the joy of greeting friends.

Since this date, he is a familiar figure on the main street thoroughfare of Prophetstown with the use of his wheelchair, he daily strolls about town with Mrs. Brydia's help.

Brydia was mayor of Prophetstown at the time that Kid's Day first began. He has the record of holding the longest term of presiding mayor in the city of Prophetstown having been elected for the first time, April 25, 1921 and presiding as senior officer of the city until Dec. 5, 1933 when he resigned for the post of State Representative.

The Honorable George S. Brydia will preside as "Grand Marshal of the 1968 Kid's Day Event" per an announcement issued by General Chairman, Francis Allen of the Prophetstown Booster Association.



GEORGE BRYDIA
Honorary Grand Marshal



MR. and MRS. ROSCOE MATHIS