

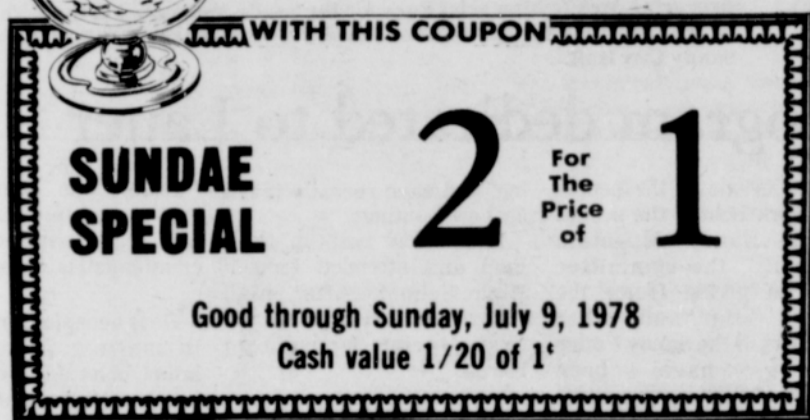
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Armstrong dreams

Vancouver, British Columbia, has Stanley Park. San Francisco has Golden Gate Park.

Sandy has Meinig Memorial Park.

"There aren't many towns that have such a beautiful park right in the downtown area," said Sandy Mountain Festival co-chairman John Armstrong. "It's one of the most beautiful parks in the Pacific Northwest."

To Armstrong, the park is one of the keys to the success of the festival. "It's the key to capturing people's imaginations."

Armstrong has translated those words into action. He and his wife, Pam, were the

first couple married in the park on July 31, 1976.

The day was full of surprises. First the couple's car broke down on the way to the wedding and they had to hitchhike to the park.

"We were 15 minutes late," recalled Armstrong, who formerly was employed in Sandy but now works at Ross-Hollywood Funeral Chapel in Portland.

The Sandy Mountain Festival Committee showed up in full force and made sure the day was a special one. Cake and punch was set out on a fine table setting and there were bows on the trees. The city train, the Sandy Trunk Line, maintained by

city crews on their spare time, even came to take the newlyweds for a quick ride.

"I just thought that they would take us around the park," said Armstrong, who was surprised by the ride. "But they went out past city hall onto Highway 26 and went around town. It was amazing — really a highlight."

The park plays an important role in the atmosphere of the festival, but Armstrong is also quick to give just as much credit to the other festival committee volunteers.

"It amazes me to think of how so many groups of people can work so well



John, Pam, and Amy (front) Armstrong