



Mt. Angel Oktoberfest

Seniors experience a touch of Bavaria

Members of the Sandy Senior Center got a taste of the old world last week, as they took a trip to Mt. Angel, site of Oregon's oldest and most popular Oktoberfest.

The various Oktoberfests throughout the state are replicas of similar celebrations in Germany commemorating the harvest season.

The Mt. Angel celebration had the flavor of old Germany, with alpine huts, Bavarian food and of course many, many kegs of beer.

A favorite stop for many of the seniors was the seminary outside town, where young men have trained for the priesthood for nearly a century.

But the main attraction, if not the people, was the food. Of the 46 booths, 42 served food, mostly German sausage and strudel. To wash it down, a large enclosed area was designated as the "Biergarten."

All good things must come to an end, however, and Sunday marked the end of this year's Oktoberfest. But for at least one day, Sandy's seniors had an opportunity to experience a taste of old Germany.



ERMA RICH takes a stroll outside of the church at the Mt. Angel Seminary (above left). Looking over the candles at a downtown booth is Irene Suzuki (far right) of Sandy. It wasn't just humans who enjoyed the Oktoberfest (right) as this pooch munched on a sausage dropped by a careless visitor. Jack and Lillian Willingham (below) show their polka expertise on a Mt. Angel street. The Willinghams, of Portland, have danced at the Oktoberfest for 14 years.



Photos by Mark Floyd

