

Summer celebration builds community

by Claudia Fisher

Billed as a fundraising and community-building celebration, the Southeast Summer Festival, sponsored by Southeast Portland neighborhoods, proved as popular as similar Portland events of the past few years. Southeast Uplift, a non-profit coalition of 20 neighborhoods, neighborhood associations, volunteers providing thousands of hours, and cooperation and help from local government, service organizations and business created a day of free entertainment, youth activities, food, games, music, dancing, hot-air balloon rides, arts and crafts, a beer garden, useful information and

self-reliance demonstrations.

Last Saturday, the day was sunny, the sky blue and the grass green at Clinton Park bordering Franklin High School. Thousands of seemingly carefree people played, ate, relaxed and enjoyed sights, sounds and aromas, romas.

A sloping hill formed a natural amphitheater for main stage events featuring jazz, rag, pop, country, bluegrass, blues, aerobic dance, gymnastics, Balkan dance, baton and drum corps and belly dancing.

Under the biggest shade tree around was the place to sit for a Theatre Worksop performance of Kipling's "Just So" stories. The Beer Garden's entertainment of-



Dunk Tank enthusiasts practice their skills at S.E. Summer Festival.

ferred more jazz, folk music and reggae.

Self-reliance demonstrations included container gardening, canning and preserving, soapmaking, bike and tool maintenance and safety, storm window construction, solar food dryers and cold frames, self-defense/martial arts, energy conservation techniques and financing, haircutting, quilt and puppet making, poetry and discussions of Southeast self-reliance possibilities.

Sprinkled throughout the festival were clowns, story tellers, poets and a friendly neighborhood green dragon. Children felt free with bare feet and painted faces, riding bikes or strollers and rolling down the hill

that less free parents walked. Other free expressions included creative movement, exercise and dance, painting a mural on outside wall of the restrooms and lots of smiles.

Closing out the day's events was the popular performances of "Kukruudu," a seven-piece band led by master drummer Obo Addy, who merges traditional West African and jazz styles. Finally, pyrotechnic artist John Sinclair presented his "Theater of Fire," an incredibly spectacular low-level and aerial fireworks display he calls "Colorstorm," greeting in bright hot style the cooling of dusk and bidding farewell to a Southeast celebration of diversity and togetherness.



Dee Walsh, City of Portland HCD Coordinator, makes friends with a neighborhood dragon attending S.E. Summer Festival.

The Reading Tree Making learning fun

by Claudia Fisher

The Reading Tree, an eleven-year-old Northeast community effort to provide summer teaching of phonics, love of books through story hours, reading games and free books to all children, as well as other games and music, had its annual awards day at the program's end, August 12th.

Certificates for accomplishment were given to children by their teachers, Mrs. Day and Mrs. Anthony, and by youth workers Charlene Sanders, Dexter Sanders and

Ella Taylor. Other youth workers were Nari Reichling, Houg Nygen and Ellray Wilson.

Director for the summer program is Bea Anderson, a teacher at Tubman School. Assisting her were Linda McDowell, Louise Pritchett and Lolita Darby. The program is run and sponsored by a board consisting of Lillian Herzog, Betty White, Marie Taylor and others. Funded by donations and staffed by volunteers, the popular program uses books donated by Portland Public Schools and other interested persons. This summer's program averaged 60-70 children per session.



Five-year-old Leah Price leads group in vowel identification. Youth worker Nari Reichling instructs.



Daniel, age 4, displays his reading award.

Yachts o' fun

Multnomah County Commissioner Gladys McCoy invited a group of youngsters to have "Yachts O' Fun" with a cruise down the Willamette River on Saturday evening, August 21.

McDonald's Wonder Bakery, 15th Avenue Thriftway Stores, Safeway Stores, and Steinfeld's Products donated the refreshments for the event.

Children, ages 7 through 12, from C.R.I.B., the Urban Indian Council, COSSPO, and the North Portland Youth Service Center enjoyed this outing, an opportunity to experience an evening afloat of fun and excitement before the summer ends.



Youngsters head for a cruise down the Willamette River with County Commissioner Gladys McCoy.

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