

Festival originated on paper first

When people in Boardman start talking about the origin of the Boardman Harvest Festival, a few faces invariably turn a deep shade of red.

It seems that the founding fathers of this Columbia River city had no idea about a harvest festival. But, and people thank him now, a newspaperman did.

The way Jim Havnaer went about the festival wasn't the way the harvest festival committees today would have done it, but nonetheless, it got the ball rolling.

Havnaer, editor, publisher, reporter, advertiser for the Boardman Beacon, a weekly tabloid newspaper, started advertising the Boardman Spud Festival Days about five years ago.

When stories came out, there were no committees, no chairmen, no plans, no nothing. Havnaer was only forming ideas in his mind and hoping that someone would read about them and take it from there.

When other Eastern Oregon papers heard about the festival, the event grew like a fire in dry wheat. Boardman, whether they wanted to be or not, was committed to the idea.

Earl Trudeau saw the fumble and picked up the ball. He wanted some teammates however and went to the city for action.

"Stories were already in the papers," Trudeau explained, "but the city didn't want anything to do with it. I told them the City of

Boardman was committed."

Trudeau got on the phone with the help of Alice Tatone, Kay Trumbell and his wife Lucy, he started organizing a festival that already had dates set by an erroneous newspaper story.

Trudeau got together a parade, a barbecue dinner and a dance for the night slated.

"We proved we could do it," Trudeau said emphatically.

The festival just grew out of that newspaper article and advertisement that had a date and even times set before anything had been even thought of.

The Boardman Lions formed later and took over the festival.

"The Lions formed and turned it into something," Trudeau explained, "and we tacked the name of Harvest Festival Days to it."

Trudeau has the original permit from the Boardman police chief for the first parade. He said that was kind of difficult to obtain since nobody knew who the chief of police was.

In its fifth year now, the Harvest Festival started with a King of Spuds. Like a grand marshal, Gene Miller, was the first honored Boardman to don the glory.

This year's grand marshal is none other than the celebrated originator, Jim Havnaer. See additional story.

Sim-Tag Farms Welcomes Everyone to the 5th Annual Boardman Harvest Festival Sept. 11 & 12



★ Saturday Parade

★ Harvest & Machinery exhibits

★ Watermelon Pitching Contest

★ Water Fights

★ Boat Races

★ Talent Show

★ Entertainment

★ Dance

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Boardman, Oregon