

History Corner #9: TRNA's 25th Anniversary Celebration

-by Fred Van Berkel

Well we made a little bit of history Friday and Saturday June 3th and 4th [2005] respectively.

On Friday night we had a reception for the members of the Taylor family, former board members of TRNA, and local elected officials. Music was provided by a volunteer harpist, Linda Kennedy and some delicious food was prepared by the kitchen staff of Pin Seekers. The history board prepared by Ken Newman was displayed. The crowd of about 65 had a good time. (Later the next week the history board was put out in the community center for all to enjoy and later parts of the board were placed in the permanent glass display case in the hall.)

Saturday morning started at six am. Volunteers were at work at six fifteen. The exhibitors set up their info tables and other volunteers were setting up the signs, games and food booths. The sound system was tested and by 10 am we were ready for the opening ceremony.

There were people everywhere: in the parking lot were the antique cars, the climbing rock, and the strong presence of the Albuquerque Police Department: Crime Prevention, Recruiting, Traffic, DWI, Mobile Command Post, Bomb Squad (the dancing robot was a great success). There were several units from the Sheriff's department and the Albuquerque Fire Department was LAO out in force with Fire Prevention and ladder and rescue vehicles.

By the pond the children's play area was constantly busy. On the soccer fields we had entertainment, all unique and beautiful. There was plenty of food and drinks. The row of information tables was continuously filled with people. In short it was a festive atmosphere.

Then at about 10 after 1pm, Mother Nature stepped in and threw a temper tantrum. We weren't expecting that. All the public safety officers on hand took over and looked after people who needed care. After a delay, the scheduled karate demonstration took place on a grassy field in the playground area and the rest of the performances were held outside the community center.

After the event, I got a number of e-mails and phone calls from people expressing their thoughts about the day. Despite Mother Nature's damage, they were all positive about the value of the community celebration. The hard work of all our volunteers made many people happy!!

The whole event took months to prepare. I would love to list all volunteers by name but am afraid I will leave somebody out. Therefore, here is one big, huge THANK YOU to all.