

Kid's KOrner

Heritage Days Is Fun Way To Learn About History

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EAST WATERFORD, Juniata Co. — Dads and granddads spent a lot of time looking at the countless old tractors, steam engines, and old tools on display. Kids spent time learning history, but they didn't realize it because what they saw did not come from a history book. They saw examples of what used to be.

The sixth annual Tuscarora (Tus-kah-roar-ah) Valley Heritage Days were held in East Waterford from July 21-24. The small town of East Waterford is bordered on the one side by the Tuscarora Mountain and on the other by the Tuscarora Creek, and the valley has the same name. They are all named after the Tuscarora Indian tribe which was in the area in the early 1700s. This year's theme was, "Our Indian Heritage," and the emphasis was on Indians and their culture.

One of the first things kids saw in a tent, seeming to be sitting guard to protect the displays, were a seated Indian man and woman. In the other end of that tent was a popular spot where there was a long "sand box" type of play area, but the kids were playing in shelled corn instead of sand. Toy dump trucks, tractors and all kinds of equipment were furnished for their use. It was a neat way to play without getting sand in your hair and sticking to your body in the heat. This sounds like a great way for farmers to make play areas for their kids, and moms would appreciate not having the messiness of sand.

Playing in corn made sense because the white people never heard of corn until Indians in America showed them how to grow it. Indians also showed them how to fertilize it by placing a dead fish in the ground with the grains of corn.

In another area of the grounds were tepees and other tents built exactly like the Indians had them more than 300 years ago. A man and his wife dressed like Indians were busy showing kids all of the Indian things on display in and

near the tepee. They took lots of time to explain how the Indians lived in the tepee and had animal skins on the ground where they could lie down or sit. The man said he first became interested in Indian history many years ago when he was in the Boy Scouts and started to make his collection at that time.

Kids were invited to go inside the tepee to see how it was made and how the Indians lived in it. It was obvious that Mr. and Mrs. Ron McClure of Fayetteville enjoyed sharing their knowledge of Indians to young and old.

Besides learning about Indians, wouldn't it be fun to know about what we call a frontiersman? He is like Davy Crockett whom you may have seen in a movie or read about in history.

Max Sheaffer of Harrisburg was at Heritage Days dressed as a frontiersman and more than happy to share about the history of that area. He and others who are part of a special group in the U.S. go all over to promote the Founding Fathers Program covering the time in our history from 1740-1840. His favorite subject in school was history, and he loves to be able to make it come alive. The group to which he belongs presents seminars and displays all over the U.S.

Did you ever hear of the flintlock rifle? That is the kind where they had to pour gunpowder into the gun and, as it exploded when the trigger was pulled, a bullet was shot. These were used during the time of the Davy Crockett. Frank Crawford, whose home is down the valley from East Waterford, has made six of these rifles in five years and goes to shoots. His rifles were on display at the same tent where frontiersman Max Sheaffer had his display.

Besides all of the Indian and frontiersmen displays and all kinds of large tractors, the kids enjoyed watching the very small gasoline engines that were displayed in action. Many of those went back to the time of the kids' grandparents and great-greatparents.

All ages enjoyed the parade around the grounds each day as



At Heritage Days the children sit on a deerskin rug inside the authentic tepee as Mrs. Ron McClure of Fayetteville explains how the Indians lived on one like this.



In the on-grounds daily parade at Heritage Days, this horse-drawn John Deere wagon holds happy children and frontiersman Max Sheaffer of near Harrisburg.

many types of old restored tractors were driven by proud owners for all to see. Kids were involved in

driving tractors also as they steered while on the tractors with dads or paps. Also there was a pedal

tractor pull for kids, with weights added to make it harder for them to pull.



Mr. and Mrs. Ron McClure of the Conococheague Trade Co., Fayetteville, stand with children visiting their authentic tepee and other displays at Heritage Days.



At Heritage Days, Frank Crawford of RR 1, Port Royal, displays the six flintlock rifles that he has made in the past five years. With him is frontiersman Max Sheaffer of near Harrisburg, and also Crawford's nephew, Evan Saylor, of RR 1, Port Royal.