

PRESS RELEASE – OCTOBER 17, 2006

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LANCASTER, TX

DANKE SCHOEN!

Lancaster's historic MKT Depot and Rose Garden were filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of OktoberFest last week-end. The Garden looked beautiful, with lights twinkling all 'round and spotlights showcasing the still-blooming rose bushes and the heritage pecan tree. The smell of sausage wafted through the garden from outdoor grills strategically located on the platform at the back of the Depot for the specific purpose of enticing the taste buds. And a variety of German music, from traditional polka to contemporary hip-hop and disco tunes, filled the air, mingling with the conversation and laughter of happy guests and the occasional ring of the bartender's bell, signaling a donation to the preservation fund.

By all accounts, the Lancaster Historical Society's first ever OktoberFest was a complete success. "We raised some much-needed funds for the preservation of the Depot," said LHS president and Lancaster City Council member Susan Anderson, "but just as importantly, we raised awareness of our organization and brought attention to the Depot and Rose Garden." She went on to say that guests came from all across the Best Southwest area, including Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, Red Oak, Waxahachie, and Dallas. "Any time we can bring people to Lancaster and show them what a great town we have, that's a good thing," Anderson said.

Local celebrities Janie Fricke and Randy Brodnax joined Anderson in judging the stein contest, which featured entries brought all the way from Germany as well as one stunning winner that was hand-made by its owner, Nancy Adamik of Red Oak, whose husband reported that she owes part of her skill to Lancaster, since she's a regular at Country Hearth Ceramics. Lancaster's first lady Marge Tillotson brought one of the winning steins, and hers was without a doubt the one that best combined the themes for the event. Made in the traditional German style, her stein featured images of historic trains like those that might have been seen at the MKT Depot in earlier days.

OktoberFest chair Andy Mungenast reported that his volunteers were "tired, but ready to do it again next year. Of course, we have to wait for the board to approve it before we can make an official announcement, but we're already making plans for our SECOND annual OktoberFest. We had lots of guests who said they had a great time and would be back next year. Many of them also said they would bring their friends next time. So we don't want to disappoint them!" he said with a smile.

The Lancaster Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that owns and operates the historic MKT Depot and Rose Garden for the benefit of the citizens of Lancaster. The Depot and Rose Garden are available for rent for private parties and events. For more information about LHS, including a map to the Depot, visit www.lhsweb.org. By telephone, contact Lynnette Lakey Taff at 214-616-6961.

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