

Flipping For A Good Cause

Annual Pancake Feed To Benefit W.H. Over Museum

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

Anyone with a hankering for a good breakfast and good company will be well satisfied this week as the Vermillion Lions Club and the W.H. Over Museum put on their annual Pancake Feed fundraiser.

The event will take place Thursday through Sunday July 30th - August 2nd from 8 a.m. to noon at the I-29 rest area.

"It's a free will offering," said Maxine Johnson, Lions Club member, Friends of the Museum President, museum administrator, and a member of the Clay County Historical Society. "Some people give a lot some people not so much but it all evens out. The museum pays for the ingredients and the advertising and the Lions do all the work and the profit goes to us so it's a win-win situation. Plus it's a lot of fun because you get to see a whole lot of different people and accents."

The pancake feed corresponds with the first weekend of the Sturgis Bike Rally and is meant to cater to the bikers passing by on the interstate but is welcome to all.

"We serve anyone who stops, it's not just bikers," Johnson said. "The kids get a little treat and we give out information about Vermillion. We give directions on how to get out to Sturgis faster and safer. Some folks we've had come every year, some didn't know we were there."

Johnson said they expect a bigger crowd since this year is the rally's 75th anniversary.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anyone is welcome to stop by the I-29 rest stop Thursday through Sunday for a pancake feed benefiting the W.H. Over Museum.

Mark Tipton, Lions Club member, is chair of the pancake feed this year. "I've been doing it for seven years I think," he said. "There's just a tremendous amount of bikes go by every day."

According to Tipton, though only a small fraction of the bikers in the rally actually make it to the pancake feed, they still manage to serve between 600-700 individuals over the four-day fundraiser.

The event brings some good memories.

Tipton shared his favorite memory of Chuck Roegiers, Lions Club member and friend.

"He always sells sheepskin products to the bikers," Tipton said. "He always is down in Onawa and he set up a tent there. One year we took pictures of a lot of the interesting people that came through and printed them out that night and then the next day we'd tell people about Chuck and his sheepskin place and we'd send pictures with them to give to him and he actually got

about five pictures from five different bikers. That was kind of fun."

Johnson also has good memories of helping people in more ways than pancakes.

"We support people who need new glasses and we had a gentleman who was living under the bridge and we fed him breakfast and lunch and got him fixed up with glasses," she said. "He came back the next year to thank us and then he gave us a sock full of money. It was pennies, nickels and dimes but it came out to about \$20."

According to Johnson the pancake feed benefits Vermillion itself as much as the museum.

"A lot of people will come into Vermillion and stop by here and the music museum and the Austin-Whitmer house if it's open," she said. "We recommend a restaurant. It's a win-win situation for Vermillion and the museum and for Lyons."

Though the feed is mostly for passing travelers, Vermillion citizens are more than welcome to stop by.

"Saturday mornings we get a wonderful turnout of people from town," Johnson said. "The biggest help would be to come and eat and make a donation. We can't ask a set price. We have one community member who comes out every day and helps. Frankie Putz, he's over 90. He comes every year and he looks forward to it."

For more information on the pancake feed, contact the W.H. Over Museum at 677-5228 or visit www.whovermuseum.com.

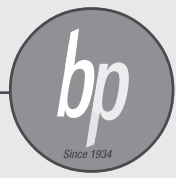
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