

## *The History of the Kraut Festival*

When Mr. A. A. Huppert of the Frank Pure Food Company held a "picnic" for his employees and a few friends, little did he realize that it was the beginning of one of the most successful festivals throughout all Wisconsin. Originally designed to show what real home cooked kraut should taste like and to raise money for the local park, the idea has grown to a four day celebration that attracts upwards to 40,000 persons.

With the exception of 1952, when the event was held on the main street of Franksville all of the Kraut Festivals have been held at the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. The early sponsors were members of the Franksville Athletic Club and the funds were used to develop the park. When the park was turned over to the joint townships in 1962 the festival was cancelled as it was again in 1967 when



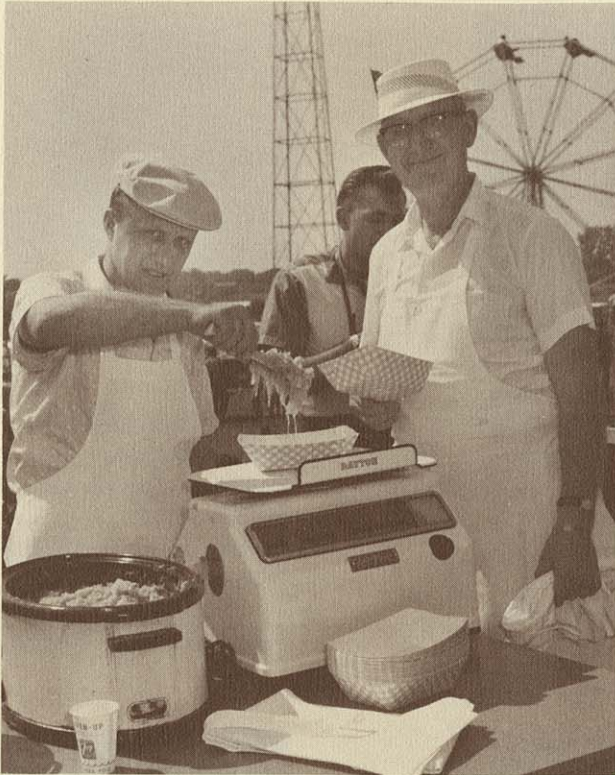
1952 Festival was held on the streets of Franksville shortly after the paving project was completed. Above pictures left to right Bill Keller, Mrs. Hazel Fritchen, Jerome Fritchen and Dr. F.J. Fitchen. Franksville Food Center in background was previously owned by H. C. Hoppe, Pearl Gutknecht and Christ Ramig. Building is now owned by Bob Tonar and is the site of the Franksville Liquor store. Fred Fritchen was the store's operator at time of picture.

Highway K was widened. It was in 1963 that the Franksville Businessmen realized another need for the festival and wanting to continue the tradition, decided to sponsor it and have done so ever since. The new need was the desire of local church and civic groups to raise money and so the businessmen sponsored the festival taking a small percentage from each of the groups that participated. Although the initial profits were small, justice would be served and today many of these organizations need only this one fund raising activity to sustain them throughout the year.

The Kraut Eating Contest originated in the early 1950's and it, too, had an inconspicuous beginning. Because a kraut eating contest had never been tried before, contestants were allowed to eat with their hands. The unfavorable publicity that followed caused the rules to be changed and along with other experiences gained, it now ranks as one of the highlights of the weekend. To our knowledge it is the only kraut eating contest in the world, therefore, our winner is "World's Champion". Maynard Entringer, the current champion, has held the title on numerous occasions and with a record attempt of two pounds in 46 seconds, new challengers are not easy to come by.

The Queen contest is a much different kind of a story. Originally called the Kraut Queen, the title today is a more dignified "Queen of the Kraut Festival". The first gal to wear the title of Kraut Queen was Dorothy Cooper Anderson who was crowned in 1959. The first queens were elected by those attending the festival, however, in recent years the finalist are picked by the businessmen themselves and the queen is selected by a panel of impartial judges.

One of the reasons the festival continues to grow in popularity is the picnic like atmosphere that prevails. The Memorial Park in late July is a good place for families and friends to get together and the combination of polka bands, outdoor dancing, plenty of draft beer and the finest sauerkraut is enough reasons to call Franksville the Kraut capitol of the World.



**DEPARTED BUSINESSMEN . . .** The late Alex Ramig of the Franksville Food Center and W. C. (Red) Titley of the Franksville Food Center weigh kraut for the 1962 Kraut Eating Contest.

**1955 CONCESSION OF THE FBA**

The Franksville Businessman's Association had an early involvement in Kraut Festivals before taking over the sponsorship in 1963.





**1958**  
 Dorothy (Cooper) Anderson  
 Housewife  
 Husband: Andrew (Banker)  
 1845 Hwy. H  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53406  
 2 Children



**1959**  
 Ruth (Eppler) Hansen  
 Housewife & Works at  
 American Motors  
 Husband: Robert  
 (American Motors)  
 4010 - 20th Street  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53406  
 3 Children  
 1960 - No Queen



**1961**  
 Linda (Miller) Galovits  
 Housewife  
 Husband: David (J.I. Case)  
 614 Goold St.  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53402  
 2 Children  
 1962 - No Kraut Festival



**1966**  
 Barbara (Heberling) Dopke  
 Physical Ed. Teacher -  
 St. Catherine's  
 Husband: Kenith (Dir. of Student  
 Affairs - St. Catherine's)  
 632 Crabtree Lane  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405  
 No Children



**1968**  
 Sherry (Kusters) Wifler  
 Special Ed. teacher for  
 mentally retarded children  
 Husband: Mel  
 (Audit Manager)  
 473 Park Ave.  
 Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935  
 1 Child



**1969**  
 Linda (Downey) Tischendorf  
 Kilbourn Gardens Restaurant  
 Husband: Roger  
 (Kilbourn Gardens)  
 4300 No. Main St. - Apt. 107  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53402  
 2 Stepsons



**1973**  
 Lisa Sajdik  
 Student-secretary - grocery checker  
 2515 Virginia St.  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405  
 Single

# *Kraut*



**1963**  
 Cathy (DeVries) Keisler  
 Fashion Design Inst.  
 at Mount Mary College  
 Husband: Lance  
 (Drafting Inst.)  
 5100 Russell Dr.  
 Greendale, Wisconsin 53129  
 No Children



**1964**  
 Carla Kalbfleisch  
 Secretary - Foundry Allied Ind.  
 1308 Lathrop Ave.  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405  
 Single



**1965**  
 Dee Dee Davies  
 Teacher - Trautwein School  
 Miss Dee Dee's  
 School of Dance  
 1235 Cleveland Ave.  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53405  
 Single



**1970**  
 Cynthia (Siefert) Moru  
 Drug Research - Yale University  
 Husband: Carl  
 (Pharmacist's Ass't.)  
 76 Main St. - Apt. 6  
 New Haven, Conn. 06512  
 No Children



**1971**  
 Pam (DeGroot) Wahlen  
 Model - Chicago  
 Husband: Rudolph  
 (Wiess Plumbing)  
 33 Riverside Dr.  
 Racine, Wisconsin  
 1 Child



**1972**  
 Mary Anne (Sadlon) Kolton  
 Elementary Teacher -  
 Kettle Moraine  
 Husband: Gregory (Auditor)  
 2092 So. 102nd St. - Apt. 206A  
 West Allis, Wisconsin 53227  
 No Children

# Queens

**1974**  
 Virginia Lee  
 Secretary-receptionist at D & R Window &  
 Awning  
 6022 Golfridge Dr.  
 Racine, Wisconsin 53406  
 Single

