

Changes Coming to the Festival *by Bill Long*

Growing Pains Again! Ouch! In an effort to accommodate larger crowds and more performers, we are making some major changes in the 2006 Festival. These are drastic changes compared to the minor alterations of the past few years. We are adding a day to the Festival, beginning Wednesday morning instead of Thursday. Some of you will need to change your hotel reservations and all the Sedalia hotels have been notified of the change in days. This is the best way to facilitate performers being able to perform more often as some were disappointed that they only had limited appearances. By adding a day, more performance time will be available. Because there were a larger number of venues and larger venues spaces, some felt the crowd was not as large as usual, but it was. People were just spread around more.

Here is an overview of this year's festival. The evening concerts are on different nights and at different times and in different places from the past. Smith-Cotton High School finally got air conditioned and will provide better concert facilities than the cavernous Mathewson Center. These changes center most of the ragtime activities in the downtown area.

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Free venue: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - State Fair Community College (SFCC) - Student Union commons, Daum Museum, Scott Joplin Achieves

Kick-off Concert: 2:00 p.m. – Stauffacher Theater, SFCC

Dinner: 5:00.-7:00 p.m. - Smith-Cotton High School Cafeteria – Little Big Horn catering

The Entertainer Concert: 8:00 p.m. - Smith-Cotton High School Auditorium

After Hours: Best Western

Thursday, June 1, 2006

Free venues: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Maple Leaf Site, Stark Pavilion, Cakewalk Hall, and Katy Depot – times vary according to place

Symposiums: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - First United Methodist Church

Cradle of Ragtime Concert: 2:00 p.m. - Liberty Center

Dinner: 5:00 -7:00 p.m.- Smith-Cotton High School Cafeteria – Kehde's BBQ catering

The Easy Winners Concert: 8:00 p.m. - Smith-Cotton High School Auditorium

After Hours: Best Western

Friday, June 2, 2006

Free venues: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Maple Leaf Site, Stark Pavilion, Cakewalk Hall, and Katy Depot – times vary according to place

Symposiums: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - First United Methodist Church

Legacy of Joplin Concert: 2:00 p.m. - Liberty Center

Fashion Contest: 5:00 p.m. – Maple Leaf Club Site

Parade: 6:30 p.m. - Ohio Street, beginning at the Maple Leaf Club Site

The Ragtime Dance: 8:00 p.m. - Smith-Cotton High School Cafeteria with Vaudeville/Ragtime shows at the intermissions (to satisfy you non-dancing concert goers)

After Hours: Best Western

Saturday, June 3, 2006

Free venues: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Maple Leaf Site, Stark Pavilion, Cakewalk Hall, and Katy Depot – times vary according to place

Symposiums: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - First United Methodist Church

Swap Meet: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon – Courthouse Lobby (pending approval)

Ragtime Revelations Concert: 2:00 p.m. - Liberty Center

Donor Party: 5:00-7:00 p.m. - Katy Depot

Saturday Night, Red Light Music Hall: 8:00 p.m. - Smith-Cotton High School Auditorium

After Hours: Best Western

Sunday, June 3, 2006

Brunch: 10:00 a.m. – Noon - Best Western

Liquor cannot be served at the public school events, although I do have distance memories of visits to the nearby parking lots when I was a student there (not that I'm admitting to anything or encouraging anything). Yes, you saw extra symposiums and yes there is no late night Saturday Concert (it's now earlier). We have left you an hour (from 7-8) each evening to eat, freshen-up, or attend to whatever. In other words, we moved the Thursday morning concert to Wednesday afternoon. The Saturday night to Wednesday night, the Friday night to Thursday night, the Thursday night dance to Friday night, and moved the late night Saturday to early night Saturday,. We lost the opening ceremony and somewhere there's a parade, I love a parade. Oh yeah, there's an extra dinner and a breakfast. Some of you will love this, some will hate this, but golly, we're trying to make it better and easier for you, our ever loyal and outspoken fans. ~Bill Long