The Party's Not Really Over

The Fourth Annual Coventry Street Fair is over now, but the after-effects linger. Discussions on the street inevitably turn to the Fair. In the eyes of those who worked so hard to organize the Fair, one can still see sparkles, as if the opening of the road to traffic at 8 p.m. on Sunday was not an end, but rather only one step in a continuing process. Apparently, the 1978 street fair is already on many minds.

The Fair was a Coventry Neighbors, Inc. production from start to finish this year. It was a great success. Although nobody could say for sure, estimates that 40,000 people came to attend the festivities were not being discounted. There were no major incidents, and as one Cleveland Heights Police Department officer noted, "People behaved themselves." Due to the presence of some 25 temporary trash containers, 24 push brooms, and several Coventry neighbors, the street was clean after the Fair. Many suggested that the street was cleaner after the Fair than it had been before the Fair.

Merchants were pleased, and for good reason. Some made as much as $3,000 during the two days. As promised, the Fair had more art and food for sale than any previous Fair. There were three rib stands, with CNI member George Anthony Moore's stand being widely deemed the best of the lot. The people who worked the garbage detail can attest to the volume of corn, watermelon, pastries, etc. consumed.

There was a lot of beer consumed, too. Despite this, the Fair was remarkably free of drunken behavior. Police rigorously enforced the law, banning open public consumption of alcohol, but they did so in a professional manner which head off hostility. One observer stated that he felt the police were "firm, but understanding."

It seemed as if more families and more local residents came than in prior years. This was perhaps due to the emphasis on local publicity reflected in the Fair's $350 budget for advertising.

Overall, the 1977 Fair was the best of the Coventry Street Fairs. It has generated enthusiasm which can, hopefully, be tapped for other projects. Moreover, it has brought some extremely talented people out into the open and convinced them that ambitions can be converted into realities, given some time, money, and sweat. The 1977 Street Fair marks what many expect will be a point of departure for Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and for Coventry. It is definitely only a beginning.

- Alan Rapoport

The next meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will take place on Tuesday, August 9, 1977, at 8:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Society on Lancashire Road, across from Musician's Towers.
President's Street Fair Committee Report

Not many people really understand or appreciate all the work that went into planning and running the 1977 Coventry Street Fair. A hard working committee of 14 spent three months to make two days come off just right. Some special mentions are appropriate.

Frank Oberneyer could have stayed in his Glass Llama store in Coventry and remained apart from the Fair. He has a nice store and a growing business. But he had ambitions for a better Coventry. Without him, merchant contact and finances would have degenerated into confusion.

Elvie Zell has worked on craft fairs before. She did not need to handle reservations for booths and hassle about where to locate them. Without her, the Street Fair could never have served its purpose as a vehicle for local artists.

Karen Lind is a very busy person. Her list of public and community activities is so long that one wonders how she finds time to work and sleep. When the challenge of making various arrangements for the Fair came up, she could have passed the work up. She didn't. Without her, the Fair would have operated like a squeaky wheel lacking grease.

David Budin minds his own business. A talented musician himself, he had no ambition of challenging the Belkin Brothers in the promotion game. But when the suggestion was made that good entertainers might perform for free, David decided he could find those entertainers. Without him, the Fair would have seemed awfully quiet.

F. David Gill is a determined fireball of energy. When someone was needed to find 60 unpaid neighbors to stand one-hour shifts at lonely barricades blocks away from the Street Fair, he volunteered. You cannot convince others to be public spirited unless you radiate that quality yourself. F. gave a damn and he set out to find 60 like-minded individuals. Without him, there would have been no "room" for the party.

There were others, too, and I don't mean to slight them by being briefer in my description of their roles. Ed (Crudley) Ritz designed our posters. Debby and Sany Levine did much of our publicity. Eileen Van Vlack and Mitchell Coffee were there when you needed them, as were Judith Ayers, Pam Ritz, and Lavonne Miether. The committee worked as a team. No one was paid.

I have served on many committees, and I honestly feel this one was the best by far. Each and every person on it was intelligent, dedicated, and hard-working. We all had a good time and everything came off fine. Without them, the 1977 Coventry Street Fair would never have existed.

- Alan Rapoport

Note from the Street Fair Committee: Alan is much too modest. Although he is unaware, as yet, of this addition, we wanted each of you to realize how fully he gave of his time, energy, and self in this effort. His leadership of the group is what kept us going. Thank you, Alan! [Is this the right time to ask you to Chair the 1978 Street Fair Committee?]
It may seem as if an undue amount of space is being devoted in this issue to the Street Fair. Perhaps this is necessary since the Plain Dealer, Press and Sun Press all chose to ignore the presence of 40,000 people in the week that followed the Fair. Our own readers deserve a little better accounting.

Many local businesses supported the Fair. Heights Hardware, Caroll Drug, and Pick-N-Pay donated some supplies. The Fairmount Center for the Creative and Performing Arts provided stages for free. The Saloon, Coventry Pizza, and Heights Cleaners and Shirt Laundry let the bands plug electrical cords into their outlets. If you need sound equipment, consider checking out Mayfield Music or Terra Tue, Inc., whose systems you may have heard at the Fair.

Not everyone was so helpful. A few merchants did not contribute to the Fair at all. Marvin Bilskey, President of Metropolitan Savings Association, not only refused to allow bands to plug into the bank's outdoor outlets--he refused very brusquely. (MSA also hired its own special, off-duty Cleveland Heights policeman to watch its building during the Fair.)

CWH certainly hopes that people will remember this year's street fair and patronize those local merchants who helped make it so successful. Remember that your dollars determine which businesses feel welcome in Coventry.

Dear Editor,

I'm sick and tired
of all these women
Constantly pawing me
Everywhere I go on Coventry
In restaurants, at parties
Even on the street
In the middle of the afternoon
I'm all for equal rights
and women's liberation, but
I need some breathing space, too
I've gone through three asthma sprays
Since I got out of the workhouse
And my God!
Some of these women are half my age
(Freud would have a field day on Coventry)
What do I have to do
Go into Coventry Books
And buy a T shirt that says
My Body Belongs To Me
I sure hope they have extra large

Sincerely yours,

Daniel
Editor's Note: DB has been closely watching developments concerning the Cleveland Heights' law regulating occupancy of residential units by two or more "unrelated" people. Here is his most recent report.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS "FAMILY" DEFINITION WOULD DEAL WITH "ROOMER PERMIT," TOO

The U.S. Supreme Court voided this year the "Definition of Family" used by the City of East Cleveland. Cleveland Heights' definition of family differed by only two words, so we must rewrite ours, as well. At a meeting of the Planning & Development Committee of Council on July 11, City Law Director Don Barclay indicated the direction of his thinking, although he did not circulate draft language at that time.

Mr. Barclay has a problem in that the Court was clear in what it wouldn't allow—a definition pretty well limited to the "nuclear family"—but was not at all clear as to what is permitted, or even required. Mrs. Inez Moore was living with two grandchildren who are first cousins to one another. The old East Cleveland statute said that wasn't a family. A majority of High Court Justices found this unacceptable, but not all for the same reasons, and even the plurality opinion signed by four of the five Justice majority isn't much of a guide for someone in Mr. Barclay's position.

The Law Director's present notion is a definition that would include any direct ancestor or descendant of the head of household or the spouse of the head of household; plus two others of a lesser degree of consanguinity, or unrelated. The latter would cover a limited number of nephews, aunts, etc.; or a situation where siblings remained together after the parents had departed; or—and this is where a lot of the "roomer permit" hassle would be solved—a household of two or three completed unrelated room-mates. Such will be found in many multi-bedroom apartments in Coventry, and will be pestered from time to time under the present law to register their names at City Hall and take out a roomer permit ($10/year) because of their living arrangements. Your correspondent hopes it carries through.

-Dave Burwasser

24-HOUR OFFSTREET PARKING is available 6½ days a week at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road. $15 per month. Lot must be cleared Sunday mornings; arrangement includes overnight parking every night. Call 932-1898 for additional information.

MERCHANT PON-NOW PLANNED

CII intends to convene a meeting of Coventry merchants in the near future to discuss such common concerns as parking, trash on the streets, and neighborhood promotion. Interested persons can write to Alan Rapoport, c/o Apt. 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

NEED A HALL? The space at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road, is available for rental use during the week. Parking included. Rates vary with area rented. Call Adele Fike, 486-4340.
"ON STAGE" SERIES WINDS UP

If you are not busy Sunday afternoon and you would like to hear some free, quality music, you might consider checking out the "On Stage" series sponsored by the Fairmount Center for the Creative and Performing Arts. Set out on the lawn in front of the Center, the program creates for Coventry residents a light, festive atmosphere of mellow music, good vibrations and, weather permitting, sun.

On Sunday, August 7 from 2-5 p.m., the program will feature jazz music by the Willis Lyman Quartet, which was a big hit at the 1977 Coventry Street Fair. Also featured will be Kevin Richards, with folk/country guitar music.

On August 14th, the "On Stage" series will end with a special program of music featuring Alex Bevan, among others. Alex was forced to cancel his scheduled appearance at the Coventry Street Fair because of doctor's orders. Seems he literally sang his throat out of shape. He expects to be alright in tie for this coming program, which will run from noon to 7 p.m.

The music is fine and the living is easy. See you there!

GOODBYE, CARGO, GOODBYE.........

The signs on the window are black print on red-orange cardboard stock. They read:

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

LOST OUR LEASE!

DRASTIC PRICE REDUCTIONS

Everything must go!

With these brief announcements, Cargo has stated its intention to leave Coventry forever. Lewis Zipkin's Coventryard thus loses its second major tenant this year, and Coventry loses one of the oldest stores on the block.

July, 1977

Recall the ice and wind that made you wary

When you stepped out of doors this January.

The heat that arises now to fry your gizzard

You prayed for in the Bicentennial Blizzard.

- Dave Burawasser
Tenant Hassles? --Coventry Tenants' Meeting

For those interested residents of the Coventry area, there is going to be a tenants' meeting on Thursday, August 4, at 2745 Hampshire Road, Apartment 3. We have already had one tremendously successful meeting, where a large enthusiastic group discussed the common problems of the area, planned a clean-up day for August 27 on Hampshire Road, and agreed to print a tenants' pamphlet.

Special invited guests at our next meeting include Paul Marucci, representative from the Inspectional Services Department of Cleveland Heights, and Phil Starr, director of the Cleveland Tenants Organization.

We hope that you can join us on August 4th when your ideas and support will be most helpful. If you have any questions, call Joyce Cohen at the Heights Community Congress, 321-6775.

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Coventry Library Activities:

Man-Made Monsters: Crafts for ages 6-10 - Monday, August 1, 3 p.m.
Thursday, August 4, 3 p.m.
Coventry Library Players: Drama for ages 9-14 - Monday, August 1, 7 p.m.
A wild rumpus: Closing Day Program, Thursday, August 4, 7 p.m.
FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL: Monday, August 29th, 7 p.m. (Free tickets and information on file at Coventry Library, August 15.)

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Join us in rediscovering the rich heritage of Cleveland Heights by opening doors to our landmark buildings..........HEIGTS HERITAGE TOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS THE FIRST ANNUAL HEIGTS HERITAGE TOUR, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1977

4:30 p.m. Leave Rockefeller Building for an escorted bus tour of Cleveland Heights Landmark Houses.
7:00 p.m. Arrive at Mornington Lane Condominium Ballroom for cocktails.
8:30 p.m. Arrive at the Cleveland Trust Bank, Rockefeller Building for dinner.

Donation of $35 per person includes tour, cocktails, dinner and Landmark Guidebook. ($15 tax-deductible donation to benefit Heights Community Congress) Call the HCC at 321-6775 for further information.

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