

Cowan to Celebrate 80 Years

By Linda Dunham
Staff Writer

"Fall in Love with Cowan" is the theme for the Cowan Commercial and Community Club Festival to be held Sept. 28 in the downtown area of Cowan.

The festival is to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the filing of the charter for the city of Cowan with the state of Tennessee in 1922 as well as the opening of the Cowan Library, the first school year of the Cowan Public School and the charter for the Cowan Commercial Club.

"To the best of our knowledge, the Cowan Commercial is one of the very first civic clubs to file a charter with the state of Tennessee and remain in existence to this day," said Jarod Pearson, president of the club. "In researching our

club we realized that a lot of very important things happened in 1922."

Cowan Public School first opened its doors in the fall of 1922, as well as the Cowan Library being formed.

The festival is an all-day event to be held in the streets of downtown Cowan. Events will include a craft fair, quilt show, lawnmower race, children's beauty pageant as well as entertainment at the pavilion.

"We have plans to decorate the town for the fall festivities," said festival coordinator Kathy Syler. "We have six banners that we plan to hang by early September. The merchants and businesses are all going to decorate their own storefronts as well as our club members dressing up the park area. We have great hopes of making this an annual event for our community."

The activities are open to all that wish to attend and are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

"Some of the activities will continue into the evening and we hope everyone will have a good time!" said Pearson.



FALL IN LOVE WITH COWAN-Professional Health Service of Cowan donated six banners to the Cowan Commercial and Community Club to be used during the "Fall in Love with Cowan" Festival to be held Sept. 28 in the downtown area of Cowan. From left, April Austin, Professional Health Service, Rhonda Acklen, Owner Professional Health Service; Jarod Pearson, President Cowan Commercial Club and Kathy Syler, Festival Chairman. In the background is Cowan City Park's log cabin and the Railroad Museum.

--H-C-photo by Linda Dunham

Citizens, Businesses Are Ready To Spruce Up Cowan

By Le Ann Simmons
Staff Writer

Antique furniture shops, food joints and trinket shops are just of the few businesses that line Cumberland Street, the main road through Cowan. One can't help but think that he has stepped off a time machine walking along the avenue.

Without much effort, you've magically appeared in a world where everybody knows everybody, townspeople speak to those rare

strangers, men open doors for ladies and children say ma'am and sir.

Community leaders in Cowan have launched a revitalization plan that fuses hometown entrepreneurs with the city's need to spruce up downtown all while fueling small town pride.

The Cowan Commercial and Community Club (CCCC), the organization spearheading the revitalization effort, understands the town's unique character and is determined to get the railroad

community back to the bustling town it was in the early 1900s.

The CCCC is made up of business owners as well as residents interested in giving the town a makeover according to its representative Kathy Syler.

"Cowan had just about dwindled down to almost nothing," she said. "We had all these vacant buildings and things and we are just thrilled that finally we've got something to fill them... We just didn't want the little town to

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Cowan

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die."

Syler listed a number of businesses that are currently being renovated along Cumberland and Tennessee Avenue, which she speculates, will be opening in the future.

"One of them is going to be called Sernicola's. It's on Tennessee Ave," she said referring to the first of several ventures in the works.

Laura and Wesley Garner plan to transform the 100 year old building into an Italian restaurant and pizzeria.

"Another building has been purchased by Jarod Pearson. It was a hotel originally built to house the railroad workers," Syler said of the Cumberland Street building that was built in 1850. Plans for the building include transforming the building into a home and a possible business.

Syler said that Jeremy Acklen and April Austin had plans to turn the old Cowan bank building and another building into townhouses.

"We have a new bakery coming into town," she said. "It's going to be next door to the post office."

Syler also said that the old Church of Christ Building on Cumberland had been "acquired" by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge who had plans to turn it into a book warehouse.

Syler said that a couple of buildings still needs to be occupied but she was overall pleased with the progress made so far.

"We've try to bring people into Cowan by word of mouth," Syler said. She also said that local business owner and residents were cleaning up their own lots as well.

To kick off newfound pride in the community and the charter for the CCCC, the organization sponsored the town's first fall festival, which took place last weekend.

The theme was "Fall in Love with Cowan." The purpose of the festival was to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the filing of

the charter for the city with the state, the opening of the library and the first school year of Cowan Public School.

In addition to cloggers, gospel singers, and a beauty pageant for the kids, the festival featured quilters and a craft fair.

According to Syler, the money from the festival will be reinvested into the town for everyone to enjoy.

"We're taking the money and trying to put it back into our park, cleaning up town, trying to bring other businesses into town," she said. "(We're) trying to get people to come and to realize that we do have these businesses."

Mayor Chick Tucker and the city of Cowan have been supporting the CCCC's efforts to revitalize downtown.

According to Syler, the city workers were keeping the sidewalks clean and vacant lots mowed. The city also gave the CCCC money to refurbish the bandstand with the organization provided the labor.

FALL IN LOVE WITH COWAN

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

Sponsored by: The Cowan Commercial & Community Club

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9AM - 5 PM Arts and Craft Fair
10AM - 4 PM Quilt show and quilting demonstration with the Material Girls Quilt Guild on Cumberland St at the old Hatchet Insurance building
10 AM Children present program at Cowan Elementary School to celebrate 80th birthday of school - following program there will be a private reception for past and present employees of the school.
10:30-1:30 Pictorial history of Cowan at the Cowan City Hall-celebrating City Charter being 80 yrs old
11:30 AM Lawnmower races - meet at the bandstand with your lawnmowers - assignment of race classifications
1:30 PM Miss Autumn Beauty Pageant - 4 classes - must dress casual - registration at the gazebo
3 - 5 PM Meet a local author - book signing with Greta Gipson, Carlos Sparks & Gordon Sullenger - celebrating 80 yrs of the Cowan library at the new library location
3 PM Cinde Lucas gospel singing - bandstand
4 PM Stand Up Harmony Band - bandstand
5:45 PM Franklin County Cloggers - in front of the bandstand
6:15 PM Hoss Greer and Friends musical group - at the bandstand
*** Horse drawn tours with Ronnie and Alene Cowan - meet near the railroad tracks

Purchase your bricks at the Cowan Commercial and Community Club booth at the Gazebo for \$25. Bricks will be engraved to your specifications and will be placed in the Cowan Park. Relieve stress by having your face painted or having a wonderful therapeutic massage. Visit the concession stands and enjoy a hot dog or BBQ sandwich, popcorn, cotton candy or peanuts.

LEAVE THE FESTIVAL FEELING
REFRESHED AND YOUNG.
HAVE LOTS OF FUN!!!!

Franklin Times

"Your Business Link"

Beautification/EarthWise



The City of Cowan recently received the Beautification Award for all their hard work. In the photo above is Mayor Chick Tucker, Becky Sherman, and Marie Laxton.

The City was also praised for their commitment in working together, most of all for their Love of their city, which can be seen all over the City of Cowan. No matter what the time of year, Spring, Summer, Winter, or Fall, you will always be able to Fall In Love with Cowan.

If you haven't seen the Christmas lights in Cowan, please do so. They are beautiful.

Proud Of Cowan Makeover

TO THE EDITOR:

Many years have we lived in Cowan. It has never looked more beautiful than it does now.

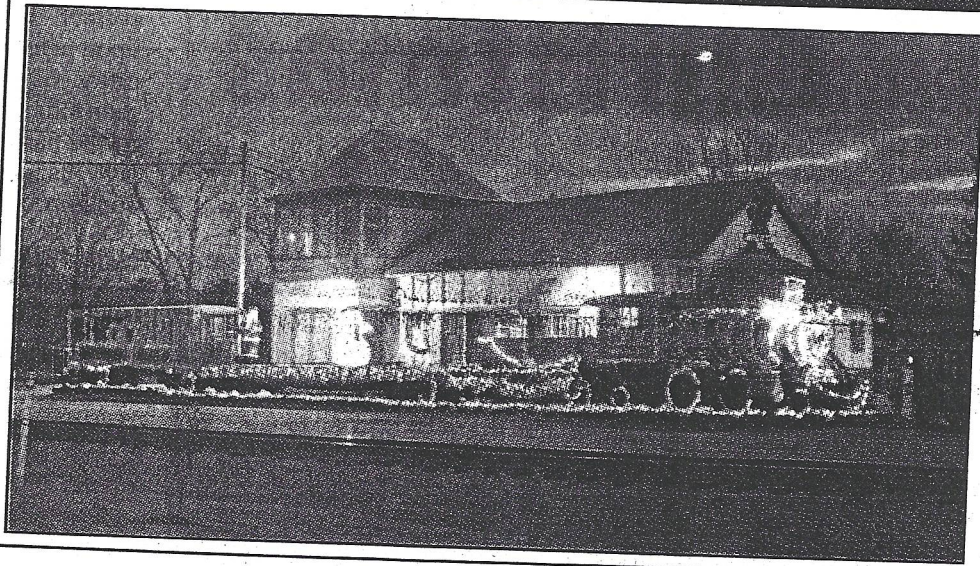
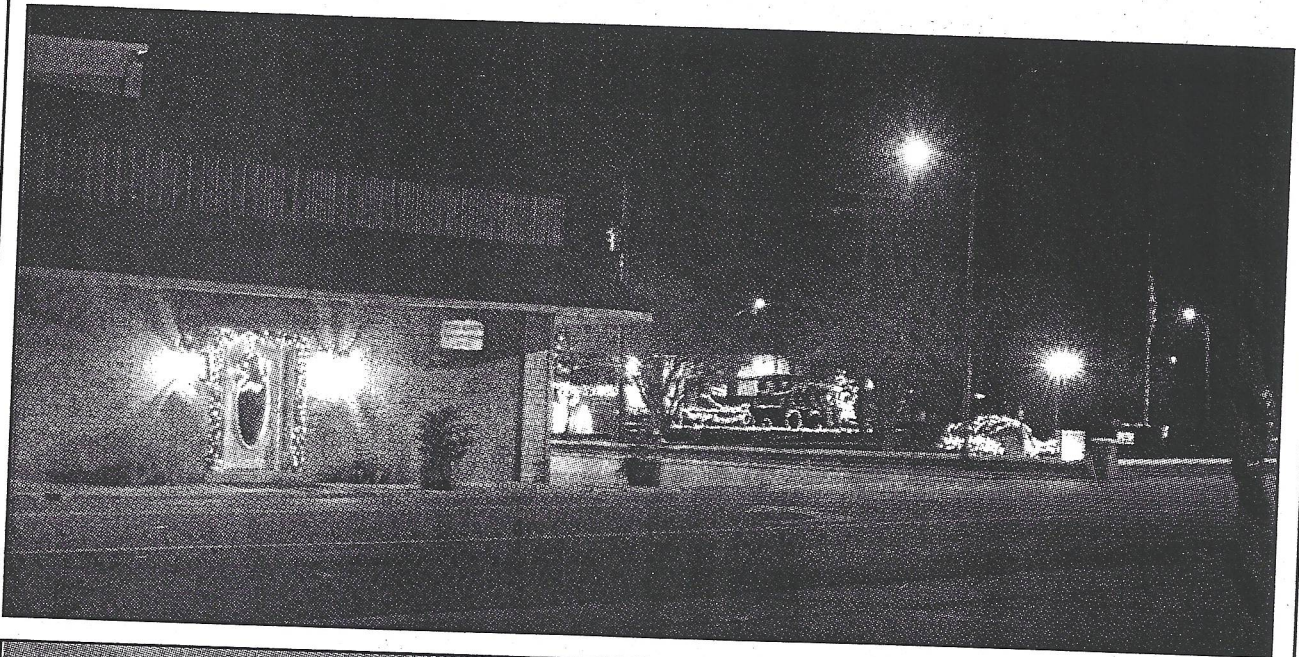
I'm sure others feel as we do and appreciate those that have made it so. This makeover should make all of us and others fall in love with Cowan again.

Many thanks to all of you

who have made us more proud of our hometown, Cowan.

FORESTINE
MATTHEWS &
MAUDE SOLOMON

Shining For The Season...



Lights abound in the evening in downtown Cowan this Christmas season. Howard Coulson took these nighttime shots of the sights you can see if you are making your way through the town during the holidays.

--Photos by Howard Coulson