



THREE DECADES OF COW DAYS: A FLASH TO THE PAST ANNUAL COW DAYS FALL FESTIVAL REVIVED FROM 1900'S TRADITION

Compiled by Connie Erisman

Reprinted from Welcome to Dixon 2016/17

I was happy to be part of the very first revival of Cow Days in Dixon, 1984. I was honored to Emcee the event for many years and loved seeing the joy on the children's faces in the streets. I still look forward to hearing the community buzz with excitement each year as the Fall Festival Celebration draws near!

Some History of "Cow Day" in 1929-1930 by the late Anna Roberts (A well known local historian)

"I was present at all of the first "Cow Days" in Dixon in 1929-1930. This will mention some things I remember and some things that have been told to me by others that remember "Cow Days." I was working at the Annex Drug Store at the time...

On July 11, 1929, a group of Business Men of the town met and formed a Business Association. The following officers were elected: C.J. Kuhns, Pres.; J.W. Gilbert, Vice Pres.; J.D. Elkins, Sec'y; P.A. Christeson, Treas. All business places were given a chance to participate. This organization decided to find a way to bring more business to town.

After the organizing was completed they decided to put on an Advertising Campaign by purchasing and giving away seven registered Jersey heifers.

This was to help promote the Dairy Industry in the area which in turn would bring more business to town.

One heifer was given away each month for seven months. The merchants had tickets made that they gave to their customers, according to the amount of their purchases so as to have a method to determine who the winner of the Jersey heifer would be each month. The best I remember you had to be present to be a winner.

A large number of people came to town on the days when there was to be a drawing. They brought to town whatever they had to sell, such as cream, butter, eggs, poultry, rabbits, furs, etc. While in town they made their purchases of groceries, clothing, hardware, feed, and other things they needed. Most of their time on that day they spent in visiting with friends, relatives and neighbors until time for the drawing. Many of them came to town in their farm wagons or buggies, horseback, or walked if they didn't live too far away. Some of the people had cars and trucks by this time. The horses, wagons and buggies were left on the back streets. The cars were parked along the streets.

The Dixon School Band was the entertainment for the day that everyone looked forward to hearing them play before the drawing, as not many people at that time got to hear the Band play.

This Drawing was held once a month for seven months. Each time the streets were filled with hundreds of people that came from far and near. The largest crowds ever at Dixon at any one time before then.

Dixon Area Chamber of Commerce



UDDER FUN!

WIN A COW!

We Invite You to Attend Dixon's Annual Cow Days Fall Festival

3rd Weekend Every September – Sept. 20 & 21, 2019

• LIVE MUSIC • PARADE • FESTIVAL FOOD • CRAFTS • KIDS ZONE • CAR SHOW

For information on Cow Days, or to request Cow Days vendor registration form, please email the Chamber at cowdayvendor@yahoo.com

For more information about meeting dates, special events, or on the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, visit our website at dixonchamberofcommerce.com.



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