

Event delights Silverton residents

BY DANIELLE KUEHNEL
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SILVERTON – Silverton was all abuzz this weekend, with approximately 6,000 people celebrating the 27th Annual Homer Davenport Days with perfect weather and family-oriented activities.

Davenport, who grew up in Silverton, was a famous cartoonist whose art was featured in such publications as *The Oregonian*, *The San Francisco Examiner* and *The New York Evening Mail*. He is also hailed as one of the first to bring Arabian horses to the United States from the Bedouin tribes.



By Timm Collins

(front to back) Suellen Nida, Connie Johnston and Julia Podesta of Raks Sarana perform gypsy tribal belly dances.

For many Silverton residents, Davenport Days is the best event of the year and not to be missed. Silverton's Sue Reeves hasn't missed the weekend full of events since it began 27 years ago.

"I love the parade," Reeves said. "I also like the individuality of the vendors, the art shows and the car show. I just really love it here."

Reeves also brought her granddaughter Serenna Reeves, 8, who has been present at every Homer Davenport Days since birth.

At I've Got Rocks in my Head's booth — a Silverton fine jewelry and rock business — a large rose-quartz heart piqued Serenna's interest. She ultimately decided upon a geode that could be broken open with a screwdriver to reveal crystals inside.

But Davenport Days are also a time to socialize with neighbors and join the Silverton community or even just return to their small-town roots.

Barbara Rogdeberg of Beaverton grew up in Silverton. This weekend's events, for her, were "for old time's sake," she said while shopping at the numerous booths.

"Silverton's changed a lot," she said. "I enjoy all the interesting things to do.

The festival is much bigger than it was the last time I was here.”

But friend Pat Mattson of Beaverton accompanied Rogdeberg mostly for “the food and the great antique stores.”

The weekend included a surfeit of activities: Visitors enjoyed old favorites like live music, the Hometown Parade, the Davenport Races, cartoon contest and the arts-and-crafts booths, in addition to new fun like Davenport’s Arabian Quest and a Silverton merchants’ circle.

Sister duo Rosemary Krueger of Oregon City and Billie Wolfe of Silverton represented the Black Lily gift shop in the Silverton merchants’ circle. The co-owners began selling their handmade gifts at bazaars, and after realizing their growing popularity, opened their shop in town.

“We have lots of whimsical things,” said Wolfe of their offerings. “We loved the town, but it needed a gift shop when we came in.”

It was apparent that handmade crafts were an integral part of this year’s celebration. Davenport, himself, was heralded for his handiwork through editorial cartoons.

“The weekend went wonderfully,” Homer Davenport Days President Larry Thomas said. “Everything was kind of in the right spot, and everyone seemed very pleased.”