

Raggedy Ann & Andy

FESTIVAL SCRAPBOOK



1990-1999

Arcola, Illinois • Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle

© 1999 Arcola Chamber of Commerce. All Rights Reserved.
Raggedy Ann & Andy are registered trademarks of Simon & Schuster.

Special Thanks

Arcola, Illinois Chamber of Commerce members are proud that our community is the birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, the creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy. His legacy to the world continues to bring joy and unconditional love to both the young and young at heart. His artistic and literary contribution will forever occupy a special place in our community's heritage. Our chamber would like to extend a sincere 'thank you' to the Gruelle Family for their ongoing participation and support of both our community and the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival.



The Arcola Chamber of Commerce would like to express their deepest appreciation to the volunteer committee members for all their dedication and support of the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival.

A heartfelt 'thank you' goes out to the following folks for the special memory pictures they have graciously contributed to the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival Scrapbook:



Robin Hess - Beaufort, SC
Pam Wyrick - St. Johns, WI
Tony & Phyllis Nestor - Vermilion, OH
Shirley Heisters - Liberty, MO
Lynn Dowdy - Jonesboro, AR
Hiromi Tokuda - Oyama-City, Tochigi Japan
Hiromi Nishizawa - Yono-City, Saitama Japan
Diane & Jed Ashton - Sandy, UT

Arcola Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 274 • Arcola, Illinois 61910

Toll-free: 1-800-336.5456



Contents



1st Annual Festival - 1990	3
2nd Annual Festival - 1991	8
3rd Annual Festival - 1992	15
4th Annual Festival - 1993	22
5th Annual Festival - 1994	28
6th Annual Festival - 1995	33
7th Annual Festival - 1996	40
8th Annual Festival - 1997	47
9th Annual Festival - 1998	55
10th Annual Festival - 1999	64
Through the Years	65

1st Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 25-26, 1990 • Arcola, Illinois

Antique Car Show

Toyland Parade

Lazer & Light Show

Pet Parade

Arcola Jazz Band

Raggedy Ann Look-a-Like Contest

Sidewalk Sales

Hal Malehorn Storyteller

Raggedy Ann Collectors

Crafts Galore

Raggedy Ann Festival
Arcola, Illinois

Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, Creator of Raggedy Ann

May 25 & 26



COME JOIN THE MAGIC

Friday, May 25 8-11 p.m.
LAZER & LIGHT SHOW
FAMILY STREET DANCE
50's & 60's With "On The Roads Light & Sounds Show" Rod Rhoads & Kelly Marrs

Saturday, May 26

ANTIQUE CAR SHOW
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PARADE 11:30 a.m.
(line up at 11 a.m.)

RAGGEDY ANN LOOK—ALIKE PRIZES

ADULT
1st prize - Nashville North Gift Certificate
2nd prize - Nashville North Gift Certificate

KIDS
1st prize - Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls
2nd prize - Raggedy Ann Doll

FLOATS
1st prize - \$25
2nd prize - \$15
3rd prize - \$10

PET PARADE

TOYLAND COSTUME
1st prize - Little Theatre Gift Certificate

KATE FLESSNER - 2 p.m.
Hat Comedy

ARCOLA JAZZ BAND - 3 p.m.

CAKEWALK - 4:15 p.m.

Friday & Saturday Community Room Exhibits

Raggedy Ann Collections
Raggedy Ann Video
Antique Doll Collection
Toy Collection
Hal Malehorn - Storyteller
Sat. 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

Crafts

Antiques

Sidewalk Sales

For More Information
Phone 268-3311

Sponsored by the
Arcola Chamber
of Commerce

Arcola to hold Raggedy Ann days

By JEFFREY RAYMOND
H&R Mailroom Bureau Chief

ARCOLA — What a doll! Raggedy Ann, one of the world's most famous dolls, will be honored May 25 and 26 in Arcola.

Arcola? The world's broom corn capital and home of America's only French restaurant/bowling alley?

On top of those distinctions the Douglas County city of 2,700 can also claim it is the birthplace of Raggedy Ann's creator, Johnny Gruelle.

Gruelle and his parents moved from Arcola when he was still a boy. But while he was in Arcola he listened to the stories of Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley. Riley would come by the house to have Gruelle's father, Richard, illustrate his poems.

Riley's influence helped shape Raggedy Ann later in Gruelle's life.

Arcola's Chamber of Commerce had been trying to put together a Raggedy Ann celebration for several years, said Annette Ferguson, an organizer of the event. Ferguson said some people in town did not know of Arcola's Raggedy Ann heritage.

"I think (the chamber) has always wanted to do something to let people know he (Gruelle) was

Raggedy Ann background

■ **CREATOR:** Johnny Gruelle, believed born Christmas Eve 1880. Became a newspaper cartoonist for Indianapolis Star, Cleveland Press and New York Herald. Died of heart disease 1938.

■ **EARLY YEARS:** Created as bedtime story for his daughter, Marcella, who died at 14 in 1916 of complications from a smallpox vaccination. Gruelle

wrote some of the Raggedy Ann stories and published them two years after Marcella's death. Doll invented in 1923 to help promote book sales.

■ **SUCCESS:** More than 3 million books printed by 1938. Fortybooks written, including nine published after his death. Not all were about Raggedy Ann and Andy.

born here," she said.

This year the chamber decided to combine the city's Memorial Day celebration with the Raggedy Ann theme.

Chamber members collected Raggedy Ann merchandise and contacted people with Raggedy Ann collections. Gruelle's son, Worth, and grandson, Kim, autographed Raggedy Ann books and sent them along to the festival.

Proceeds from the sale of the books will help pay for a Raggedy Ann exhibit in the Arcola Depot, now the city's historical museum.

Both days of the festival will feature a collection of Raggedy Ann and other dolls, a Raggedy Ann video, a toy collection and storyteller Hal Malehorn in the Community Building.

Ferguson said organizers had no trouble finding people willing to display their collections.

Booths for antiques and crafts will also be open, and there will be entertainment both days.

Ferguson thinks Raggedy Ann's popularity is in the doll's smiling face.

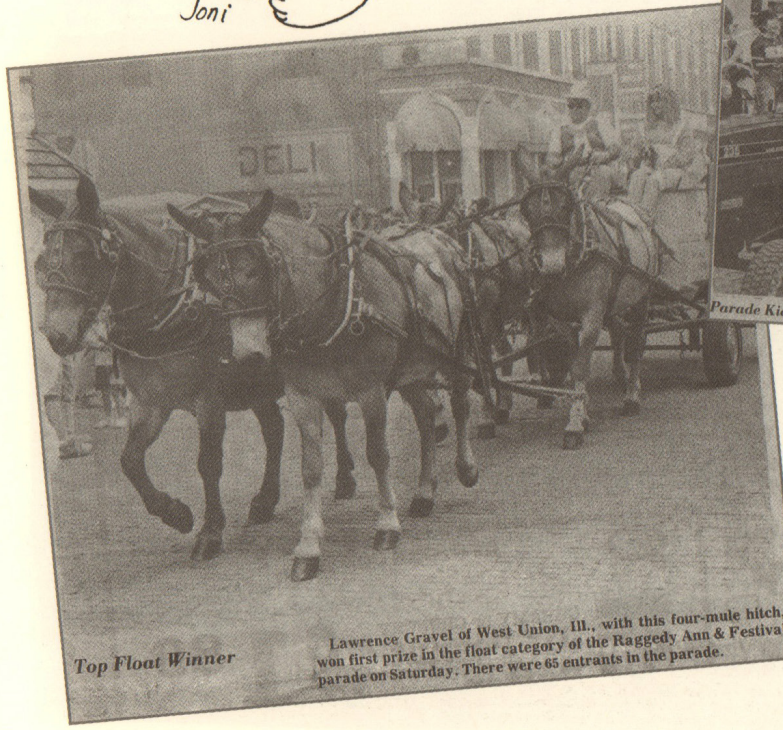
"She just has that face that everybody can love," Ferguson said.

Her daughter thinks Raggedy Ann could use a modern touch. Perhaps a punky hairdo or new clothes might bring the doll into the '90s.

But Ferguson does not share her daughter's interest in a Raggedy Ann makeover. "I think she's just cute as she is."



Parade Kicks Off



Top Float Winner

Lawrence Gravel of West Union, Ill., with this four-mule hitch, won first prize in the float category of the Raggedy Ann & Festival parade on Saturday. There were 65 entrants in the parade.

Arcola Honors the Creator of the Beloved Raggedy Ann & Andy Dolls ... Mr. Johnny Gruelle

Festival big on rag dolls

By CARL WALWORTH
Staff Writer

ARCOLA — Kathy Ellis' father visits her home, but he won't sleep in the bedroom.

"He refuses to sleep in our bed because he doesn't like waking up to all those eyes," Ellis said.

There's an explanation. John and Kathy Ellis of Westville have spent much time the last five years seeking and collecting Raggedy Ann dolls. Part of the collection is in the bedroom. "We've run the wheels off two cars and own a third of AT&T," Kathy Ellis said with a smile.

It's easy to smile when the topic is Raggedy Ann dolls, she said.

"It's totally Americana," she said of the attraction. "It's about a small-town family and grew out of a father's love for his daughter. And the doll itself is totally Americana. The appeal crosses generations. Little kids, grandmas — who can look at a Raggedy Ann doll and not smile?"

Mrs. Ellis said a Raggedy Ann was taken to one grandmother who was quite ill. "She looked at the Raggedy, smiled and said 'Oh, Annie.'"

Ellis was one of the exhibitors Friday and Saturday at the first Raggedy Ann Festival in Arcola. The doll's founder, Johnny Gruelle, was born in Arcola.

There were Raggedy Ann dolls and people dressed like Raggedy Anns throughout Main Street, as onlookers browsed about craft booths and looked at Raggedy Ann displays in the Community Center. Raggedy Ann look-alikes also were the focus of the parade Saturday morning.

Brenda Painter, 26, of Decatur, said her mother gave her a Raggedy Ann doll at age 10.

She brought three tables worth of Raggedy Ann material to the festival and said there's more at home, much of it collected the last five years.

"After I got out of college, it



Weather threatened, but Raggedy Ann parade and other activities drew large crowds.



Photos by Carl Walworth

was buy, buy, buy," Painter said. Why?

"It just kind of makes you silly," she said. "All this stuff is in my bedroom."

The exhibitors didn't say what their collections are worth (they weren't for sale), but both said the collections are insurable.

Old Raggedy Ann dolls can be found through the "Rags Newsletter" and similar publications. Ellis said her oldest doll was made in about 1920.

There are two types of dolls, homemade dolls and those made from patterns.

"It's amazing that more men are interested than you would think," Ellis said. "A lot of the big

buyers, the aggressive buyers, are men."

Kids at the festival enjoyed three segments of stories from a man who called himself "Alfred Balch," a neighbor of the Lincoln family in 1845.

Doris Knaus, co-chairman of the event, estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people attended the two-day festival.

"I think it went real well, we are very pleased," she said. "I overheard one little girl say it was the best festival ever. I think everyone enjoyed it."

The overcast, threatening weather may have hindered the turnout somewhat, but Knaus said most operators of craft

booths were pleased. The dance on Friday night was moved inside because of the weather.

The winner of the Raggedy Ann and Andy Look Alike Contest in the parade was Amanda Nolen of Arcola. Dawn Coon of Tuscola won the adult division of the look-alike contest, Bob Monahan and Nick Shields were first in the most original toyland look-alike and Lawrence Gravel placed first in the float competition.

Angie Humphrey was first in the pet parade contest (her dog's name is Ginger), and Lloyd Bergfield of Arcola won the car show contest with his 1954 Buick.

RAGGEDY ANN'S CANDY HEART: REAL OR LEGENDARY?

In keeping with the winsome looks and gentle persona of Johnny Gruelle's Raggedy Ann, a special characteristic has been attributed time and again to the earliest dolls. This sweet, sugary body part, sewn deep into her stuffing, eventually came to define and embody the entire spirit of Raggedy Ann — a candy heart.

Raggedy Ann's candy heart is yet another subject of speculation. Did the first dolls really have candy hearts, or is the candy heart simply another metaphorical attribute bestowed on Raggedy Ann by Johnny Gruelle?

Worth Gruelle, a very small child at the time, claims that the first Raggedy Ann dolls made by his family had candy hearts sewn inside, adding that he was often sent to a nearby confectionery to buy them. With Johnny Gruelle's penchant for whimsy, coupled with what must have been the small production volume for any family-made dolls, placing a sugar heart into each Raggedy Ann's chest may well have been a final, loving touch; an easy-to-accomplish, inexpensive addition, giving each Raggedy Ann a literal source for her sweet, kindly persona.

While it would have been easy, indeed, to sew a sugary goodie inside these hand-assembled dolls, no Raggedy Ann doll has survived that still possesses any signs of a sewn-in candy heart. As a result, many doll collectors remain skeptical.

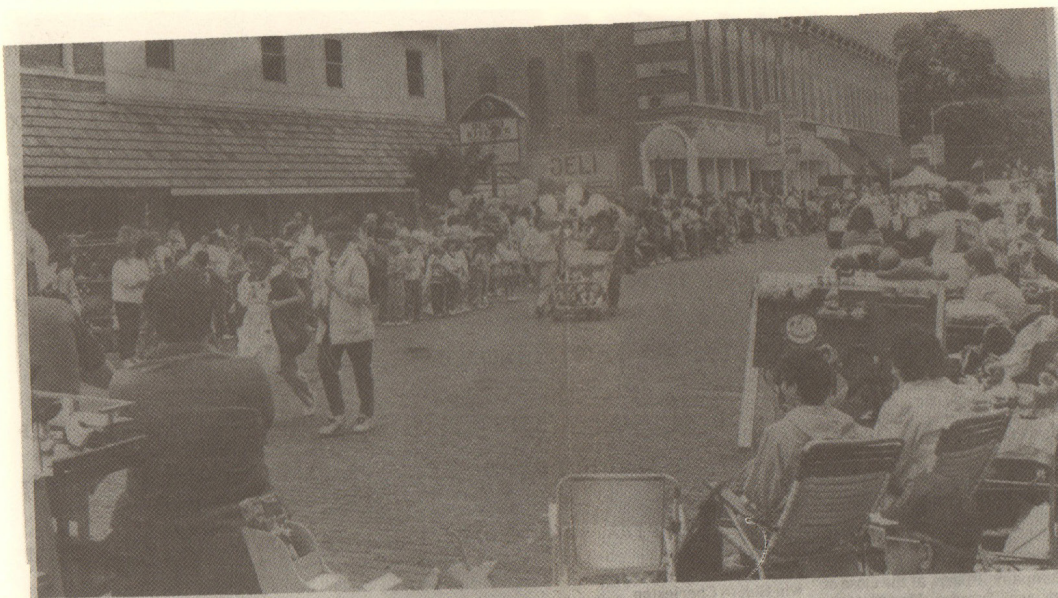
The candy heart attribution may well have had its genesis in Gruelle's *Raggedy Ann Stories*, in which Gruelle tells how Raggedy Ann's sweet candy heart affects her persona and outlook, and how it fares during various kinds of mishaps, drenchings, and washings. In one of the book's tales ("Raggedy Ann's New Sisters") Gruelle closes with the original Raggedy Ann returning safely to the nursery, after being sent to a doll factory, asserting to the other dolls that her hundreds of "new sisters" each possess a candy heart, just like her own.



Top Child Lookalikes

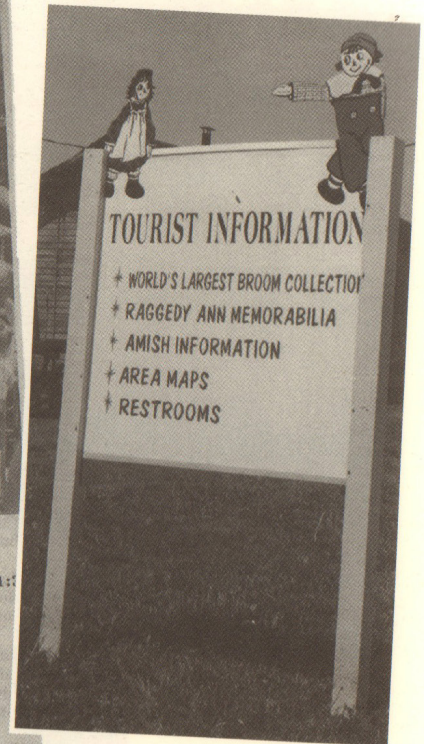
Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls were given to the top two winners who looked the most like those toys during Arcola's weekend festival. From left is first-prize winner Amanda Nolen of Hind-

sboro. Second prize went to Brittany and Justin Lang of Charleston. Little Allison Stewart of Tuscola won third place.



Nice Crowd For Raggedy Ann Parade

The First Raggedy Ann Festival, held Friday and Saturday in Arcola, drew very nice crowds estimated at between 3,000 and 5,000 people. This was particularly true during the parade held at 11:30 a.m., Saturday.



First Raggedy Ann Festival Draws Sizable Crowds Despite Weather

Arcola's First Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival drew sizeable crowds during the Memorial Day weekend, despite the continual nuisance of this May's monsoon-like weather.

Uptown merchants were particularly pleased with festival attendance on Saturday, which saw a day of overcast skies but little rain. Mike Lindenmeyer, who was in charge of placing street vendors for the Arcola Chamber of Commerce, said the two-day festival had pretty much reached its goal of drawing 3,000 to 5,000 people.

Evidently, the late Arcola native Johnny Gruelle and his famous doll creations had a wide range of appeal. Previous Arcola Memorial Day weekend crowds were enthusiastic but small, despite sunny weather conditions. With its brand-new theme, the festival this year drew Raggedy Ann fans from as far away as Michigan and California.

The Festival kicked off to a rocky start Friday night as showers and thunderstorms moved into the area. An outdoor dance by Charleston disc jockeys Rod Rhoads and Kelly

Marrs had to be moved inside the Arcola Fire Department's station at city hall. Despite the muggy air and a slick dance floor, festival organizers dressed in Raggedy Ann and Andy costumes provided a spirited atmosphere for around 200 people there.

The poor weather on Friday also prompted three of the five food stands at the festival to cancel their appearances. This resulted in long lines at the two remaining stands on Saturday.

On Friday and Saturday, many walked through Arcola City Hall to view the huge collection of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and other toys. Hat comedian Kate Flessner, storyteller Hal Malehorn and the Arcola Jazz Band all performed well-received sets on Saturday afternoon. Strange Behavior, a heavy metal band featuring Arcola natives David and Darrel Wilson also performed.

Sixty-five entrants were recorded in the Saturday morning parade. Listed are the winners in the parade divisions.

Raggedy Ann & Andy Lookalike Contest, Adult Division — First prize, Dawn Coon, Tuscola. Second, Chris Murphy and Melissa Edwards, Arcola, in Arcola Free Methodist Church float. Third, Cora Key,

Arcola. Top two winners received Nashville North gift certificates.

Raggedy Ann & Andy Lookalike Contest, Children's Division — First, Amanda

Continued On Page 3

Festival

Continued From Page 1

Nolen, Hindsboro. Second, Justin and Brittany Lang, Charleston. Third, Allison Stewart, Tuscola. Top winners received Raggedy Ann dolls.

Toyland — First, Bob Monahan and Nick Shields, Arcola Pre-School Co-op. Top winner received a gift certificate to Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan.

Antique Cars — First, Lloyd Bergfield, Arcola, Don and Tyler Bergfield, Bellflower, 1954 Buick Skylark. Second,

Myron and Kay Shonkwiler, Arcola, 1967 Ford Mustang. Third, Kenneth Cline, Urbana, 1967 Oldsmobile Delta 88. All winners received trophies.

Floats — First Lawrence Gravel, West Union, Ill. Second, Cora's Country Cupboard, Arcola. Third, Arcola Pre-School Co-op. Top cash prizes were \$15, \$10, and \$5, respectively.

Pet Parade — First, Angie Humphrey and her dog Ginger. Second, Jalena Romine and her dog Dundee. Third, Carl Winch and his dog Skippy. All three winners were from Arcola. The top two received gift certificates for pet food.

A cake walk for the Arcola

Missionary Baptist Youth raised \$143. Winners were Andrea Cole, Heather Smith, Bernice Daum, Cara Saunders, Adam Culp, Amy Winch and Hillary McNary, all of Arcola; Amanda Nolen, of Hindsboro; Helen Hollard, of Mason; and Penny Wheeler of Pinckneyville. The cakes were donated by Somethin' Stirrin.





Antique Car Winners

A 1954 Buick Skylark driven by Ebby Bergfield, left, of Arcola, and owned by Lloyd Bergfield of Arcola and Don and Tyler Bergfield of Bellflower won first place in the antique car division of the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival parade on Saturday. Kay Shonkwiler of Arcola, middle, holds the second-place trophy for the 1967 Ford Mustang driven by her husband Myron. Kenneth Cline of Urbana, right, won third place for his 1967 Oldsmobile Delta 88.



Pet Parade Winners

Winners in the Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival's pet parade won certificates for pet food. The top winner, left, was Angie Humphrey and her dog Ginger. Jalena Romine, middle, won second place with her dog Dundee, which had to duck indoors because of heat exhaustion. Carl Winch, right, with dog Skippy, won third.



Ready For Festival

Mindy Murphy, left, daughter of Mick and Cindy Murphy, and Stevie Alexander, son of Kevin and Teri Alexander, both were dressed in festive costume for the Arcola Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival on Friday and Saturday.



Congratulations to Doris Knaus and Annette Ferguson, co-chairmen of the First Annual Raggedy Ann Festival, and to the members of their committee on a very successful Festival.

The weather didn't cooperate very well on Friday, the first day of the Festival, but Saturday, while occasionally overcast, didn't produce the rain that would have hurt the festivities. While the overcast sky Saturday morning may have caused the crowd to be smaller, the attendance was still very good and rows of people lined Main Street for the parade.

What Doris, Annette and their crew did show us was that there is a considerable potential for the Raggedy Ann Festival in Arcola. There were a large number of Raggedy Ann fans in attendance at the Festival and I think that the Festival drew an entirely new kind of crowd to Arcola.

The organizers are to be commended and we look forward to next year's Festival.



A Skit With Hats

Kate Flessner presented a skit with hats on Saturday afternoon during the Arcola Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival.

Thanks to Everyone Who Made the 1st Annual Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival a Success!

2nd Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

June 1 & 2, 1991 • Arcola, Illinois



**Street Dance With
The Silver Nickel Band**
7:30 p.m., Saturday, June 1

**Raggedy Ann Collections
7 Exhibitors, With Items For Sale**
Arcola Community Room
Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2

Spelling Bee
Saturday, June 1

**Reception With The Gruelle Family
And Book Signing, 11:30 to 12:30**
Saturday, June 1
At The First National Bank of Arcola

Great Parade
Featuring The Tin Lizzies,
A 20-Unit Shrine Group
3 p.m., Saturday, June 1

Carnival
Petting Zoo

Food Stands
**Raggedy Ann & Andy
Look-alikes**

Arts N' Crafts
Antiques

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

10:00 a.m. "Wolf Tales"
by: Ginger Lozar

10:40 a.m. Chit-chat
with the Gruelles

11:10 a.m. "Wolf Tales"
by: Ginger Lozar

12:00 p.m. Future Stars

12:30 p.m. "Magic by Dennis"
by: Mr. and Mrs.
Richard Dennis

1:10 p.m. Future Stars

1:30 p.m. Banjo The Clown
by: Sandy Smallhorn

2:10 p.m. Future Stars

3:00 p.m. Parade

3:45 p.m. Awards

4:30 p.m. Future Stars

5:00 p.m. Arcola Jazz Band

7:30 p.m. Dance
Silver Nickel Band

SPECIAL GUESTS

Johnny Gruelle's son,
Worth Gruelle and his
wife, Suzanne and
their son, Kim
and daughter, Joni.

Contact:

Arcola Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 274
Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-4530 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

10:15 a.m. Gospel Music

11:00 a.m. Future Stars

11:40 a.m. Future Stars

12:00 p.m. Barber Shop Quartet

1:00 p.m. Future Stars


1:30 p.m. Country/Gospel
(fiddle, guitar, piano,
and vocal)
by: Raymond Easter

2:30 p.m. Chit-chat
with the Gruelles

3:00 p.m. Banjo The Clown
by: Sandy Smallhorn

3:40 p.m. Future Stars

4:00 p.m. "People For The Lord"
by: Ed Woodworth,
Gary Schrock,
Ann Blake,
Daria Combs

 THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL DRINK

Raggedy Ann Festival

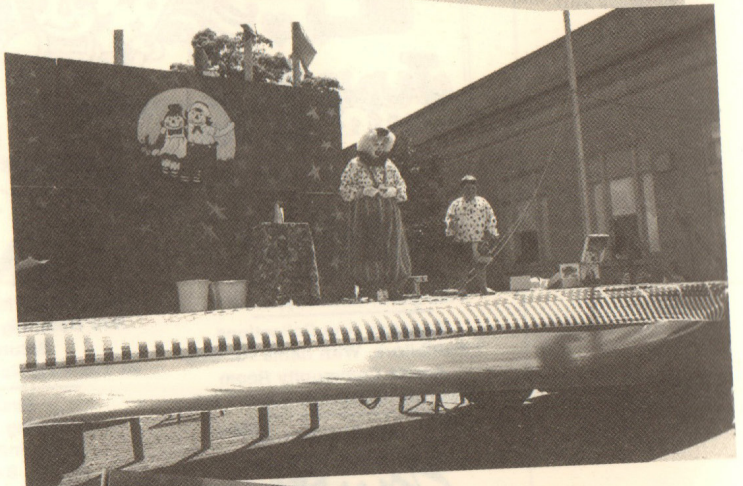
June 1 and 2, 1991



Six-Horse Hitch
 Jim Berry's six-horse hitch of Belgians was a highlight of the Raggedy Ann Festival parade on Saturday afternoon. The hitch was sponsored by the Arcola First National Bank.



Some of the children of Arcola, Ill., dressed up like Raggedy Ann and Andy at the festival.



Raggedy Ann Festival held

by ANDY WILDE

The Gruelle family of the Norton community and Rockledge, Fla., their daughter, Joni Gruelle Keating of Atlanta, and son, Kim Gruelle of Norton, were the guest of Arcola, Ill., during the second annual Raggedy Ann Festival.

Arcola is the birthplace of their father and grandfather, Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy.

The weather for the June 1-2 event was sunny and warm and was enjoyed by several thousand visitors.

The streets of Arcola were decorated with red, white and blue bunting with Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls everywhere. The local town children and some young-at-heart adults were dressed up as Raggedy dolls and a wonderful all-American time was had by all.

Saturday morning started off with a chat with the Gruelle family on the main stage and the town mayor, Linda Fishel, gave the key to the city to the Gruelle family. The police chief gave a get-out-of-jail-free card to Kim Gruelle. (He didn't use it, I might add!)

Next, the Gruelle family was interviewed by the press and yours truly and did television interviews in stations in Arcola, Maltoon, Tuscola, Champaign-Urbana, Springfield and Chicago.

The fair flowed out for several blocks with numerous street vendors selling many old and new Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, books, and related items, antiques, wonderful food made by the Amish folks who live in the beautiful countryside nearby, and lots of

owner homemade goodies created by the local townsfolk.

Worth Gruelle and family moved to the main tent to autograph Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, books, patents and related items that Kim had provided for sale from his shop in the Norton community.

After a two-hour autograph session, the Gruelles were the guests of honor in a parade that circled through the old part of town on cobblestone streets beneath towering oak and maple trees with a backdrop of Victorian homes built in the 1800s.

Not a spare shade spot was to be had on the parade route, and there wasn't one unhappy face in the crowd!

It appeared to me that the Gruelle family was having as much fun as the rest of the parade onlookers.

After the parade, the Gruelles moved on to the First National Bank of Arcola for another autograph session. Several hundred folks were patiently waiting to have their dolls and books signed.

The first afternoon wound down with an incredible street dance with music by the Silver Nickle Band. Everyone had a grand time dancing the night away.

Sunday morning began on stage with some great live gospel music. The Gruelle family had another chat with the audience and then moved to the main tent for the afternoon to continue autographing more dolls and books.

As the afternoon wore down to evening shadows and the soft glow of the setting sun eased across the Illinois fields, folks began their trek home with a warm feeling of love, kindness, sharing and a certain

knowledge that all was well with their part of the world.

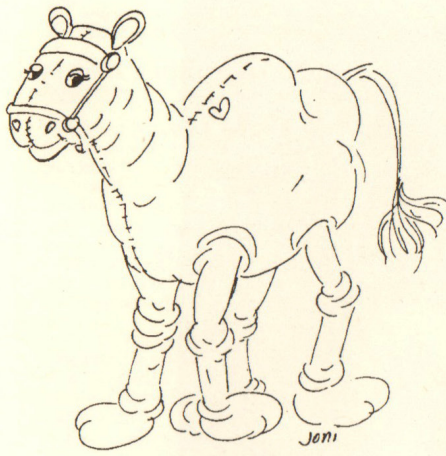
I am most certain that the spirit of Raggedy Ann and Andy were present that grand weekend and that Johnny Gruelle and his wife would have greatly approved.

A very special thank you goes out to the Gruelle family for attending and helping make the second annual Raggedy Ann Festival a resounding success. Sweet memories will be held close at heart by all in anticipation for the third annual festival in the spring of 1992.

We Love Raggedy Ann & Andy!



Raggedy Lookalikes
 Out of 37 entries in the Raggedy Ann and Andy look-alike contest Saturday afternoon emerged three winners. From left are first-place winners Carmen and Candi McGee of Longview; second place winners Mindy Murphy and Stevie Alexander of Arcola, being held by Cindy Murphy; and third prize winners Myron and Kay Shonkwiler of Arcola.



Rag doll remains a crowd-pleaser

By BURTON COLE
H&R Staff Writer

ARCOLA — In this day of mutated turtles and high-tech wizardry, what gives a simple rag doll such as Raggedy Ann such staying power?

"I think it's the red hair and the smile," theorizes Worth Gruelle, whose father and Arcola native Johnny Gruelle, created Raggedy Ann in 1915.

Worth Gruelle, his wife Suzanne, son Kim and daughter Joni are guests of honor for the Raggedy Ann & Andy Second Annual Festival which opened in downtown Arcola Saturday and continues today.

The street fair celebrates the late Johnny Gruelle's stories, toys and artwork of perhaps the world's most famous rag doll, talents carried on by Worth, Kim and Joni.

"We drove up from (Norton,) North Carolina, our cottage 4,000 feet up in the mountains," says Worth, 79. Brown eyebrows contrast snowy white hair and mustache. The faded tattoos are indistinguishable on his sun-wrinkled arms. He wears a powder blue Raggedy Ann & Andy T-shirt.

shirt. "I think the last time I was in Arcola I was probably 10 years old," he recalls. "I don't think it's changed much."

Raggedy Ann and Andy both have changed and stayed very much the same. The prints on their shirts may vary from doll to doll, for example, but the patterns of apron and red and white striped stockings carry on.

Worth says legends of people finding original dolls made by his father are quite possible.

"Just bring them to me," he says. "I'd know immediately if it was one he did. The real Raggedy Ann dolls are the ones he gave foundation to. The old ones had narrow noses, brown hair, small smile, they always had eyelashes and the neck was thinner."

Old or new, the raggedy dolls can be spotted all over the street festival.

Other than the street performers clad in full Raggedy Ann and Andy

costumes, a few festival-goers sport their noses and equally bright red mop curls over their hair.

Vendors hawk wooden wagons and, of course, rag dolls. Collections of Raggedy Ann dolls, toys, books and other collectibles are displayed or sold in the Arcola Community Room.

Rag doll events

■ **WHAT:** Second Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival.

■ **WHEN:** Continues 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

■ **WHERE:** On the streets of downtown Arcola.

■ **SPECIAL EVENTS:** Chit-chat with the Gruelle family, 2:30 p.m.; Also, gospel music, 10:15 a.m.; performances by Future Stars, 11, 11:40 a.m., 1 and 3:40 p.m.; barber shop quartet, noon; country and gospel music, with Raymond Easter, 1:30 p.m.; Banjo the Clown, 3 p.m.; People for the Lord, 4 p.m.

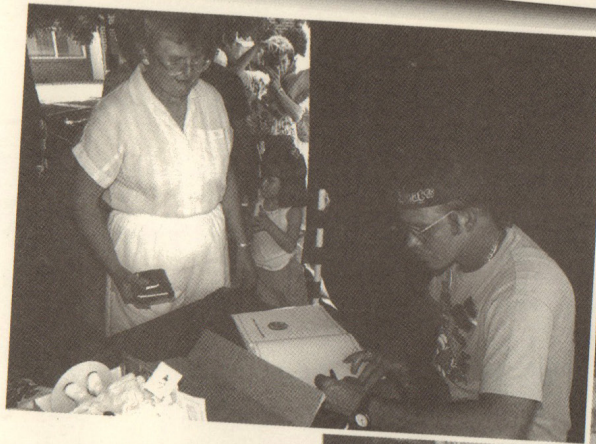
■ **PARKING:** Free along streets outside of blocked off festival area.



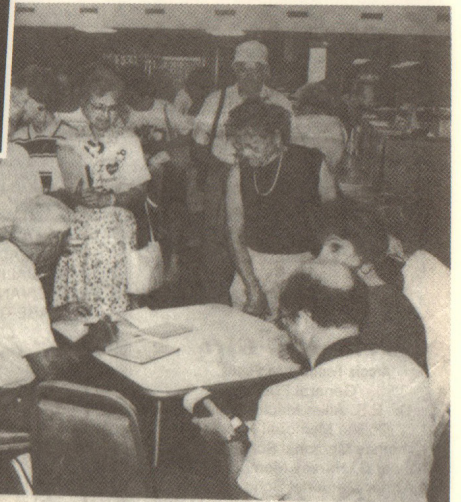
ANN FANS: Katherine Weper, 4, holds on to her Raggedy Ann doll as she is held by her father Bill during a performance by Ginger Lozar's puppets on center stage in downtown Arcola Saturday.



Worth & Suzanne in '91 Parade



Kim autographs a book for an eager fan under the white tent.



Thank You
to all who attended the special reception for the Gruelle Family held at the bank Saturday
Congratulations to the Arcola Chamber of Commerce on a very successful Raggedy Ann Festival



Reception For Gruelle Family

During the Raggedy Ann Festival, Arcola First National Bank hosted a reception Saturday for the descendants of Arcola native Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann. From left are Kim Gruelle, costumed bank employees Geri Dunagan and Marcy Monahan, Suzanne Gruelle, Worth Gruelle, Joni Gruelle Keating and Arcola Mayor Lynda Fishel.



Tribute To Troops

A salute is made as the Arcola Jazz Band plays the national anthem during a tribute to Persian Gulf troops, held Saturday afternoon during the Raggedy Ann Festival. From left are tribute organizer Cindy Jess and local soldiers Notan Lee, Mike Lee, Matt Henson, Kendra Eskridge and Eric Bumgarner.



Raggedy Ann Display Hall

Not only did people go into Arcola City Hall to see Raggedy Ann displays by exhibitors from around the nation, but they also found air-conditioned comfort from the 100-degree heat outside.

We're Growing!



Family finds 'thrill' of doll's popularity in Arcola

By CARL WALWORTH
Staff Writer

ARCOLA — Just how many dolls his father made that still exist, Worth Gruelle isn't sure.

"But if they'll show me, I'll know immediately if it's one he did," Gruelle said Saturday during his family's visit to Arcola for the second Raggedy Ann Festival.

Worth Gruelle's father, Johnny, was born in Arcola, then went on to a career that included creating Raggedy Ann and Andy.

Worth, his wife Suzanne, son Kim and daughter Joni returned to Arcola for a festival filled with Raggedy Ann look-alikes handing out candy, music and several crafts booths.

The Gruelle's were one of many who sold Raggedy Ann and Andy books, dolls and other paraphernalia. Some of the older books sold for \$85 apiece.

The Gruelle family also signed autographs, rode in the parade and chatted

with Raggedy Ann fans from throughout the area.

"There were long lines waiting for autographs," said Doris Knaus, a festival organizer. "The sessions were longer than they planned, but they were happy to do it."

Kim Gruelle indicated he might return to future festivals, Knaus said.

Worth Gruelle said his father's original works are distinctive with the brown hair, thin nose, small smile and eyelashes.

His father changed Raggedy Ann's look, Worth Gruelle said, but the quality stitching and painting patterns are distinct.

"The red hair and the smile," Gruelle said of reasons why the rag doll remains

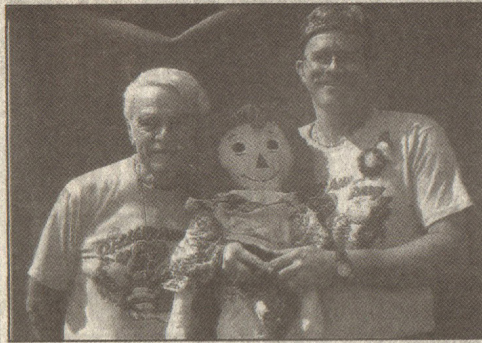


Photo by Carl Walworth

Worth and Kim Gruelle with Raggedy Ann doll.

popular in a high-tech world. "There's a lot of red-headed boys and girls that attract attention. You watch a child who sees a Raggedy Ann doll and immediately they

smile."

Gruelle, 79, said he remembers the brick streets in Arcola from a visit when he was about 9 years old. He said he wasn't struck by any major changes.

There are smaller festivals related to Raggedy Ann, Gruelle said, but none that devote an entire weekend to the doll his father gave his daughter.

"You can imagine how it feels," Gruelle said. "It's a great, great thrill, absolutely wonderful to come back here after all these years because something my father did for his sick daughter is still so popular. It's a great thrill."

Gruelle still owns the copyrights to Raggedy Ann and Andy, but admits he's ashamed of some modern writings and manufactured dolls.

Knaus said the heat kept a few people home, but the festival went well and plans are under way for next year.

"We're very pleased with how everything worked out," Knaus said. "It was very well received."



Dance Party
The Silver Nickel Band from Danville had Arcola's downtown Ann Festival, despite near-record heat. hopping with dancers during a show Saturday night at the Raggedy



Chamber of Commerce Float
Loaded with Raggedy Ann lookalike contestants and other Toyland themes, the Arcola Chamber of Commerce float rolls down Main Street during Saturday's parade.



Kim & Joni in Toyland Parade

Raggedy Ann Festival Attendance Grows

Sizzling hot weather couldn't prevent higher attendance during Arcola's second annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival on Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2.

During the weekend, an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 people packed Main Street in the hometown of the late Johnny Gruelle, creator of America's most popular doll. Despite street-level temperatures reaching 101 degrees both days, the 1991 festival topped last year's attendance of 3,000 to 5,000 people.

The stifling weather prevented even larger crowd numbers and food stand sales during hot afternoon hours, however. Puppeteer Ginger Lozar and clown Sandy Smallhorn, both suffering from heat exhaustion, shortened or cancelled shows at the entertainment stage. A Belgian horse in Jim Berry's hitch and several pets in Saturday's parade also overheated, but not seriously. Most festival-goers successfully battled the weather by ducking under awnings, going into air-conditioned buildings or buying cold drinks at the food stands.

One of the festival's top draws were the four living descendants of Raggedy Ann creator Johnny Gruelle. Attending were Gruelle's son, Worth, with his

wife, Suzanne, and their children, Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Keating. Their down-home friendliness was a festival public relations coup, as they chatted amiably and patiently signed Raggedy Ann books with admirers throughout the weekend. The festival drew Raggedy Ann fans from as far as California, Washington, Florida, New York and Canada.

Worth Gruelle, now 79, hadn't been back to his father's hometown in almost 65 years. But as he toured Arcola on Friday night, May 31, many sights were still familiar, including uptown's brick streets and railroad depot. Gruelle's late older sister, Marcella, played a vital role in the creation of Raggedy Ann.

Rights of Raggedy Ann books and other related products are owned by MacMillan Inc., while Hasbro and Applause own the licenses for the stuffed dolls. However, Worth and Kim sell Raggedy Ann books, dolls and other related items in a mountain cabin, called The Last Great Co., in Cashiers, N.C.

The Gruelles were won over by the festival's homespun atmosphere and the town's hospitality. Joni, who lives in Atlanta, GA., wants to bring her children and grandchildren to next year's festival, scheduled for May 16-17, 1992. Worth and Suzanne also wish to return.

Festival chairmen and city officials conferred with the Gruelles Sunday morning about next year's festival. Kim Gruelle was so enthused he offered an advisory role in the 1992 celebration.

"I think Arcola is one of the sweetest, most wonderful small towns in America," he said. "I'm very proud and honored to be here; it's a homecoming for me. I'm going to be coming back many times, hopefully."

"The Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival is a grand success, and as time goes by it will be more beautiful, I think. There's a lot to learn and a lot of growing to do, and I mean that in a positive way."

Mayor Lynda Fishel and Cindy Jess, who organized a troop support rally during the Persian Gulf War, presided over a tribute to the local troops Saturday afternoon. The Arcola Jazz Band, who would play a concert later, performed "You're A Grand Old Flag" and the national anthem during ceremonies. Attending were Nolan Lee, Mike Lee, Matt Henson, Kendra Eskridge and Eric Bumgarner. Seven other war veterans who couldn't attend were also recognized.

"I want to thank God, who

was with me the entire time I was there," Nolan Lee said. "And let's keep up the support for those who are still there, and have an even better homecoming for them."

The Silver Nickel Band entertained during Saturday night's street dance. Many local residents went to the dance after the sun went down and cooler temperatures prevailed.

Josh Peters and Amanda Miller won the Toyland Prince and Princess pageant. Ashley Carlberg won an award for the

most original donation can in the pageant.

Limited-edition T-shirts were almost sold out during the festival. Proceeds will be used for a Johnny Gruelle memorial near the Arcola depot.

The festival's biggest crowds were on Saturday, mostly because of the parade that afternoon. The top entries in each category won ribbons and cash prizes.

Raggedy Ann & Andy Lookalike Winners - First, Carmen and Candi McGee. Second, Mindy Murphy and Stevie Alexander. Third, Myron and Kay Shonkwiler.

Pet Parade - First, Ginger Humphrey. Second, Derek Otto. Third, Carl Winch.

Float - First, Arcola Pre-School Co-op. Second, Myron Shonkwiler. Third, American Heart Association.

Toyland Costume - First, Almadine Ledent.

Bicycles - First, Amanda and Angie Nolan.

Antique Car - First, Rockome Gardens.

Classic Auto - First, Myron Shonkwiler.

Antique Tractor - First, Ron Daily.

Clowns - First, Arcola Pre-School Co-op.

Horse Drawn - First, Plank's.

Horse Team - First, Jim Berry's Belgians.

Horse & Rider - First, Caitlyn VanDeveer.

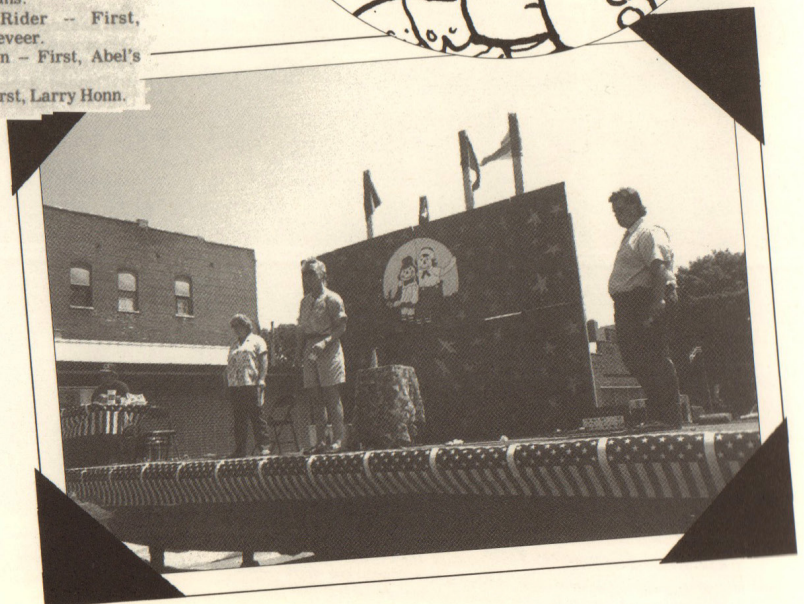
Pony Drawn - First, Abel's Pony Farm.

Unique - First, Larry Honn.



Toyland King, Queen

Josh Peters and Amanda Miller were the Toyland King and Queen, which were announced during the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival parade on Saturday afternoon.





Women's Barbershop Quartet

Just Four Fun, a women's barbershop quartet from Champaign-Urbana, entertained under the hot sun at the main stage Sunday afternoon at the Raggedy Ann Festival.



We Wish to THANK OUR FRIENDS IN ARCOLA for the BEST RAGGEDY FESTIVAL in the WHOLE WORLD!



RAGGEDY ANN & ANDY & the GRUELLE'S - Worth & Suzi, Joni & Kim.

© WORTH GRUELLE 1991



Festival Organizers

Many people organized the second annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival, but three chairpersons were most responsible for the celebration. Seated, from left, are Teresa Nolan and Annette Ferguson. Standing is Doris Knaus.

3rd Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 16-17, 1992 • Arcola, Illinois

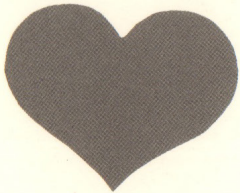
Food Stands

Dance



Arts & Crafts

Antiques



Carnival

Great Parade

Exhibitors

Ice Cream Social

All-Day Entertainment



The 3rd Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival
 May 16 & 17, 1992
 Arcola, Illinois

Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle

<p>♥Saturday, May 16, 1992♥</p> <p>8:00 Volleyball Tournament</p> <p>11-12:00 Reception at Bank</p> <p>1:00 Parade - featuring: Ansar Cycle Patrol, Vandalia Tin Lizzie Patrol, Floats, Raggedy Ann & Andy Look Alikes, Toyland Costumes</p> <p>3:00 Ninja Juggler</p> <p>3:30-5:00 Bar None Dancers</p> <p>5:00 Ninja Juggler</p> <p>7:30-10:30 Silver Nickel Band</p>		<p>♥Sunday, May 17, 1992♥</p> <p>11:00 Chrade Band - 40's, 50's and 60's music</p> <p>12:30 Olin The Magician</p> <p>1:00 Chrade Band - 40's, 50's and 60's music</p> <p>2-3:30 Arcola Bands Present Annual Outdoor Concert and Ice Cream Social</p> <p>2:30 Olin The Magician</p> <p>3:00 Gospel Music - Lutz and Debbie Braunig</p> <p>4:00 Glory Band</p>	
---	--	--	--

♥Saturday and Sunday♥
 Raggedy Ann Exhibitors in The Community Building
 Antiques and Arts N' Crafts
 Root Beer Float Tent with all day entertainment
 Cartoon Tent

The Gruelle Family enjoys a special moment at a reception at Arcola's First National Bank at the '92 Festival



Arcola Loves Raggedy Ann



Top Lookalikes

Megan McGarvey (left) and Haley Clark won first prize in the Raggedy Ann & Andy lookalike contest during the festival on Saturday.



Raggedy Ann Festival Attendance Grows

Ideal weather helped bring in bigger-than-ever crowds on Saturday during Arcola's third annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival this past weekend.

Last year, temperatures reached a stifling, even dangerous, 101 degrees on both days of the festival. This year, the mercury never peaked above 90, and blustery breezes helped keep festival-goers comfortable.

Most vendors and food booths were happy with sales during the festival. All of the festival's limited-edition T-shirts and all but 20 sweatshirts were sold out.

Again, one of the festival's top draws was the Gruelle family, who are the descendants of the late Raggedy Ann creator and

Arcola native Johnny Gruelle. Making the return trip were Gruelle's son, 79-year-old Worth, with his wife, Suzi, and children Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Keating. Worth and Suzi Gruelle chatted amiably and patiently signed scores of Raggedy Ann & Andy books during the festival.

Kim Gruelle turned out to be a significant Arcola booster. During the past year, he frequently mentioned the festival to visitors at his mountain-side shop in Cashiers, N.C. Fascinated, he stayed in Arcola for an extra day or two to research its history.

Also making the trip was Worth's grandson, Shane Keating, accompanied by his girlfriend, Amy. Shane,
Continued on Page 6



The Gruelle Family Returns To Arcola

Descendants of Arcola native Johnny Gruelle, the late creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy, returned to Arcola for third annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival this past weekend. In the second row, from left, are Kim Gruelle, Shane Keating, Suzi Gruelle, Worth Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Keating. Accompanying them during a reception at the Arcola First National Bank on Saturday were Raggedy Ann and Andy lookalikes Lesley Beatty, Amanda Nolen and Gwen Ferguson.

Raggedy Ann

Continued from Page 1

an Atlanta resident, shot film footage and conducted interviews throughout the festival for a documentary.

Enjoying themselves thoroughly, each member of the Gruelle family promised to make a return trip to next year's festival.

Two unique Raggedy Ann dolls, designed for a future limited-edition run and signed by the Gruelle family, were auctioned for \$350. The money was donated into a fund to help build a Johnny Gruelle and Raggedy Ann & Andy memorial at the Arcola Depot. Construction for the memorial should begin within a year. There will also be a silent auction for two other unique Raggedy Ann dolls for the fund, ending this September.

The threat of rain on Sunday kept down attendance and scared off a few vendors. However, weather during the day remained merely overcast.

The root beer float tent was deemed a success, but festival organizers wish to place it in a better location next year.

The top crowds were during Saturday afternoon's parade. Cash prizes were given to the top entries:

Floats - First, Rockome Gardens. Second, Myron and Kay Shonkwiler. Third, Arcola Pre-School Co-op.

Raggedy Ann & Andy Lookalikes - First, Haley Clark and Megan McGarvey. Second, Mindy Murphy and Stevie Alexander. Third, Lindsay Dungan and Jamie Miller.

Toyland - First, Jennifer Mast and Dustie Headrick.

Classic Auto - First, Myron and Kay Shonkwiler's 1967 Mustang.

Horse/Pony With Rider - First, Howard and Donna Tull.

Horse/Pony Drawn - First, Berry's Belgian Horses.

Pets - First, Angela Humphrey and Ginger. Second, Carl Winch and Skippy.



Worth and Suzanne, right, with a festival guest

*The 1992
Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival
Was A Great Event!*





"with magical wishes"
 Kim GRUELLE &
 Sharie KEATING
 WORTH
 GRUELLE

RAGGEDY ANN FESTIVAL
 May 16 and 17, 1992

LIMITED EDITION
 293/500

BY JEFF EDWARDS
Jeff

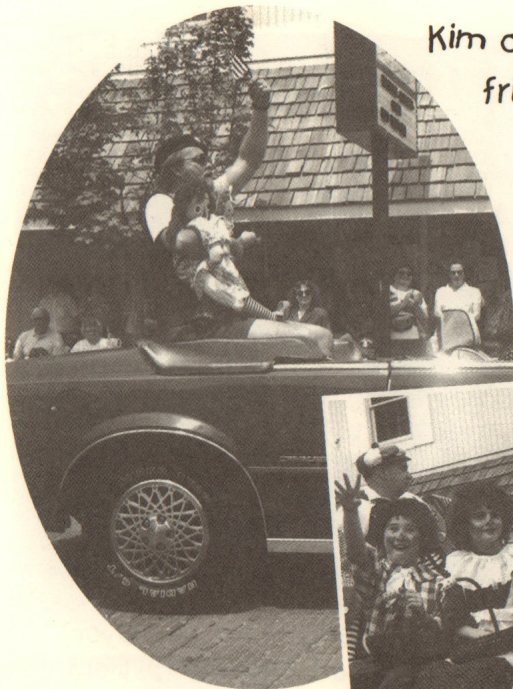


Worth, Lynda Fishel (Arcola's Mayor),
 Suzanne and Jeff Edwards (artist)

Thanks, Arcola

Dear Editor:
 I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and everyone of you fine folks for helping continue the tradition and old fashioned values that "Raggedy Ann and Andy" stand for.
 To all of you that I know personally, a wonderful thank you and to all of the unsung hero's that I have not gotten to know yet, a very special thank you, without all of your time, energy and devotion the Third Annual "Raggedy Ann and Andy" Festival could not of been the wonderful success that it was.
 To all the great young folks of Arcola, thank you for all the laughter and happiness that you shared with me. You are the best.
 To all the great town folks, a warm thank you for your support and friendship and allowing me to be a part of your life and town for a few moments of time, you helped me feel most welcome.
 Borrowing a quote from my granddad, "the truest friends are those that feel they love you best for being real" so, thank you to all for your kindness, generosity and for being yourselves.
 'Til next year, good health with happiness, peace and success, with "Raggedy" friendship.
 Mr. Kim Gruelle
 Cashiers, NC

Talented artist and Arcola resident, Jeff Edwards, created this limited edition print of Worth and Kim Gruelle, along with their "raggedy" friends. The artwork was commissioned by the festival.



Kim and two of his favorite friends greet visitors watching the Toyland Parade in 1992



Arcola pays tribute to rag dolls

By KELLY McCRAY
Staff Writer *Joyal Garrett*
May 18, 1992 *Maffoin, IL*

ARCOLA — Animated Raggedy Anns and Andys paraded through downtown Arcola Saturday afternoon while the town celebrated the third annual festival in honor of the rag dolls.

The Gruelle family joined in the festivities by signing autographs and talking with admirers of the Raggedy Ann and Andy tradition that originated in Arcola.

The dolls were created by Johnny Gruelle in Arcola in the first years of the century. Worth Gruelle, son of Johnny Gruelle, was the grand marshal of the parade.

Worth Gruelle's son, Kim Gruelle, said his family enjoys visiting Arcola because the townspeople still hold true to the traditional values represented by the dolls.

"Carrying on the tradition of Raggedy Ann and Andy is very important. Arcola has the same kind of values my grandfather had in mind when he created the dolls. It's very important to me and my family," Gruelle said.

"We live in such a changing world, it's nice to have something so simple and beautiful to enjoy. The Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival and Arcola have the same old fashioned values that Raggedy Ann and Andy have," he said.

Worth Gruelle greeted a long line of people waiting to receive his autograph on their Raggedy Ann and Andy memorabilia.

Last year was Worth's first trip to Arcola in about 70 years. Kim Gruelle said his family plans to



Photo by Kelly McCray

Raggedy Ann & Andy look-alikes participate in the third annual Arcola festival parade.

attend future events to keep up the tradition.

The family resides in North Carolina and still own the copy-

rights for the Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls.

Raggedy Ann Festival



Arcola, IL

Special appearance
By the
Gruelle
Family

Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle
May 16, 17, 1992

New Events:

Raggedy Ann Adventure Land
Root Beer Float Tent With Entertainment

Exhibitors



Balloons, Etc.

Antiques



Great Parade



Food Stands

All-Day Entertainment



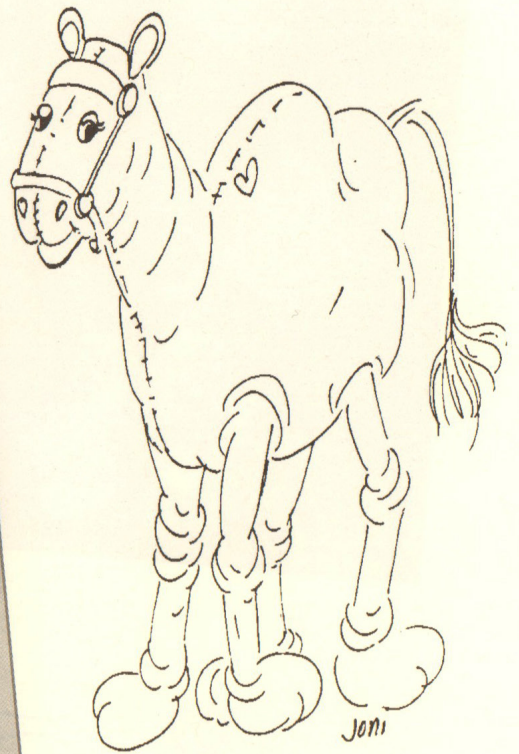
Carnival

Arts N' Crafts

Dance



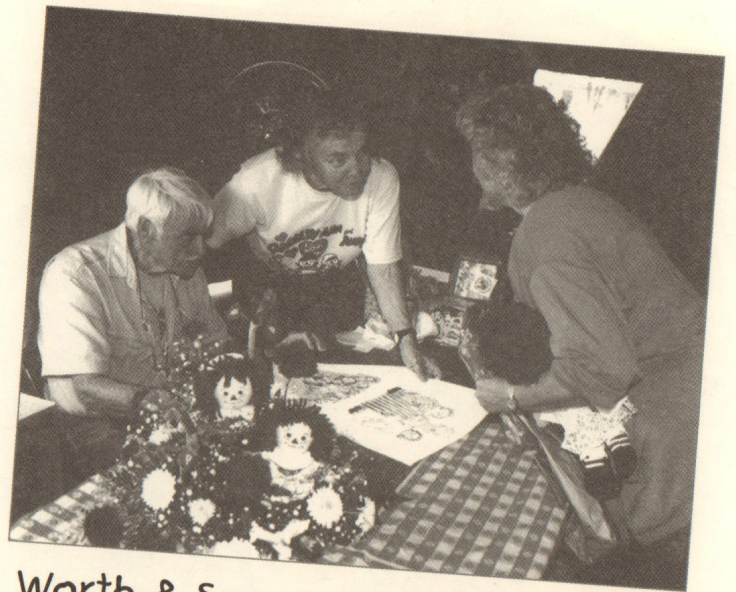
Raggedy Ann & Andy Look Alikes



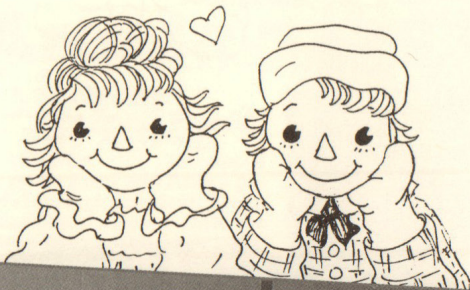
Worth & Suzanne in Toyland Parade.



What a Cute Parade Entry!



Worth & Suzanne at Reception.



4th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 22-23, 1993 • Arcola, Illinois

Brunch with the Gruelle Family

Raggedy Ann Exhibitors

Lots of Raggedy Ann & Andy Look-A-Likes

Arts & Crafts Fair

10- and 20-mile Bike Ride

Gruelle Memorial Dedication

Toyland Parade

Boneyard Creek Cloggers

Folk Music with Indian Creek Delta Boys

Volleyball Tournament

Book Signing

Welcome Reception at First National Bank

The 4th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival



ALL © 1993 JOHNNY GRUELLE FAMILY.
 © 1993 MACMILLAN Inc., HASBRO-PLAY SKOOL Inc.,
 APPLAUSE Inc. - ALL RIGHTS STRICTLY ENFORCED.

May 22 & 23, 1993 ♥ Arcola, Illinois
 Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle

♥Friday, May 21, 1993♥
 7:30-10:30 Teen Dance (Band)

♥Sunday, May 23, 1993♥

♥Saturday, May 22, 1993♥

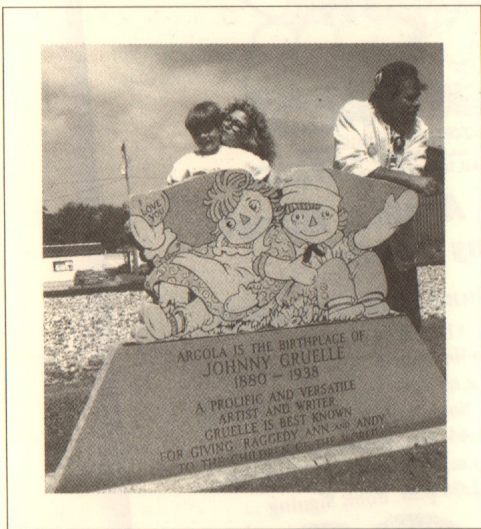
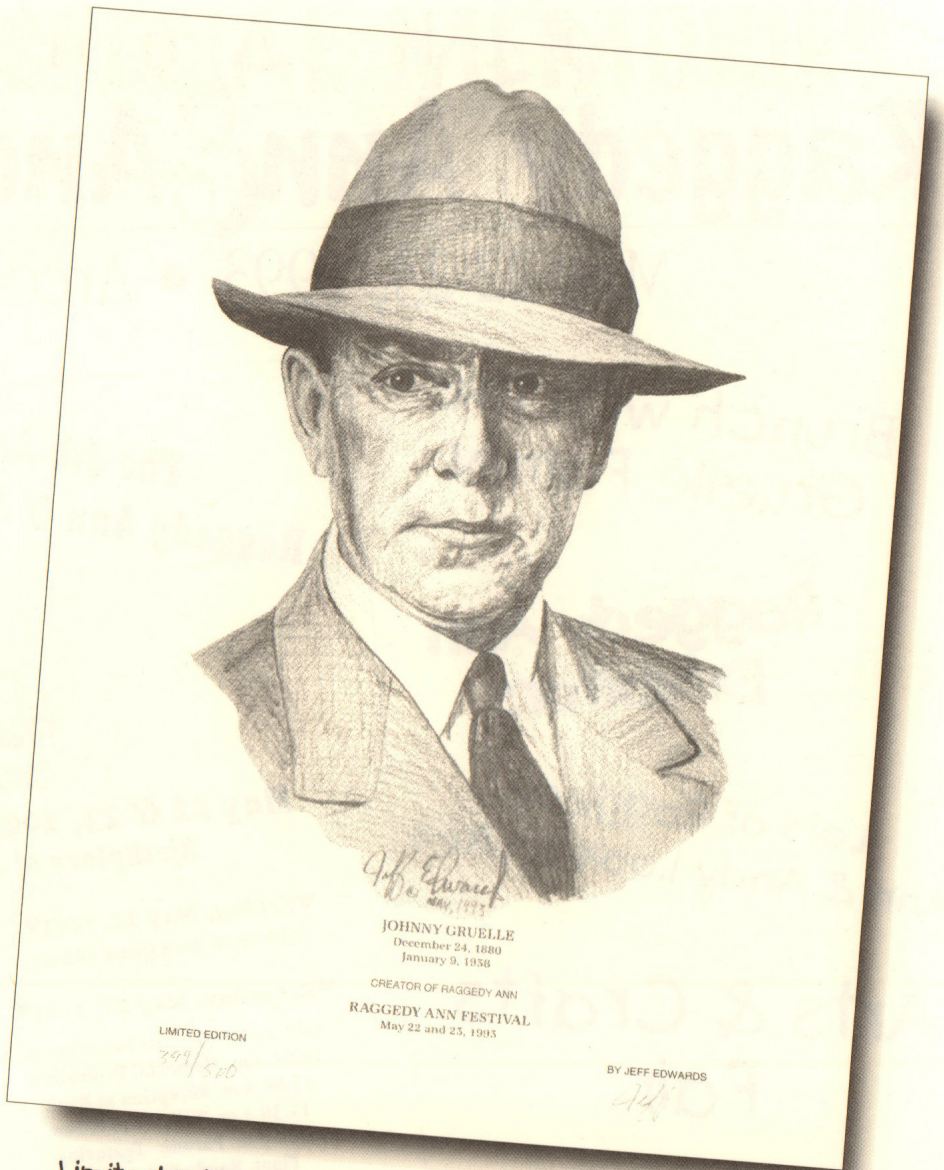
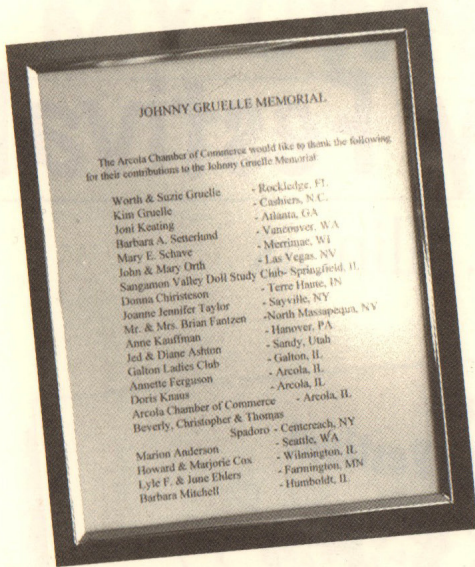
8:00 a.m. Volleyball Tournament
 10:00 a.m. Memorial Dedication
 11:00 a.m. Reception at Bank
 11:30 a.m. Willey The Clown
 1:00 p.m. Parade - Featuring:
 Float, Bands, Pets, Bikes,
 Raggedy Ann & Andy Look Alikes
 2:30 p.m. Ninja Juggler
 3:00 p.m. Book Signing
 3:00 p.m. Reluctant Dragon (puppets)
 3:30 p.m. Jim Danahoo
 4:30 p.m. Folk Music -
 Indian Creek Delta Boys
 5:00 p.m. Boneyard Creek Cloggers
 7:30-10:30 p.m. Dance - Band

11:00 a.m. Brunch with
 Gruelle Family - French Embassy
 11:00 a.m. Lutz and Debbie Braunigg
 Noon Reluctant Dragon
 12:45 p.m. Willey the Clown
 1:00 p.m. Bike Ride - 10 & 20 Mile
 2:00 p.m. Book Signing

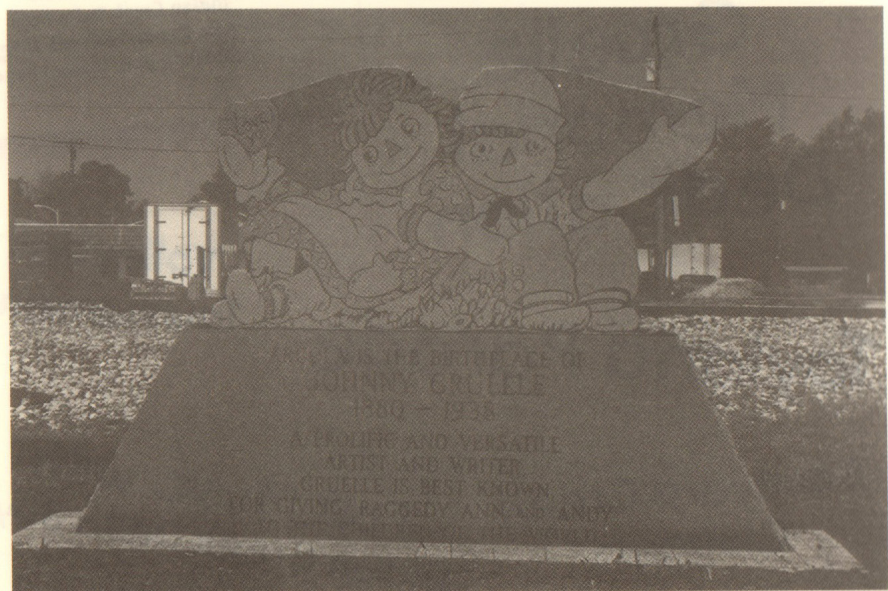
SPECIAL GUESTS!
 Kim Gruelle and
 Patricia Hall (author
 of a new
 Johnny Gruelle
 Book)

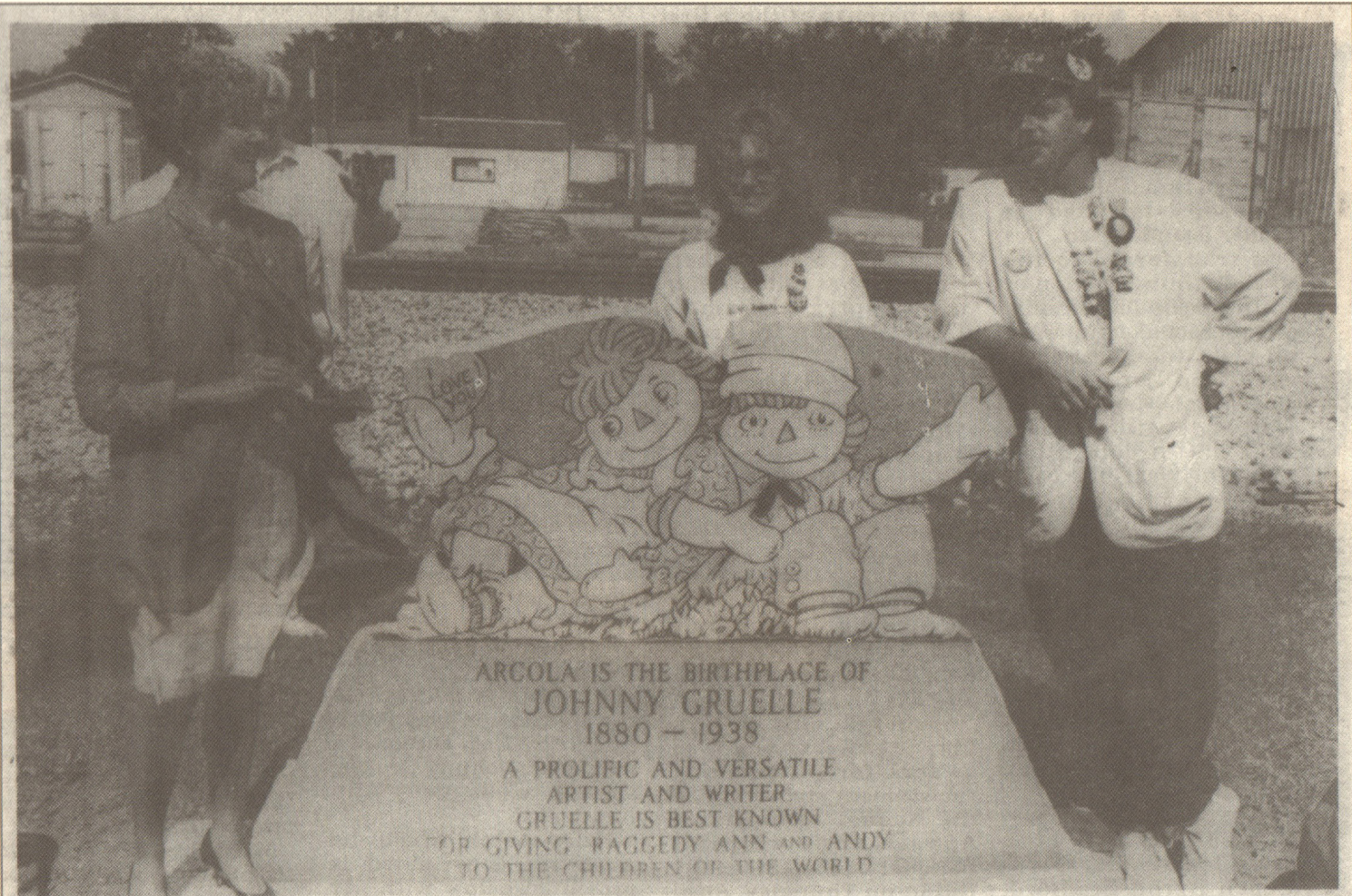
♥Saturday and Sunday♥

9:00-5:00 Raggedy Ann Exhibitors
 in The Community Building
 Street Arts N' Crafts Fair



Limited Edition Prints of Johnny Gruelle by Arcola artist, Jeff Edwards, were created and available during the 1993 Festival.





Johnny Gruelle Memorial Dedication

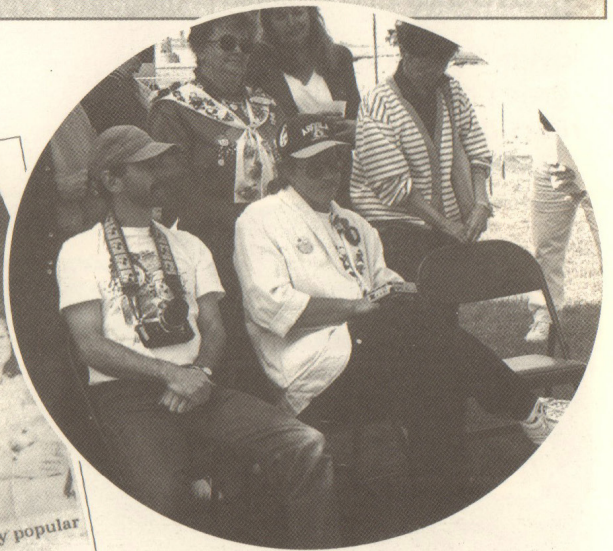
A Memorial to Johnny Gruelle was dedicated in a special ceremony held at 10 a.m., Saturday, during the Raggedy Ann Festival. Pictured from left, are Arcola Mayor Lynda Fishel, Author Patricia Hall, who gave the keynote address, and Kim Gruelle, Johnny Gruelle's grandson. Dee Lindenmyer, president of the Arcola Chamber of Commerce, also spoke at the ceremony.



Festival No. 4



The book signings and autograph sessions by Kim Gruelle and Author Patricia Hall were very popular as this line demonstrates.



Kim at the memorial's dedication ceremony during the 4th Festival.

Way too Cute!



The pre-school float claimed second place in the festival contest during the parade Saturday afternoon.



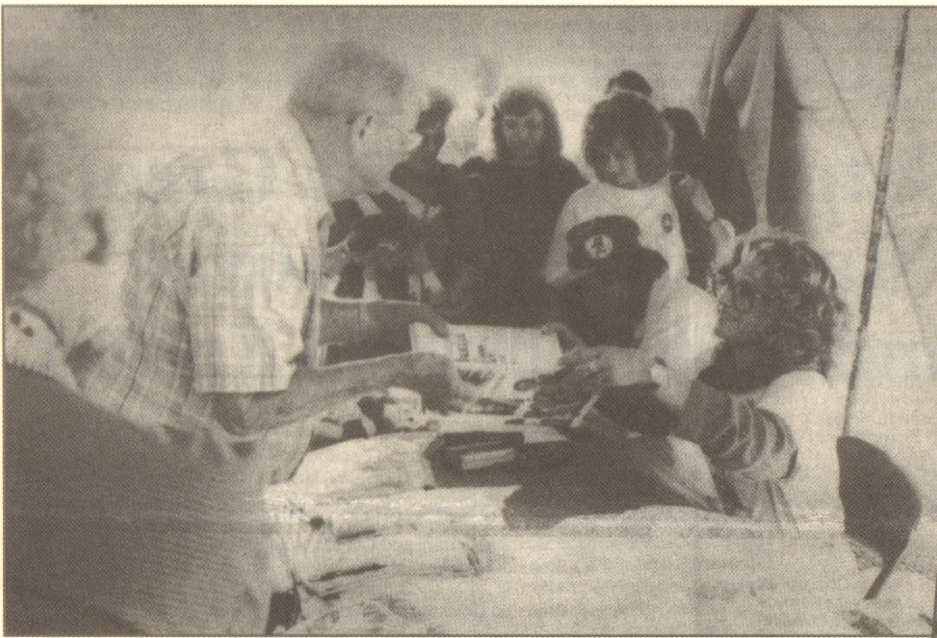
Raggedy Ann Festival Toyland Prince & Princess
 Jenifer Fortney, left, was selected the Raggedy Ann Festival Toyland Princess and Brett Poorman, right, was selected the Raggedy Ann Festival Toyland Prince. Jenifer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fortney and Brett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Damon Poorman.



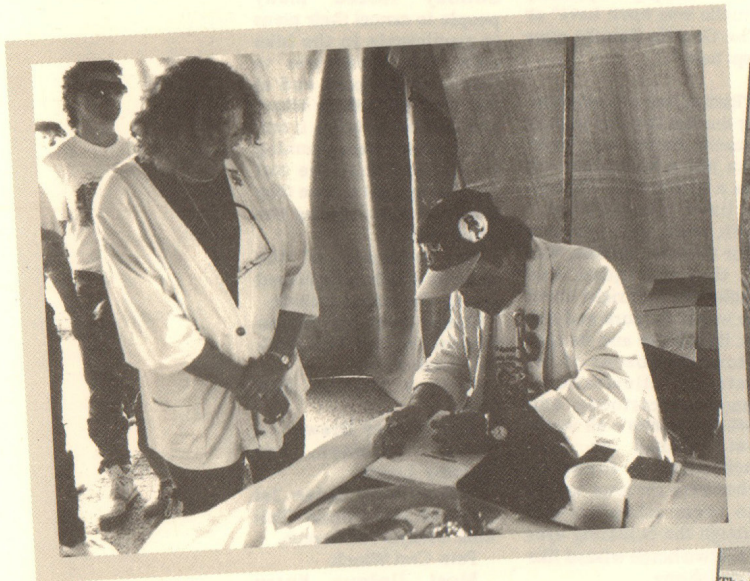
Stevie Alexander, left, and Mindy Murphy, right, won first place in the Most Unique category during the parade Saturday.

Toyland Parade watchers greet Kim Gruelle as he rides down Arcola's Main Street.





John Clark, left, receives a signed book from author, Patricia Hall. Kim Gruelle is seated center.



Kim Havin' Fun at the Book Signing (above) and hammin' it up with the news reporters (below).



The Shriners appeared in the parade to entertain the crowd.



The Fourth Annual Raggedy Ann and Andy festival was dampened somewhat as the weather drove away many vendors and customers on Sunday, but Saturday's crowd was excellent for the festival.

Ron Vyverberg, of Vyverberg's department store, was pleased with the customer turn out. "We were very busy and sales were up from last year. The nice weather helped on Saturday, but we were still pretty busy on Sunday," Vyverberg said.

Co-Chairman Doris Knau said she was "very pleased with the crowd." "The event was very successful," she added.

Ruth Ann Yoder from the Dutch Kitchen said she was satisfied with the Saturday business turn out but was disappointed with Sunday's weather. "Nobody can control the weather, but it hurt our Sunday business.

It hurt more to have the street shut off because most of our Sunday trade is older people who have difficulty walking, and with the street closed they were unable to walk the long distance," Yoder said.

Yoder said that unfortunately the festival crowd didn't make up for the regular customers because the weather drove many people away on Sunday.

Teresa Nolen, who was in charge of the parade and entertainment during the festival, said that the "vendors were satisfied with what they made on Saturday and would be back." She said the 4-H and Band Boosters food booths did very well and were quite satisfied.

Earl Fox, a vendor from Bureau, Ill., had only nice things to say about the coordinators. "It is nice to see a coordinator available.

Usually they take your money and you never see them again," Fox said.

Fox was a little disappointed that people

weren't spending as much money here as in some other places he attends, but he said he would return Continued on Page 2

Saturday Ideal for Great Raggedy Ann Festival; Sunday Weather No Friend.

"This, then, is what we are celebrating here today, as the Arcola Chamber of Commerce and the Gruelle Family unveil and dedicate this beautiful monument. Much work and quite a few dollars - donated by many of you - have gone into this memorial honoring Johnny Gruelle, the creator of the Raggedys. But this monument, and our gathering here, celebrates much more than simply "Johnny Gruelle was born here" or "The Gruelle Family once slept here."

"Rather, we are celebrating the fact that for Johnny Gruelle, Arcola was more than just a birthplace - it was a heartplace. Though he lived many places - north, south, east, and west - for Gruelle, Illinois, was all that was good and wholesome and right about the world. Its aura and colors, its folklore and its spirit touched dozens of his pastoral illustrations, hometown cartoons, and nostalgic stories - all works that remind us how enchanting or funny an otherwise serious world can seem when viewed through the twinkling eyes of a down-home wizard like Uncle Johnny.

"Congratulations to the City of Arcola, for celebrating a gentle and whimsical native son. Though he lived here only a little while, Arcola stayed with Johnny Gruelle for a very, very long time," said Hall.

The new monument to Johnny Gruelle was unveiled at the end of the Dedication ceremony.

Another highlight of the Festival was the brunch with Patricia Hall and Kim Gruelle that was held at 11 a.m., Sunday at the French Embassy.

There were 86 who attended the brunch which featured a slide presentation on the life of Johnny Gruelle.

There were many activities going on throughout the day, but unfortunately the volleyball tournament was cancelled. Shelley Overman, who was in charge of the tournament, said "there just weren't enough teams to play, so we cancelled."

Also, the strong winds on Sunday forced many people to cancel their plans to participate in the bike ride. The event was to begin at 1:00 p.m. and at that time only three bikers had decided to tough it out. Many others were planning to attempt the ride but decided against it once they realized how strong the winds were.

The winners of the contests which were judged during the parade include:

Classic Auto- 1st, Myron Shonkwiler, 2nd, Earl Scott, 3rd, Reece Scott.

Antique Tractor- Ron Daily.

Horse/Pony Drawn- 1st, Dave Atchison, 2nd, Tommy Lyons.

Horse/Pony Rider- 1st, Howard and Donna Tull, 2nd, Caitlyn VanDeever.

Pets- Carl Winch.

Most Unique Entry- Mindy Murphy and Stevie Alexander.

Floats- 1st, Rockome, 2nd, Pre-School, 3rd, Mahoney - Dutch man and woman.

Adult Ann and Andy Look Alike- 1st, Marjorie and Howard Cox, 2nd, Myron and Kay Shonkwiler, 3rd, Susie McMahon and Michael Hogue.

Child Ann and Andy Look Alike- 1st, Lyndsay Dunagan and Lucy Faler, 2nd, Heather Pullen and Casey Jacob, 3rd, Patrick Lyons and Natalie Nacke.

Best Toyland Parade Costume- Jessica Hanner and LeAnna Gurll.

Hot Wheels- Larry Arnold.

because of the "great atmosphere and the wonderful chairpersons."

According to Eileen Nolen, the number of booths tripled from last year from 34 to 94. She said she was quite satisfied with the turn out because only six vendors had cancelled.

One of the highlights of the Raggedy Ann Festival was the Dedication Ceremonies for the Johnny Gruelle Memorial, located by the Visitor's Information Center at the Arcola Depot.

Arcola Mayor Lynda Fishel and Dee Lindenmeyer, president of the Arcola Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the audience and explained the importance to Arcola of Johnny Gruelle and Raggedy Ann and Andy.

Kim Gruelle, grandson of Johnny Gruelle, said that he was very moved by the Memorial and that the Gruelles not there in body were there in spirit for the Dedication.

The keynote address for the Dedication was given by Patricia Hall, author of a new book, "Johnny Gruelle, Creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy."

Hall's speech, which she wrote and copyrighted, is reprinted below with her permission.

"When Richard and Alice Gruelle packed their few possessions and moved from their little home on Arcola's South Locust Street, they had no way of knowing what kind of adventures lay ahead. It was the early 1880s and Richard - known as R.B. - was a struggling portrait artist - a gifted, self-taught painter, who longed to make a living with his artwork.

"Though the Gruelles would have liked to go on living in the peaceful serenity of Douglas County, they had heard tell, from more than one out-of-town visitor, that there were opportunities for artists in some of the nearby cities - in particular, Indianapolis, where, the story went, trolley cars were running, and gas lamps lit the streets at night. Artists and writers who were migrating to the Hoosier Capitol were enlivened to be in each other's company.

"The Gruelles were already a family of three when they left Arcola. For, on Christmas eve, 1880, a son had been born - a handsome, brown-eyed boy the couple named John, after R.B.'s father. Though he was but a wee toddler - one, at the most two - years old when he left Arcola, Johnny Gruelle's native home would forever be with him. And throughout his lifetime, there would be more than several touchstones - connectors that, for him, harkened back to his birthplace in Douglas County.

"As a young teenager living in Indiana, Johnny Gruelle began turning out uncanny, whimsical cartoons - with little more than a pencil and pad and no formal training. It was apparent that his father's artistic blood ran in his veins too. But it was also obvious that he had been influenced by other muses.

"Rather than follow directly into his father's world of landscape and portrait painting, young Johnny opted for the dimly lit drawing board and rough chalk plates of newspaper work. In seeking out his first job - as a newspaper cartoonist - Johnny was following closely in the footsteps of two paternal uncles - both prominent newspapermen who had made reputations for themselves right here in Douglas County.

"The Arcola Record - this city's first newspaper, founded in 1866, had been owned and operated for 17 years by John Marshall Gruelle, R.B. Gruelle's older brother. And Thomas Gruelle, - R.B.'s younger brother - had owned and operated the Arcola Democrat from 1877 - 1878, before relocating to Indianapolis to work in printing and publishing.

"R.B. Gruelle's influence on Johnny, was evident too. While working as a newspaperman, Johnny Gruelle also began turning out his share of ethereal watercolors and technically excellent pen-and-inks, proving that he - like his father -

possessed innate artistic talents reaching far beyond cartooning.

"Eventually Johnny Gruelle moved on to illustrating magazines; then later, books. When, in 1915, he created his now-world famous Raggedy Ann, it was clear from his doll and design - and his illustrated stories about her - that Gruelle also possessed an uncanny sense of what the public wanted and loved. That, in a phrase, was nostalgia, with a little pizzazz added for good measure.

"Raggedy Ann's legendary roots could be traced back to Douglas County, too, where, one story goes, Johnny's mother Alice had kept a childhood doll after which the first Gruelle-family Raggedy Ann would later be patterned.

"When it came to color and imagery; the spirit and motifs of the Illinois Heartland were everywhere in Johnny Gruelle's work, enlivening his prose, peopling his cartoons, and brightening his artistic palette.

"Johnny's drawings, cartoons, and stories showcased his keen sense of humor and his mystical closeness to nature and magic. His works glowed with the golds and violets that were also favorites of his father's - colors that harkened back to Johnny's birthplace in the Midwest.

"One need not look very far in Gruelle's many illustrations to find the greens and golds of Douglas County broomcorn fields and the dusky oranges and purples of Illinois autumns. The cartoon crossroads - the "birds-eye-views" - and their downhome captions, for which Gruelle became nationally famous, echoed his own nostalgia for small-town life - affectionate reflections of what he pictured as the everyday goings-on in towns like Arcola.

"All of these creative works prove that in his heart of hearts, Johnny Gruelle never left Douglas County.

5th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 21-22, 1994 • Arcola, Illinois

The 5th ANNUAL
Raggedy Ann & Andy
FESTIVAL
1994



ALL © 1994 JOHNNY GRUELLE FAMILY.
TM & © 1994 MACMILLAN INC., HASBRO - PLAYSCHOOL INC.,
APPLAUSE INC. - ALL RIGHTS STRICTLY ENFORCED

May 21 & 22, 1994 ♥ Arcola, Illinois
Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle

♥ **Saturday, May 21, 1994 ♥**

9:00 a.m. Festival Opening
11:00 a.m. Reception at
Arcola First National Bank with special guest
Kim Gruelle, Patricia Hall, and guests
1:00 p.m. Book Signing
3:00 p.m. Parade - Featuring Floats, Bands,
Bikes, Raggedy Ann & Andy Look Alikes
4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Social gathering at the
Arcola First Christian Church
Fellowship Room - Meet and greet your
Raggedy Ann Collectors and Friends
Coffee and Tea will be served
7:30 - 10:30 p.m. 50's & 60's Street Dance

♥ **Sunday, May 22, 1994 ♥**

9:00 Festival Re-Opens
11:00 Brunch at the French Embassy with
Kim Gruelle, Patricia Hall and other
special guests. To make reservations call
Vickie at 217-268-4966 (work) or
217-268-4488 (home)
\$15.00 per person
Noon - 5:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon with
Gospel Music, featuring Lutz & Debbie
Braunigg, Tephilla Group (teenage gospel),
People for the Lord, Chariots
and much more.
2:00 Book Signing Session

♥ **Saturday and Sunday ♥**

9:00 - 5:00 Raggedy Ann Exhibitors in the Community Building
Street Arts N Crafts Fair • Childrens Petting Zoo and Childrens Rides • Food Booths
All Day Entertainment - Clowns, Jugglers, Music
1994 Raggedy Ann Festival T-Shirts and Cook Books Available.
Hoops For Life, Rain Date: Sunday, May 22, 1994

Event honors Raggedy Ann creator

□ Doll began as story for Arcola native's daughter

By ANN B. MOUTRAY
for the Journal Star

ARCOLA — "Amazing Arcola," reads the sign welcoming visitors to this east-central Illinois community of 2,700. Settled in the 1850s, Arcola soon became known as the Broomcorn Capital of the World. But Arcola has more of a claim to fame than its broom making.

Raggedy Ann, one of America's best-loved dolls, was created by an Arcola native, Johnny Gruelle. Each year Arcola honors Gruelle and his dolls the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival; this year's event will be Saturday and Sunday.

Born on Dec. 24, 1880, Gruelle was a son of Richard B. and Alice Benton Gruelle.

Richard Gruelle was a well-known landscape artist who illustrated the works of Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley.

Young Gruelle was a prolific artist, well-known for his portraits of prominent area citi-

zens. He later became a newspaper cartoonist and worked for the Indianapolis Star, the Cleveland Press and the New York Herald.

Gruelle created Raggedy Ann as a bedtime story for his daughter, Marcella. After Marcella's death at age 14, Gruelle wrote down and published his Raggedy Ann stories.

The first Raggedy Ann book was published in September 1918 by the Volland Co. During the late teens and early 1920s, Volland produced Raggedy Ann dolls based on Gruelle's design, for which he had acquired a patent in 1915.

Gruelle wrote about 40 books for children, and more than half were about Raggedy Ann and Andy. After his death in 1938, his son, Worth, and his brother, Justin, continued to publish his stories.

In 1990, the Arcola Chamber of Commerce, with the help of Arcola residents, decided to honor its Raggedy Ann creator. What began as a Memorial Day celebration with a Raggedy Ann theme has grown into an

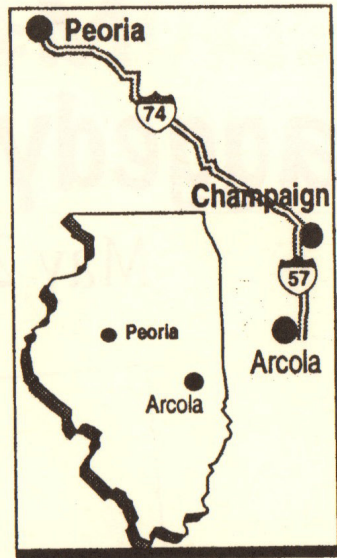
annual festival that draws thousands of visitors from across the nation.

Some of this year's events include a Raggedy Ann and Andy look-alike contest, a '50s and '60s street dance, a petting zoo, children's rides and a parade at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Visitors can sample special foods, browse through displays of Raggedy Ann and Andy memorabilia, and shop for specialty items at arts and crafts shows. Raggedy Ann cookbooks, which contain recipes from Raggedy Ann and Andy fans nationwide, will be available for purchase.

Special guests at this year's festival will include Kim Gruelle, grandson of Johnny Gruelle; and Patricia Hall, who recently published the biography "Johnny Gruelle, Creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy." A brunch with Gruelle and Hall is at 11 a.m. Sunday at the French Embassy Restaurant.

A new attraction this year is Hoops for Life, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Moore

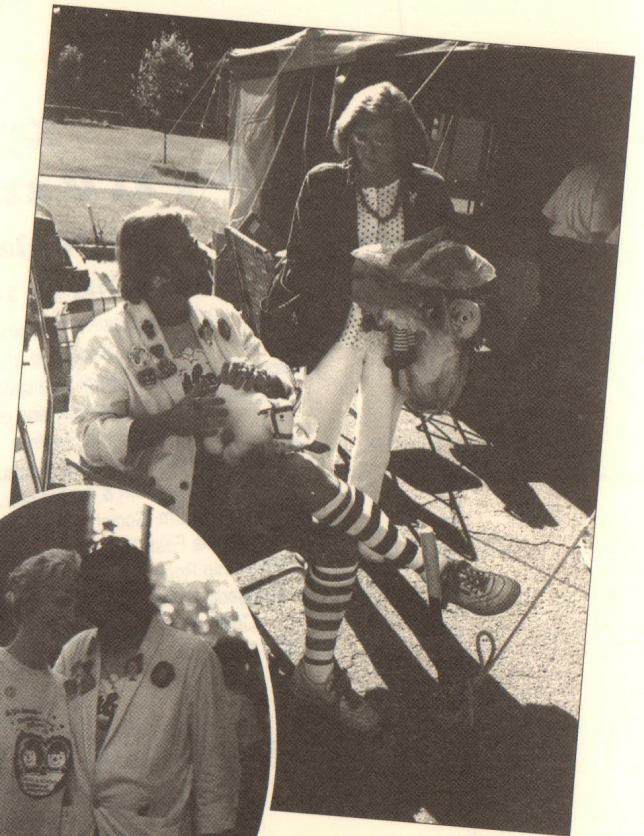


Park. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

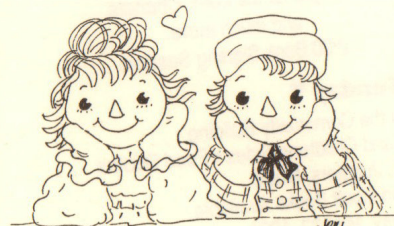
The festival is sponsored by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce and organized by Doris Knaus and Annette Ferguson. For more information, call the Arcola Chamber of Commerce at (217) 268-4530.



An Evening at Marcella's Sunporch in downtown Arcola.



Kim's havin' fun at the festival!



Patty Hall with Barry and David

TOBY TWIST

Amazing Arcola's Favorite Clown!



Fans of Raggedy Ann Adore Dolls in Arcola

BY LESLIE COYLE

ARCOLA, Ill.—Raggedy Ann buffs from around the country will descend on Arcola the weekend of May 21-22 for the fifth annual Raggedy Ann Festival.

Johnny Gruelle, author of the much-loved *Raggedy Ann Stories* and its sequels, was born 114 years ago in Arcola. He stayed to work and raise a family there. Today's Arcola remains a quiet Midwestern town on the fringes of Illinois Amish country, where simple but well-kept homes and gardens reflect the pride residents feel in their community.

The festival celebrates America's favorite folk doll. Although the spring weekend attracts many Raggedy Ann doll collectors, it is primarily a town fest for folks who love hometown parades, food, music, and a hodgepodge of arts and crafts.

Last May, a couple of thousand people showed up to browse through Raggedy Ann memorabilia and haggle over prices. Sharon Merrill flew in all the way from California. Brenda Frank arrived in a Buddy-L camper to make sure she had plenty of room for hauling home

Raggedy mementos. Loujean Brittain made a detour to Atlanta on her way from Tampa, Fla., to collect her sister for the event. But most festgoers came from nearby towns.

This year's festival will open with a parade and a Raggedy Ann and Andy look-alike contest on Saturday, May 21. That evening, you can dance to band music of the 1950s and '60s. On both Saturday and Sunday, there will be booths selling food, exhibitors touting crafts, and carnival attractions.

All in all, Arcola's Raggedy Ann Festival is a nice-and-easy, do-it-yourself celebration. Collectors come for the camaraderie as much as for the trading. The result is a cross between a village market and a small-town parade—nothing fancy, lots of stuff.

The inspiration for the festival, cartoonist Johnny Gruelle, wrote the first stories about Raggedy Ann for his young daughter, Marcella. One day, she brought him a faceless rag doll, and he began spinning stories about Raggedy while he painted a new face on the doll.

Eventually, Gruelle populated a whole imaginary nursery room full of Raggedy Ann's friends: Raggedy

Turn to Page 7



Kim, Patty and David

Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls of all sizes can be seen at the annual Raggedy Ann Festival, set for May 21-22 in Arcola, Ill.

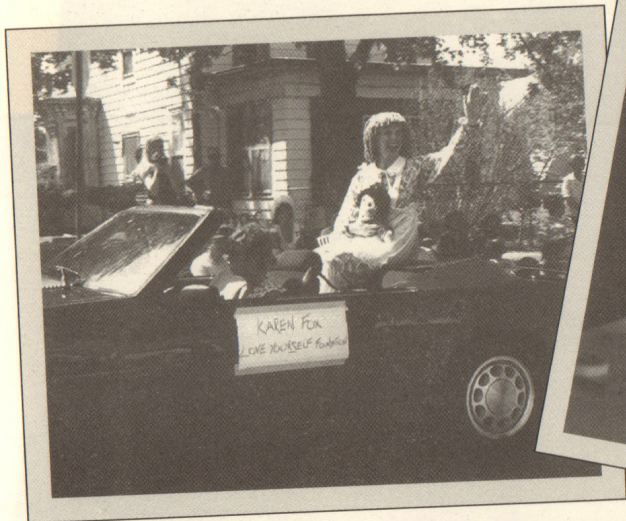


Sharing And Caring In A Raggedy Way

Arcola, the site of the annual Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival, will see an added benefit from its relationship with Raggedy Ann and Andy collectors this Christmas. Two out of state Raggedy Ann collectors began a program in which Raggedy Ann and Andy toys are being donated to the Arcola Chamber of Commerce from collectors around the country for distribution to children in the Arcola and Douglas County area. Pictured, from left, are Doris Knaus, Raggedy Ann Festival Co-Chair; Louis Turner and Barb Mitchell of the Arcola Chamber of Commerce and Annette Ferguson, Raggedy Ann Festival Co-Chair. Contributions can be sent to the Arcola Chamber of Commerce, Attn: Doris Knaus, PO Box 274, Arcola, IL 61910.



Kim and Raggedy Ann dance a jig with the youngsters



Karen Fox, of Love Yourself Foundation, rode in the Toyland Parade and had a booth at the 5th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival.



Raggedy Ann Festival Enjoys Strong Saturday, Great Weather

By Mark Lichtenwalter
Sparkling weather and a strong Saturday showing turned this year's Raggedy

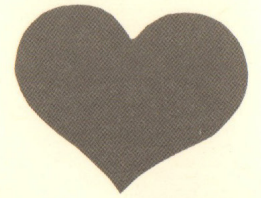
Ann and Andy Festival into a big success.

"I think everyone felt that it was very much a successful weekend—we had a lot of people come in from out of state," said Doris Knaus, festival co-organizer.

"I think everybody was pleased. I know my business did well and I hope others did too."

Ron Vyverberg, of Vyverberg's store, reported a strong weekend with sales better on Saturday

than Sunday.



Things were hopping Saturday, however, especially if you were looking for an autograph. Raggedy Ann fans from at least 15 different states stopped in at the book signing at the tent outside the Municipal Building Saturday afternoon - with a seemingly endless line running out the back of the tent. One patient fan reported waiting in line for two 1/2 hours to get the signature of special guests Kim Gruelle and Patricia Hall.

"We've had people stop in from all over the United States," said Imogene Thompson, a volunteer at the tent.

A highlight of the festival was the brunch at the French Embassy featuring Patricia Hall, Kim Gruelle and Karen Fox, of the Love Yourself Foundation.

"Everyone really enjoyed it. This was the second year and I think we'll probably go at it again next year," Dill said.

After the brunch, Fox spoke first - bringing several people in the audience to tears with her emotional story.

Fox, a former cancer patient herself, began visiting hospital patients dressed as Raggedy Ann in 1984. Fox, in full Raggedy gear, explained the reasoning behind the idea.

"If I'm invited into a patient's room, their heart will open up just a little bit, and they will feel my unconditional love and support for them through this very difficult time in their lives," Fox said.

While it was hard convincing hospital administrators at first, Fox said once she started actually visiting patients it was an instant success.

Fox showed a video featuring several news reports of herself in action, cheering hospital patients who universally seemed to pick up the minute Raggedy Ann entered the room. Raggedy's sponsored by the foundation have since made over 160,000 visits to ailing patients.



Kim at First National Bank's Welcome Reception



6th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 20-21, 1995 • Arcola, Illinois

Welcome Reception
at First National Bank

Book Signing

Brunch with the
Gruelle Family

Toyland
Parade

50s and 60s
Street Dance

Prince and
Princess
Pageant

Arts & Crafts

Children's Rides

SOCIAL
GATHERING

Video Biography of
Johnny Gruelle
Premieres!

Raggedy Ann
Exhibitors

ShBoom

Arcola's
6th Annual
Raggedy Ann &
Andy Festival

Sponsored by the
Arcola Chamber of Commerce

Birthplace of JOHNNY GRUELLE

May 20 & 21, 1995 ♥ Arcola, Illinois
Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle

Friday, May 19, 1995
Prince & Princess Pageant
at Arcola High School
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Pageant at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: Adults - \$7.00
Children Under 12 - \$4.75
For Advance Tickets or More
information, Call 217-268-4530

**Video biography of
Johnny Gruelle by
Sirocco Productions, Inc.
to premiere during
festival**

♥ **Saturday and Sunday** ♥
Sat. 9:00-5:00; Sun. 9:00-4:00
Raggedy Ann Exhibitors in the
Community Building

Street Arts N Crafts Fair • Pony Rides and
Childrens Rides • Food Booths
All Day Entertainment - Clowns, Jugglers,
Music
1995 Raggedy Ann Festival T-Shirts &
Raggedy Ann Cook Book - 1994 available.

♥ **Saturday, May 20, 1995** ♥
9:00 a.m. Festival Opening
11:00 a.m. Reception at
Arcola First National Bank with special guest
Kim Gruelle, Patricia Hall, and guests
1:00 p.m. Book Signing
3:00 p.m. Parade - Featuring Floats, Bands,
Bikes, Raggedy Ann & Andy Look Alikes
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Social gathering at the
Arcola First Christian Church
Fellowship Room - Meet and greet your
Raggedy Ann Collectors and Friends
Coffee and Tea will be served
7:30 - 10:30 p.m. 50's & 60's Street Dance

♥ **Sunday, May 21, 1995** ♥
9:00 Festival Re-Opens
10:30 Brunch at the French Embassy with
Kim Gruelle, Patricia Hall and other
special guests. To make reservations call
Vickie at 217-268-4966 (work) or
217-268-4488 (home)
\$15.00 per person
Gospel Music and
'50s and '60s Music with ShBoom
2:00 Book Signing Session

1995 Prince & Princess Contest

For Children Ages 4-10 • Friday, May 18 • Arcola High School

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Sharon Bickel

HOSTESS

Luci Faler

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES

Kim Gruelle	Susan Foster
Steve Maroon	Cindy Johnson
Phyllis Smith	Mike Woolworth
Kim Kauffman	

PRESENTATION OF CONTESTANTS AND ESCORTS

All Contestants Attire Provided By D & M Discount, Tuscola

JUNIOR PRINCE AND PRINCESS CONTESTANTS

1. Joline Smith..... Gladys Smith, attire from Vyverbergs of Arcola
2. Kristin Knowles..... Donna Knowles, attire from Vyverbergs of Arcola
3. Mindy Murphy..... Lisa Douglas, attire from Arcola Factory Outlet
4. Stephanie Clark..... Sheri Clark, attire from Arcola Factory Outlet
5. Mackenzie Thomas..... Shelley Thomas, attire from Gordons
6. Alec Daily..... Kim Daily, attire from Gordons
7. Miranda Cummins..... Susan Cummins, attire from Arcola Factory Outlet

PRINCE AND PRINCESS CONTESTANTS

8. Jessica Chandler..... Ellen Gawthorpe, attire from Vyverbergs
9. Ashton Skoog..... Rebecca Culp, attire from Vyverbergs
10. Katelyn Blagg..... Charity Blagg, attire from Vyverbergs
11. Tiffany Clark..... Heather Bright, attire from Arcola Factory Outlet
12. Patrick Lyons..... Kristen Conlin, attire from Arcola Factory Outlet
13. Desiree' Montague..... Ruth Montague, attire from Gordons
14. Heather Montague..... Susan Montague, attire from Gordons



ALL © JOHNNY GRUELLE
 © MACHILAN INC., HASBRO-PLAY SCHOOLS INC.
 (APPLAUSE) - ALL RIGHTS STRICTLY ENFORCED.

MUSIC BY CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

This Old Man
If You're Happy And You Know It
Bingo

FINAL JUDGING OF CONTESTANTS

A HEART FILLED WITH ETERNAL SUNSHINE

Skit by Nicloe Smoot, Erin Miller, Justin Kohout from
Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire IL

PRESENTATION OF 1995 RAGGEDY ANN AND ANDY PRINCE AND PRINCESS

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR DONATIONS

Step Ahead Preschool	Arcola Factory Outlet
Galton Glassworks	Gordons
Marcella's Sun Porch	Vyverbergs
Arcola First Nat'l. Bank	D & M Discount
Lindenmeyer Insurance	Arcola True Value



What A Prince!
 Kim served as a judge for the pageant.



These kids were great!



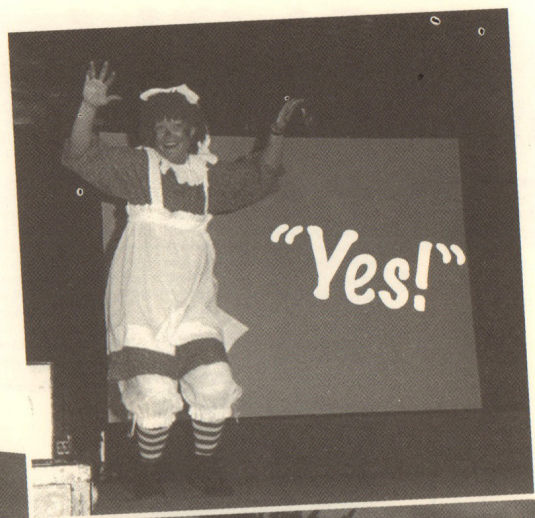
And, the
Winner is ...

Arcola Prepares For Raggedy Ann Festival May 19, 20, 21



Every Festival features lots of Raggedy Anns and Andys ... Those Who Are Young and Those Who Are Young at Heart!

Friendships are Born at Every Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival!



Below: Kim and Patty autograph for visitors at the book signing session during the '95 Festival.



Arcola Prepares For Raggedy Ann Festival May 19, 20, 21

By Mark Lichtenwalter
Eighty years old and still going strong, Raggedy Ann — the beloved doll and

world-famous star of numerous children's stories — is celebrating a milestone birthday this year, and the hometown of her creator has plans to help her celebrate during the Sixth Annual Arcola Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival, May 19 to 21.

The Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival is a tribute to Arcola native son Johnny Gruelle, the creator of those two popular dolls. The festival draws thousands of visitors each year to Arcola from points across the nation, and across the globe.

Many of the visitors to the festival are collectors of the popular dolls; but many also come just for the wide variety of family oriented special events and activities the festival has to offer.

Doris Knaus and Annette Ferguson are once again co-chairing the event, which is

sponsored by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce.

The festival, usually a two-day event, will get started a day earlier this year with a new feature, a Prince and Princess Pageant and Style Show on Friday, May 19 at the Arcola High School.

The pageant is open to Douglas County children.

Participants will be separated into two age categories, four to six and seven to ten, and judges will choose a Prince and Princess from each group to preside over the festival.

A buffet dinner will be held at 6 p.m. with the pageant to start at 7:30 p.m.

Continued on Page 5.



The Festival Always Receives Good Publicity through Area Papers

Ann May Be Raggedy, But Festival Attractive & Polished

Raggedy Ann

Continued from Page 1

Tickets for the dinner and pageant are \$7 for adults, \$4.75 for children; tickets for just the pageant and style show are \$3, adults, \$2, children.

Dinner tickets will be purchased by May 17. Ticket information is available at the Arcola Depot, 268-4530.

The festival officially opens at 9 a.m. Saturday with the opening of the street arts and crafts fair, the Raggedy Ann exhibits in the Arcola Municipal Building, the children's rides, pony rides and food booths.

A reception will be held for two old festival hands, Kim Gruelle, Johnny's grandson, and Patricia Hall, author of the biography *Johnny Gruelle, Creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy*, at the Arcola First National Bank starting at 11 a.m. The reception will also serve as an 80th birthday party for Raggedy Ann.

Gruelle and Hall will hold autograph sessions at 1 p.m. Saturday and again at 2 p.m. Sunday in the tent near the municipal building. Hall will sign copies of her book, while Gruelle will be signing Raggedy Ann books and related items.

Saturday's main event is the annual Raggedy Ann

and Andy Parade, which will start at 3 p.m. Entry figures for this year's parade were not available at press time. Parade categories remain unchanged from last year.

Parade categories include: Floats, Raggedy Ann and Andy Look Alikes, Toyland Costumes, Bicycles, Classic Vehicles, Hot Wheels, Antique Tractors, Horse/Pony, Decorated Toy Wagons and Unique and Other.

There will be no shortage of entertainment available at the festival as a variety of family-oriented acts will perform on the Main Street Stage throughout the festival.

The schedule for Saturday includes: Children's entertainer Mr. Steve at 9:15 a.m.; The Stevens Brothers Comedy Team, 10 a.m.; Ginger Lozar's Puppet Show, "Little Red Riding Hood," 10:45 a.m.; Stevens Brothers, 11:15 a.m.; "Little Red Riding Hood," 11:45 a.m.; gospel music by Lutz and Debbie Braunig, 1 p.m.; gospel music by People For The Lord, 4:30 p.m.; and the Stevens Brothers again at 5:30 p.m.

Toby Twist, a festival favorite, will be clowning around outside the Arcola Fire Station at 10:20 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 2 p.m. and at 6:15 p.m. Saturday.

A 50s and 60s Street Dance will be held downtown from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Nova DJ

System, featuring Jeff Guy of Mattoon, will provide music for the dance.

"They have one of the largest light and sound shows around this area," said Teresa Nolan, entertainment chairman.

The festival booths will re-open Sunday, May 21, at 9 a.m.

Kim Gruelle and Patricia Hall will be the guests of honor at a brunch at the French Embassy starting at 10:50 a.m.

This year's brunch will feature the premier of a new biographical video, "Raggedy Ann & Andy: Johnny Gruelle's Dolls With Heart." Produced by Sirocco Productions of Norfolk, Virginia, the video is touted as a comprehensive history of eight decades of Raggedy Ann & Andy.

The 90-minute video documents the history of the Raggedys, tracing their origins and their evolution as dolls, storybook characters and collectibles. The video will offer tips on dating and distinguishing dolls and collectibles from different time periods.

The video also features a detailed biography of Johnny Gruelle with interviews of both Hall and Kim Gruelle.

Tickets for the brunch are \$15 per person and are available through Vickie Dill at 268-4966.

Sunday's schedule for the Main Street Stage includes: The Stevens Brothers, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; 50s and 60s music by ShBoom at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and a 1:30 p.m. dance performance by the Boneyard Creek Cloggers and Indian Creek Delta Boys.

Toby Twist will perform three more shows on Sunday at 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 2 p.m.

The festival will close at 4 p.m. Sunday.

By Mark Lichtenwalter

After a week of rain, Mother Nature was kind to Arcola bringing perfect weather for this year's Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival. Temperatures in the high 70s greeted the

crowds that filled Main Street to shop, eat and enjoy the entertainment sponsored by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce.

Doris Knaus, who co-chaired the sixth annual festival with Annette

Ferguson, said she was very pleased with this year's turnout.

"I thought the festival went very well," Knaus said. "We had a good response from local people, and from the guests we had

come in from out of town.

"I was pleased with the festival. It is a small festival, but I think it was well attended."

Merchants along Main Street reported strong sales, especially on Saturday.

"Saturday was wonderful," said Bonnie Vaughan who, along with her husband Larry, traveled from Orlando, Florida to set up a booth featuring collectible items from their store, Raggedy's and Teddy's.

"We brought a full U-Haul packed with Raggedy Ann items and we were left with just a few things after Saturday. This is our fourth year coming to Arcola and it is definitely worth the trip."

Pat Hackler, outside booths chairman, said, "The festival was fantastic this year. Everybody I talked to in the booths had nothing but good things to say about it. One woman even

said she tripled her sales this year."

The festival kicked off Friday night with a new event, a Prince and Princess

Pageant and Style Show, featuring clothing from various downtown merchants. The pageant drew a large crowd to the Arcola High School gymnasium.

Fourteen children participated in the pageant. Alec Daily of Arthur and Miranda Cummins of

Arcola were named Jr. Prince and Princess while Patrick Lyons and Katelyn Blagg, both of Arcola, were named Prince and Princess.

"The pageant went great. We were surprised with the turn out and very pleased with it, especially for a first year event," said Michelle

Lindenmeyer, organizer of the pageant and style show.

A reception Saturday morning at the Arcola First National Bank drew a large crowd to help celebrate Raggedy Ann's 80th birthday. Kim Gruelle, Raggedy Ann and Andy creator Johnny Gruelle's grandson, was on hand to blow out the candles on Raggedy Ann's birthday cake.

Absent from this year's festival, however, was scheduled guest Patricia Hall, author of the biography *Johnny Gruelle, Creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy*.

Several tornados had touched down near Hall's Nashville home last week, Ferguson said. Although Hall's home was undamaged by the storms, she remained in the area to assist her neighbors in the clean-up.

Throughout the festival, visitors to Arcola were treated to a variety of family-oriented acts on the Main Street Stage. Entertainment chairman Teresa Nolan said, "I think the entertainers were better attended this year than in the past."

Highlighting the entertainment was the group Sh-Boom, a 50s and 60s act who performed two shows on Sunday.

"We have asked Sh-Boom back next year. They were wonderful—more than just singers, they entertained the crowds as well," Nolan said.

Seventy-five people attended a brunch held at the French Embassy Sunday morning which featured short speeches by Kim Gruelle, Arcola Mayor Lynda Fishel and Leonard Swan of Sirocco Productions, whose 90-minute video documentary, "Johnny Gruelle's Dolls With Heart" premiered throughout the festival.

Gruelle, who calls Arcola his second home, praised the spirit of the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival.

"We all need more of this in a troubled world," Gruelle said. "We should carry this message of love and friendship and extended family, our extended Raggedy family that we love, back with us to our homes and our neighbors."

Fishel told the story of the two little girls who won the Raggedy Ann and Andy Look Alike Contest in Saturday's parade. The two, Katy Grubbs of Tilton, IL, and Maggie Plise of Morris, IL, met each other for the first time before the parade, dressed in their Raggedy Ann costumes, and were soon after holding hands and talking like old friends.

"We hope that you have found a new friend in Arcola or renewed an acquaintance with old friends, because that's really what the spirit of Raggedy Ann is about," Fishel said.



7th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 18-19, 1996 • Arcola, Illinois

Saturday, May 18, 1996

9 a.m. Festival Opening

11 a.m. Reception at Arcola First National Bank with special guests; the Gruelle family & Patricia Hall.*

3 p.m. Parade - Featuring: Floats, Bands, Bikes, Raggedy Ann & Andy Lookalikes

4 p.m. Book Signing

4-6 p.m. Social gathering at the Arcola First Christian Church Fellowship Room - Meet and greet Raggedy Ann Collectors and Friends. Coffee and Tea will be served.

7:30 - 10:30 p.m. 50's & 60's Street Dance

The 7th ANNUAL ♡♡ Raggedy Ann & Raggedy Andy FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 19, 1996

9 a.m. Festival Reopens

10:30 Brunch at the French Embassy with grandchildren of Johnny Gruelle.

*Joni Gruelle Wannamaker and Kim Gruelle, Patricia Hall and other special guests.

To make reservations, call Vickie at 217-268-4966 (work) or 217-268-4488 (home)

Gospel Music and 50's & 60's Music with "Sh-Boom": 1:00-2:30

2 p.m. Book Signing Session

Raggedy Ann Prince and Princess Contest

Friday, May 17

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Pageant-Style Show at 7:30 p.m.

Contest to be held at the Arcola High School
Tickets may be purchased in the Arcola Emporium/Galton Glassworks or at the Arcola Depot.

SUNDAY BRUNCH - May 19, 10:30 a.m. at the French Embassy

\$15 per person

Tickets available from Vickie at the Arcola Community Building or at the Arcola Depot.

You can also purchase tickets at the door if they are available
limited reservations available.

Auction at 11:30
Of Second Edition
1994, 1995 and 1996 Prints
By Kim Gruelle
Watercolor Pictures by
Joni Gruelle - Autographed!



MAY 18th & 19th 1996
ARCOLA ♡ ILLINOIS ♡
Birth Place of JOHNNY GRUELLE

Raggedy Ann Exhibitors in the Community Building
Street Arts 'N Crafts • Pony Rides and Children Rides • Food Booths
All Day Entertainment • Clowns, Jugglers, Music
1996 Raggedy Ann Festival T-Shirts & Raggedy Ann Cook Book

5,000 expected for Raggedy Ann festival

By CHRIS SCHULTZ
News-Gazette Staff Writer

ARCOLA — This weekend, downtown Arcola will be awash in calico patches, button eyes and red-yarn hair as fans of the candy-hearted rag doll celebrate at the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival.

The seventh annual Raggedy Ann festival starts at 9 a.m. today, said Doris Knaus, a festival co-chairman. Annette Ferguson, another a co-chairman, said 5,000 visitors are expected for the two-day event.

The festival celebrates Raggedy Ann and Andy creator Johnny Gruelle.

Gruelle was born in Arcola in

1880, the son of American impressionist artist Richard Gruelle. The family lived in Arcola for only a few years and moved to Indianapolis sometime between Johnny's fifth and eighth birthday.

He created his Raggedy Ann and Andy characters in 1917 while living in Norwalk, Conn. He did the stories to ease the pain after his 14-year-old daughter, Marcella, died. Legend has it that Raggedy Ann was Marcella's rag doll.

Today's activities include:

— A public reception at 11 a.m. at Arcola First National Bank will honor Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle, grandson and

granddaughter of Johnny Gruelle, and Patricia Hall, who wrote a biography of Gruelle.

The Gruelles brought limited-edition Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and original artwork for auction, Knaus said. The auction will begin about 11:30 a.m.

— Hall will sign books at 1 and 4 p.m. at the downtown tent, Knaus said. Kim and Joni Gruelle will be in the tent to autograph Raggedy Ann and Andy items.

— The Raggedy Ann and Andy parade will begin at 3 p.m.

— A street dance from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's session of the festival starts at 9 a.m. Featured ac-

tivities include:

— A brunch, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the French Embassy Restaurant, Knaus said.

— Gospel music in the morning, followed by 1950s and 1960s hits played by Sh-Boom from 1 to 2 p.m.

Raggedy Ann fans will also find a display of Raggedy Ann memorabilia, Raggedy Ann and Andy items for sale, Raggedy Ann and Andy look-alike contests, music, arts and crafts, pony rides, a carnival that's larger than last year's and free entertainment during the festival.

For more information, call the Arcola Chamber of Commerce at 800-336-5456.



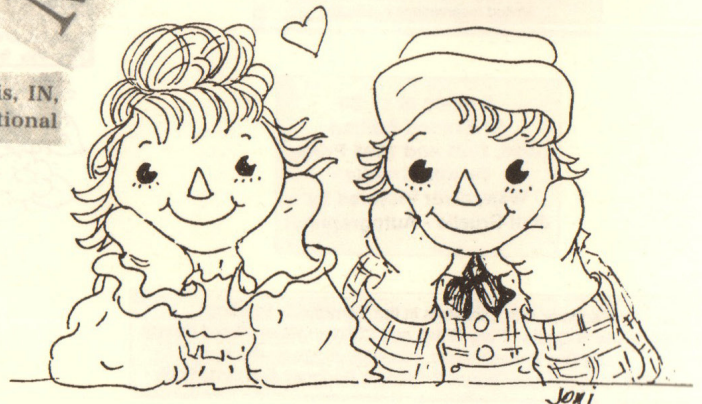
Raggedy Ann Festival
May 17-19 In Arcola

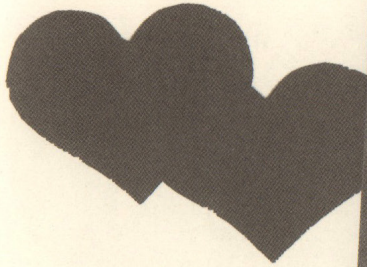


Raggedy Ann Festival Draws Crowds To Arcola

Sheryl Cook of Nashville, TN, left, and Katie Cavanaugh of Indianapolis, IN, dressed in full Raggedy Ann attire for Saturday's reception at the First National Bank of Arcola.

Oh, What A Fun Festival!





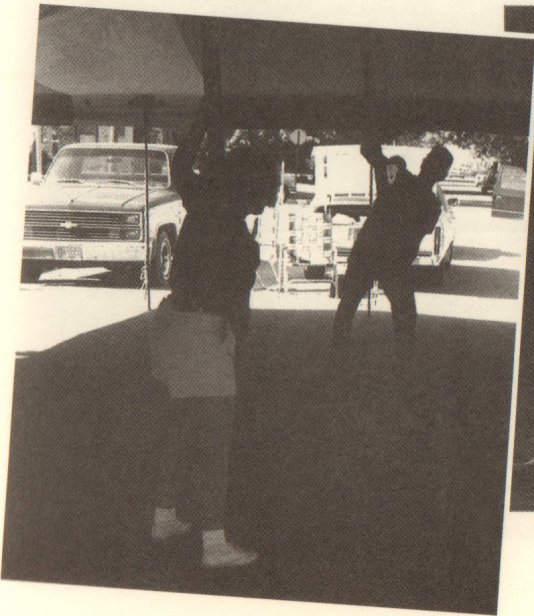
Sh-



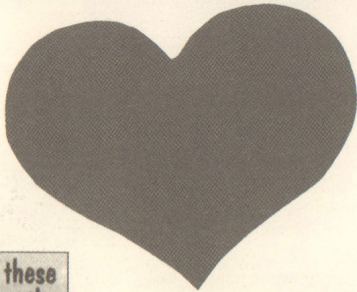
Sh-Boom performed two shows filled with their signature brand of '50s and '60s music.



Dance,
Dance,
Dance!



Boom



Be sure to visit these
Businesses during the
**RAGGEDY ANN
& ANDY
FESTIVAL**



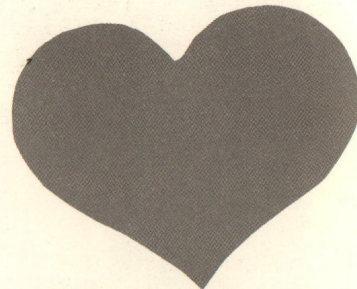
Arcola's 7th Annual
**RAGGEDY
ANN & ANDY
FESTIVAL**

Sponsored by the
Arcola Chamber of
Commerce

May 17, 18 & 19



PRINCE & PRINCESS CONTEST



Princess, Prince and Junior Princess Named

From left, Liberty Doemelt and Zachary Doemelt were named Raggedy Ann Princess and Prince at Friday's pageant, and Andrea Williams was named junior princess.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Sharon Bickel

HOSTESSES

Leah Clark

Hannah Clark

JUDGES

Debbie Hall

Joni Gruelle Wannamaker

Festival No. 7

by Colleen Lehmann

A casual conversation between two Arcola shop owners more than seven years ago spawned what has now become a much-anticipated annual event, and this year is no exception.

The seventh annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival will be held in downtown Arcola May 17, 18 and 19.

Kicking things off the evening of Friday, May 17, will be the Prince and Princess Pageant at Arcola High School. A dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and the pageant will begin at 7:30 p.m. Also scheduled that evening is a style show featuring fashions from J.C. Penney and several local clothing stores.

Saturday's activities begin at 9 a.m. when the streets of Arcola brim with arts and crafts booths, food vendors and pony and other rides for children. Also opening at 9 is the Arcola Community Building, which will be filled with Raggedy Ann and Andy exhibits. Arcola First National Bank will be the site of an 11 a.m. reception with special guests Joni Gruelle Wannamaker, Kim Gruelle and Patricia Hall, author of "Johnny

Gruelle, Creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy." An auction of Raggedy Ann collectibles will be held at the bank at 11:45 a.m.

A 3 p.m. parade featuring floats, bands, bikes and Raggedy Ann and Andy look-alikes will be followed by a 4 p.m. book signing. After that, visitors can meet and greet friends and Raggedy Ann collectors at a social gathering from 4-6 p.m. at the First Christian Church fellowship room. A street dance featuring music from the 1950s and '60s will run from 7:30-10:30 p.m., completing the day's activities.

The festival reopens Sunday at 9 a.m. and features a 10:30 brunch at the French Embassy. Special guests include the Gruelle grandchildren and Patricia Hall. Reservations are still available and can be made by calling (217) 268-4966 or (217) 268-4488. Gospel music will also be featured in the morning.

A special treat for 1950's and 60's music lovers will be the 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. shows by Sh-Boom. The Dayton, Ohio, group will offer songs made popular by the Drifters, the Platters, Elvis, the Four

Seasons, the Temptations and others. Another book signing at 2 p.m. will conclude the day's official activities, but all booths and vendors will remain open until 4 p.m.

The Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival was the brainchild of Doris Knaus, owner and operator of Galton Glassworks and The Cook's Collection in the Arcola Emporium. Being a "transplant" to Arcola she was not aware it was the birthplace of Raggedy Ann creator Johnny Gruelle until a casual comment made by Lynda Fishel, another store owner at the Emporium. Inspired by the touching circumstances that led to the doll's creation, the two women, along with Annette Ferguson, came up with the idea of a festival celebrating the red-haired moppet.

The very first Raggedy Ann Festival was a one-day affair, but Knaus says "it didn't take us long to figure out that it takes just as much work for one day as it does for two, so we expanded it from then on out."

Except for that first year, one or more members of the Gruelle family have attended the festival each year. Grandson Kim will be making his

sixth appearance this year. His company — The Last Great Company — creates Raggedy Ann dolls and memorabilia, and he often makes public speaking appearances telling of his family's history. Granddaughter Joni Gruelle Wannamaker has also made several trips to Arcola, and both grandchildren will have artistic work on display and for sale during the festival.

Knaus says the festival has become quite an event for Raggedy Ann/Andy collectors, drawing people from not only the United States but also from as far away as Japan. Though no official headcount is taken, it is estimated that 5,000 people attend the two-day event annually. According to Knaus, it's not too late to become part of this year's activities, either by participating in the parade or attending Sunday's brunch.

For more information on the festival and its activities, call 268-3311 or 268-4816.





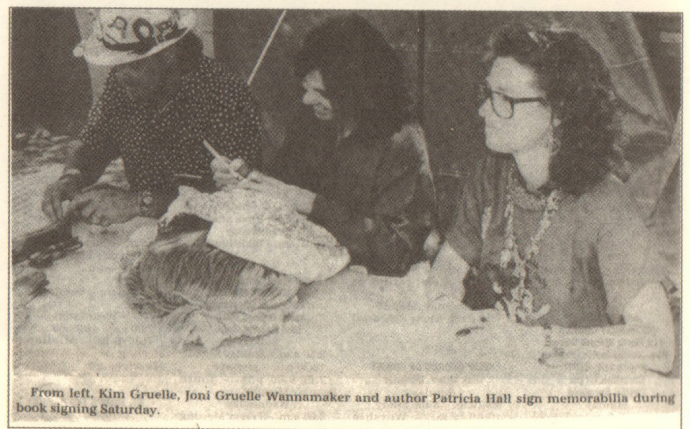
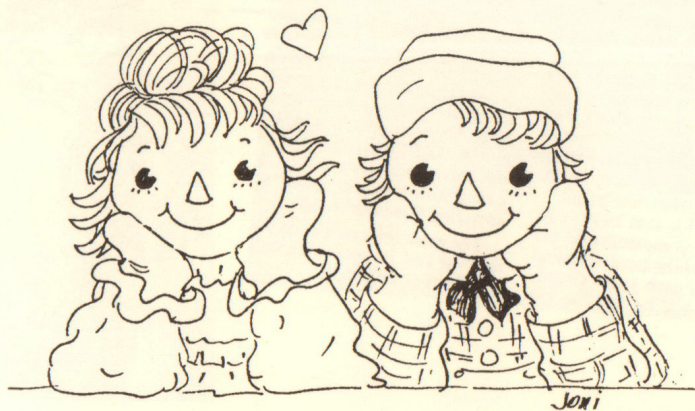
Raggedy Ann and Andy Look-A-Likes adorned this float in Saturday's parade.

& Raggedy Andy



Raggedy Ann

The Rockome Gardens float took 1st place in Saturday's parade.



From left, Kim Gruelle, Joni Gruelle Wannamaker and author Patricia Hall sign memorabilia during book signing Saturday.

Mark Up Another Success For Raggedy Ann Festival

By Mark Lichtenwalter

After weeks of seemingly endless rain, Mother Nature went to the other extreme for last weekend's Raggedy Ann Festival, as temperatures ranged into the low 90s. But the high temperatures throughout the weekend and the strong winds that whipped through town on Sunday didn't keep people from enjoying the popular family festival sponsored by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce.

"The committee members thought that everything went really well," said Doris Knaus, festival co-chairman. "We feel that we had a good attendance, and we were very pleased with the festival. We could



have used better attendance on Sunday, but the way the weather has been recently, I was just happy both days weren't washed out.

"People would be amazed with the number of different states people were coming from for the festival. It really brings in a nice crowd from all over the

United States and Canada."

Vendors who lined the streets of Arcola said they felt attendance may have been slightly off for the fes-

tival, but that they had stronger than usual sales.

"We are way up in sales this year," said Deborah Graham, a collectibles dealer from nearby Paris. "Saturday was a really good day for us. Sunday is a little slow. This is one of the shows we do every year, and we've always done really well."

Graham has done so well that she often invites fellow crafters to attend. "I recommended this festival to another crafter recently, and she's here just down the street," she said.

Sparta, Illinois based Mary Schlimme set up a craft stand with her sister, Carol Stough of Terre Haute, Indiana. Schlimme said this was their first time at the Raggedy Ann Festival, but that they already have plans to attend next year.

"Saturday was great, Sunday is a little bit slow, but we really like the festival. This year, we had quite a few Raggedy Ann and Andys on display, and next year we are planning to bring even more. That seems to be what the people coming to the booth want to see."

Among the vendors, Becky Smith and Barbara Harned of Homer, IL, were honored for having the best booth. Their display of homemade Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls received the honor for the second consecutive year.

The festival began Friday night with the Raggedy Ann and Andy Prince and

Sunday's annual brunch at the French Embassy drew 63 attendees, including the Gruelle grandchildren.

"What I want to do is to thank everybody for sharing the love and tradition that Raggedy Ann and Andy means to me personally and to my mother and father," Kim Gruelle said.

After the brunch, Sue Ellen Cole and Sheryl Cook Nashville, TN, addressed the crowd about Adventures in Caring, the Santa Barbara, CA based organization that trains people to act as Raggedy Ann and Andy and then sends them to hospitals to visit sick children and to people confined to their homes.

"We go to people who are confined and we take in fun, and fantasy and hugs and smiles, and the people just start laughing whenever we go in," Cole said. "I really appreciate all that you do here to raise public awareness of Raggedy Ann and what she stands for. Unconditional love and passion from the heart wherever people are, whatever they are doing, and whatever their needs."

Other, 1st Conlin Clowns, 2nd, Reed Family Dance Troop, 3rd, Amanda Bullock and Samantha Livingston; Look-A-Likes, 1st, Cynthia McMillan, Iowa City, Iowa, 2nd, Stephanie Gilbert and Samantha Malone, Mattoon, 3rd, Renee and Brian Frantzin, Long Island, NY.

Knaus said the carnival rides and street dance held Saturday were all strongly attended by visitors to the festival as well as local residents. "I was really impressed with that," she said. "Everyone seemed to enjoy it."

Knaus said planning for next year's festival is already underway, and she encourages anyone who would like to get involved with the festival to contact the chamber.

There were approximately 50 entries in Saturday's parade, according to Annette Ferguson, festival co-chairman.

Results from the judging were:

Floats, 1st place, Rockome Gardens; Bicycles, 1st, Tonya Enyant; Vehicles, 1st Arcola Health Care Center, 2nd, Myron Shonkwiler; Horse & Pony, 1st, Harold Cuppy; Unique and

Throughout the weekend, the festival committee provided live entertainment on the Main Street Stage for the enjoyment of attendees, culminating in two performances by the 50s and 60s group Sh-Boom Sunday afternoon.

"All the entertainers were pretty much a joy to work with," said Teresa Nolen, entertainment chairman. "Everything went smoothly, and we were on schedule most of the time. But I think the heat was a big factor in crowds being a little quieter on Sunday."

Princess Pageant at the Arcola High School Gymnasium. Brother and sister Zachary and Liberty Doemelt were crowned Prince and Princess, and Andrea Williams was crowned Junior Princess.

Entertainment at the pageant included children's songs performed by Raggedy Ann and Andy and Mickey and Minnie Mouse, and country music performed by Jo Brazzell.

Sixty-six people signed in at the reception held at the First National Bank of Arcola Saturday morning. Many of the large crowd were on hand to attend the auction of original Raggedy Ann dolls and watercolor prints donated by Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Wannamaker, grandchildren of Johnny Gruelle, the creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy.

The auction raised \$490 for the Johnny Gruelle Memorial Fund and \$205 for the Arcola Volunteer Fire Department.

Suzette Prange of Prescott, Arizona left the auction with a set of autographed 1996 Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. Jed and Diane Ashton of Sandy, Utah purchased a framed reproduction of a print by Kim and Joni's father, Worth Gruelle, for \$80.

Two local families entered bids as well. Alden and Faye Nay and Fred and Sue Bumpus won bids for original watercolors by Wannamaker at \$90 and \$85, respectively.

Kim Gruelle purchased a hand-made doll donated by Gertrude Poling of the Raggedy Ann Fire House Museum in Amisville, VA. Poling donates dolls to fire departments around the country for use as a means of raising money. Gruelle purchased the doll for \$205.

The monies in the Johnny Gruelle Memorial Fund will be used for purchasing items for the Arcola Depot's Raggedy Ann and Andy collection, and also for issues involving children. "We plan on donating



8th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 17-18, 1997 • Arcola, Illinois

Arcola Depot
The Johnny Gruelle Memorial
Raggedy Ann display inside

Arcola City Building
Raggedy Collectibles

Welcome Reception
First National Bank of Arcola

Reynolds Petting Zoo

Mr. Steve

On The Street
Arts and Crafts Booths

Street Dance
With Toby Johnson

Kaskaskia River Dancers
At the Arcola Depot

Ginger Lozar's Puppets

Social Gathering
First Christian Church on Main St.

Book Signing
In Tent With Gruelle Family
and Patricia Hall



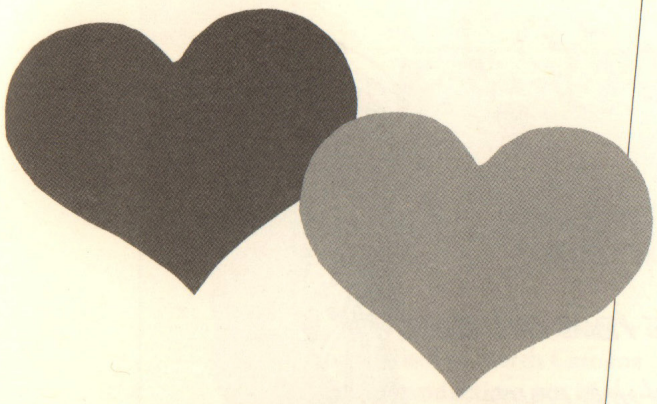
ARCOLA ILLINOIS
Birth Place of JOHNNY GRUELLE

May 17 & 18, 1997

In Memory of
Suzanne Gruelle

1917-1996

Wife of Worth Gruelle &
Daughter-in-law of author, Johnny Gruelle



**The
1998 Raggedy Ann Festival
will be a tribute to Worth
Gruelle**



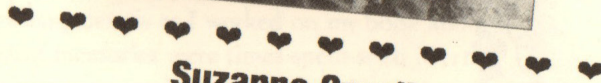
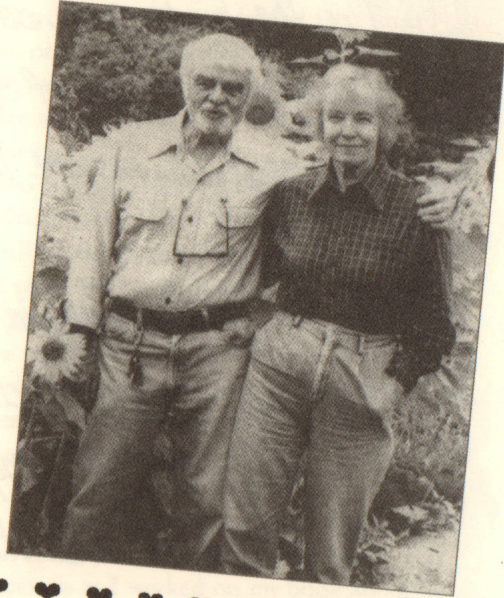
Left: In memory of Worth & Suzanne, a Chinese Dogwood was planted outside the Arcola Depot.

Lower Left: Forever in our hearts.

Lower Right: The Suzanne Memorial Table.



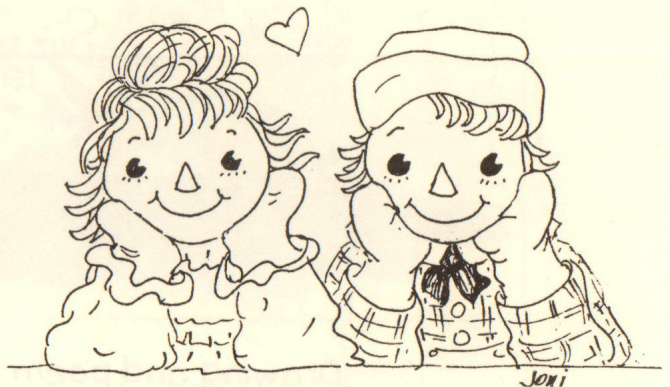
**The 8th ANNUAL
Raggedy Ann
& Raggedy Andy
MAY 17th & 18th
1997 FESTIVAL**

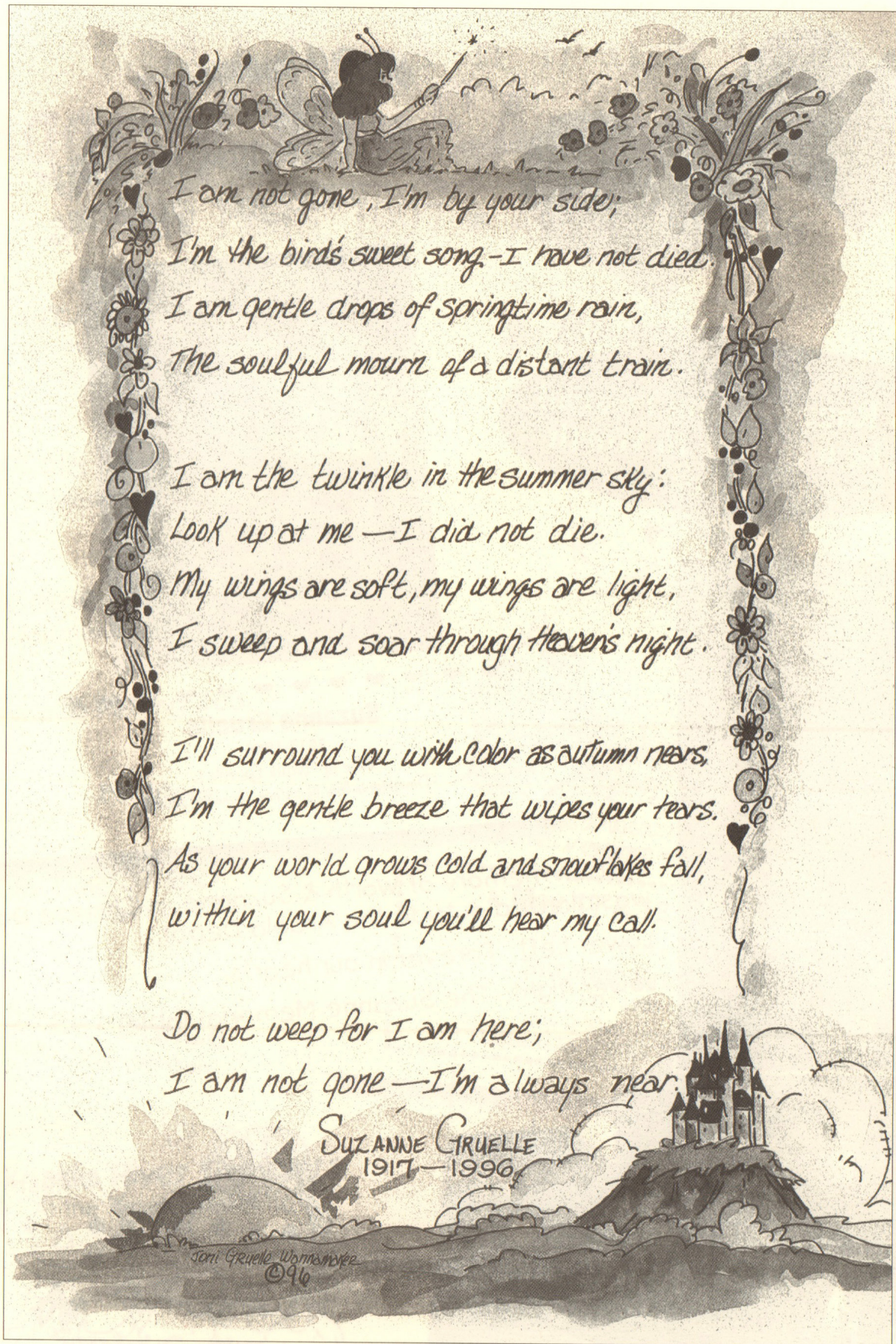


Suzanne Gruelle

1917-1996

Wife of Worth Gruelle &
Daughter-in-law of author, Johnny Gruelle





I am not gone, I'm by your side;

I'm the bird's sweet song - I have not died.

I am gentle drops of springtime rain,

The soulful mourn of a distant train.

I am the twinkle in the summer sky:

Look up at me - I did not die.

My wings are soft, my wings are light,

I sweep and soar through Heaven's night.

I'll surround you with color as autumn nears,

I'm the gentle breeze that wipes your tears.

As your world grows cold and snowflakes fall,

within your soul you'll hear my call.

Do not weep for I am here;

I am not gone - I'm always near.

SUZANNE GRUELLE
1917 - 1996

Joni Gruelle Wannamaker
©96

Drawing and poem by Joni Gruelle Wannamaker

A Special Tribute to Suzanne Gruelle

1917-1996

Sue Gruelle never knew a stranger. Anyone who phoned for the first time, or trekked to North Carolina or Florida, or met her at a special event knew this. Introductions out of the way, within minutes, Sue would ask about you, your interests, and your family, and share about her own life and family. It was like you'd known each other for years.

When I first met Sue, she told me two stories. The first was about her own introduction to the Raggedys, in kindergarten, when a teacher had read a tale from Raggedy Andy Stories. "I really believed that Raggedy Andy took a trip down that rainspout," Sue said. I could tell by the sparkle in her eyes that she still very much believed in the magic of the Raggedys.

The second story was about how she met the love of her life, her husband Worth. He had attended her high school graduation with a friend. Sue was valedictorian, and when she rose to speak, Cupid's arrows flew. When they were finally introduced, Worth and Sue knew immediately that they were destined for each other.

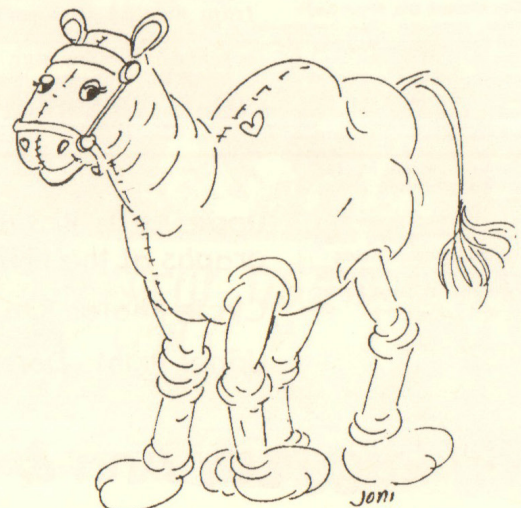
Sue believed in whimsy and destiny, but also in the power of honesty and forthrightness, and in the importance of history. Many times, she offered information and helped fill in missing details as I worked on my book about Johnny Gruelle. Among her fondest memories were times spent with Myrtle Gruelle; among her chief regrets was not ever having known Johnny.

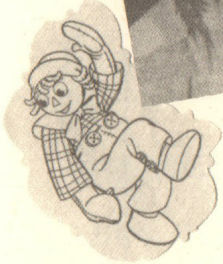
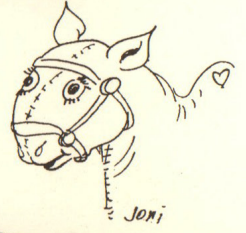
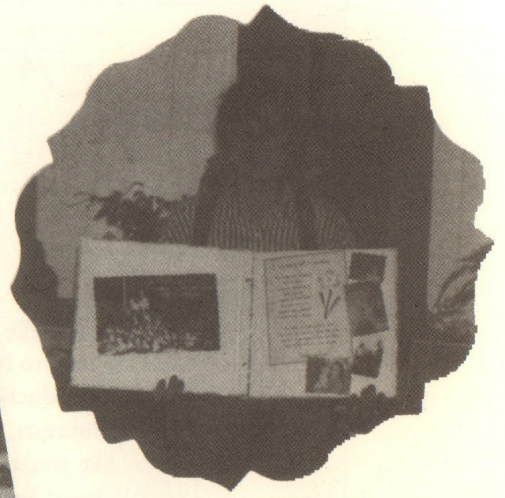
Sue's family was her world. She and Worth were as much in love as high school sweethearts. Ever spirited, enthusiastic, and loyal, Sue's devotion was to people and bringing out what made each one special.

I have many memories of Sue Gruelle, but my favorite is being on her porch overlooking the misty North Carolina mountains. When watering her many plants and flowers, she would laugh and recall some of the funny things her kids did when they were little.

Sue, we all miss you very much. But I know that, somewhere up there are some lucky little angels whom you're meeting and greeting and making feel very much at home. -- Patty Hall

Family friend & Author of Johnny Gruelle, Creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy





Raggedy Ann Fans Flock To Arcola

By Mark Lichtenwalter
 They came from New York, San Diego, Houston and Kansas City. They came from Hawaii, Puerto Rico and even from Japan. Raggedy Ann enthusiasts from around the world made the trip to Arcola last weekend for the eighth annual Raggedy Ann Festival, which organizers called the most successful yet.

This year's Raggedy Ann Festival—a tribute to Arcola native son Johnny Gruelle, creator of the universally popular Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and stories—was given an assist by Mother Nature on Saturday, when sunny skies and warm temperatures made it easy for visitors to take to the streets of Arcola.
 "Everything went smoothly. I'm sure the crowd was bigger than

we've ever had, and the weather was just perfect," said co-chair Annette Ferguson.
 Co-chair Doris Knaus said the turn-out was "beyond our expectations."
 "A lot of people came into town for the festival, and the feedback we've received from most of the vendors has been very, very positive," Knaus said.
 The festival, sponsored by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce, was well under way by 11 a.m. Saturday when the Arcola First National Bank threw its annual welcome reception and auction of Raggedy Ann merchandise.

A crowd gathered in the bank's lobby for a cookies and punch reception and the chance to purchase official Raggedy Ann dolls and watercolors. Proceeds from the auction went to the chamber's Johnny Gruelle Memorial Fund.
 On hand to meet and greet visitors at the reception were Johnny's grandchildren, Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Wannamaker—an artist who created the Raggedy Ann watercolors—and other members of the Gruelle family.
 Kim Gruelle welcomed visitors to the reception, noting he always enjoys coming to Arcola, "the most wonderful small town in the whole, wide world."

Upper Left: Kim and Joni sign autographs at the 1997 Festival.

Circle Photo: Kim having fun.

Upper Right: Doris, Kim, Joni, Patty and Annette.

Parade Judging Results
Raggedy Ann Look Alikes: Children, 1st, Tiffany Sansone, Paris, Illinois; 2nd, Constanza China, Puerto Rico; 3rd, Brenyn Kirk, Gays, Illinois. Adults, 1st, Marlynn Snare and Judy Miller, Kansas City, Missouri; 2nd, Phyllis and Tony Nestor, Vermillion, Ohio; 3rd, Warren and Betty Thumau, St. Jacob, Illinois.
Toyland Costumes. 1st, April Sturts, Mattoon; 2nd, Leana Gull and Josh Vaultonburg, Mattoon.
Classic Vehicles. 1st, Larry Carruthers, Tuscola, 1952 Singer; 2nd, Myron Shonkwiller, Arcola, n/a; 3rd, Leroy Ramthum, Cornland, Illinois, 1965 Mustang.
Floats. 1st, Arcola Health Care Center; 2nd, French Embassy Lanes Bowling Bus; 3rd, Rockome Gardens.
Bicycles. 1st, Tanya Enyart, Arcola.
Horse & Pony. 1st, Tanya Enyart, Arcola.

1997 Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival in Amazing Arcola!



Arcola getting set for annual Raggedy Ann & Andy fest

ARCOLA — Arcola will once again celebrate favorite son Johnny Gruelle and his creations during this weekend's eighth annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival.

The two-day festival will include a parade, entertainment, a carnival, appearances by Gruelle's family, and an arts and crafts show featuring Raggedy Ann and Andy memorabilia.

The festival is sponsored by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce and will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Vendor booths, offering a variety of arts and crafts as well as food and drinks, will open Saturday at 9 a.m. Raggedy Ann collectibles will be featured in a special display in the Arcola Municipal Building.

A reception welcoming visitors

to Arcola is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Arcola First National Bank. Two of Johnny Gruelle's grandchildren, Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Wannamaker, will attend the reception, which will also feature an auction of Raggedy Ann and Andy collectibles. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Gruelle Memorial Fund.

The Gruelle granddaughters will also attend a special brunch Sunday at The French Embassy Restaurant at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are limited, but may be purchased in advance from the Arcola Chamber of Commerce by calling 1-800-336-5456.

Also planning on attending the festival is Gruelle biographer Patricia Hall. She and Ms. Gruelle and Mrs. Wannamaker will take part in a book signing from 1 p.m.

to 4 p.m. Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The Raggedy Ann Toyland Parade, featuring more than 25 entries, will march down Main Street Saturday at 3 p.m. The parade "promises a lot of Raggedy Ann and Andy look-alikes of all ages," according to Byron Bradford, executive director of the Arcola Chamber of Commerce.

Entertainment will include five performances by the Kaskasia River Dancers on Saturday. Country music artist Ashley Hart, who has performed at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, will present concerts at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. A carnival on Saturday and Sunday will include children's rides, games and a petting zoo. Tickets may be purchased during the festival.



Kim enjoys the 1997 Toyland Parade!



Shopping, Entertainment and just plain fun.

Our
edy Ann
estival



Raggedy Ann Festival A Success

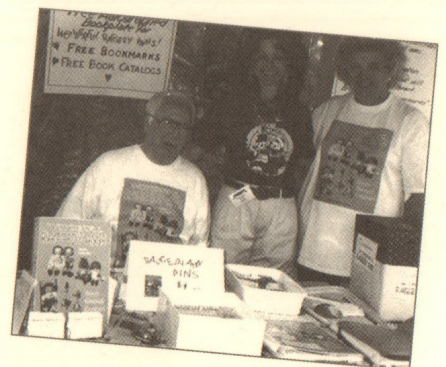
Last weekend's Arcola Raggedy Ann Festival drew some of the largest crowds in the festival's eight year history. Pictured, above, are Raggedy fans Chelsea Bumpus and Katie Cavenaugh. Below, the Arcola Health Care Center float won first place in the float competition of the Saturday's parade.

East Side of 1st, Arcola





It's Tea
Time



9th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 16-17, 1998 • Arcola, Illinois

Toby Twist's Stage

Toyland Parade

Carnival Rides

Arcola Depot:

The Johnny Gruelle Memorial
Worth & Suzanne Gruelle Memorial
Raggedy Ann Display Inside

Jonathan Pierce

Reynolds Petting Zoo

Arcola City Building:

Raggedy Collectibles
9-5 Saturday / 9-4 Sunday



Ashley Hart

Jason Jennings & The Jennings Family

Brunch at
Kaskaskia Country Club

Mr.
Steve

On the Street:
Arts & Crafts
9-5 Saturday / 9-4 Sunday

Under the Tent:
Visit Kim & Joni
Memorial: In Memory of Worth
Festival T-shirts & Souvenirs



Auction

11:30 at First National Bank



Let The Festivities Begin

■ Birthplace of Raggedy Ann & Andy Hosts Festival This Weekend

By Chris Slack
Record-Herald Editor
Arcola will celebrate its affiliation with the beloved Raggedy Ann doll by hosting the ninth annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival this Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17.

The event, sponsored by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce, is held in the downtown area on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Arcola is the birthplace of the late Johnny Gruelle, creator of the Raggedy Ann doll.

The festival includes a parade, entertainment, carnival, appearances by Mr. Gruelle's family and an arts and crafts show at the Arcola City Building that will feature Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls and memorabilia.

Saturday's parade begins at 3 p.m. near Arcola's Main Street and "promises a lot of Raggedy Ann and Andy look-alikes of all ages," according to Byron Bradford, director of the Arcola Chamber of Commerce.

The parade route will be on Locust, Jefferson, Oak and Main streets. The festival parade will have the following categories: Ann and Andy look-alikes, Toyland costumes, horse/pony, classic vehicles, antique tractors, decorated toy wagons, floats, bicycles, mini floats and unique and other.

The parade lineup will be on North Locust, with judging beginning at 2 p.m. Registration forms are available from Julia A. Woolworth, 409 E. Jefferson, Arcola.

In addition to the parade, entertainment will feature, among others, the musical talents of contemporary Christian singer Jonathan Pierce and country music artist Ashley Hart.

Clay County Amusements will be located on Oak Street across from the Depot. There will be rides for kids and adults Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets may be purchased during the festival.

■ For a complete schedule of events, see the back page of this week's Record-Herald

keys, chickens, ducks, llamas, exotic sheep, hedge hogs, Vietnamese pigs and Afrigan pygmy goats. The petting zoo will be located on Oak Street by the Arcola Depot.

At 11:30 a.m. Saturday, the Arcola 1st National Bank will be the site of an auction featuring Kim Gruelle Raggedy dolls, Joni Gruelle original watercolor artwork and a 1997 Fisher Price Toy Town Museum Raggedy Ann & Andy pulltoy.

Just prior to the auction at 11 a.m., the 1st National Bank will be the site of a welcome reception.

The sun setting on Saturday evening will not mean the activities will be concluding; in fact, the action will just start heating up. A street dance will begin at 7:30 p.m. and continue until about 10:30 p.m. DJ-Complete Music will be playing a mix of music from the 1950s to today. There will be dance contests with lots of prizes and a laser light show.

Two of Johnny Gruelle's grandchildren, Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Wannamaker, will participate in the festival's parade and are the guests of a special brunch held at the Kaskaskia Country Club in rural Arcola at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Tickets are limited and may be purchased in



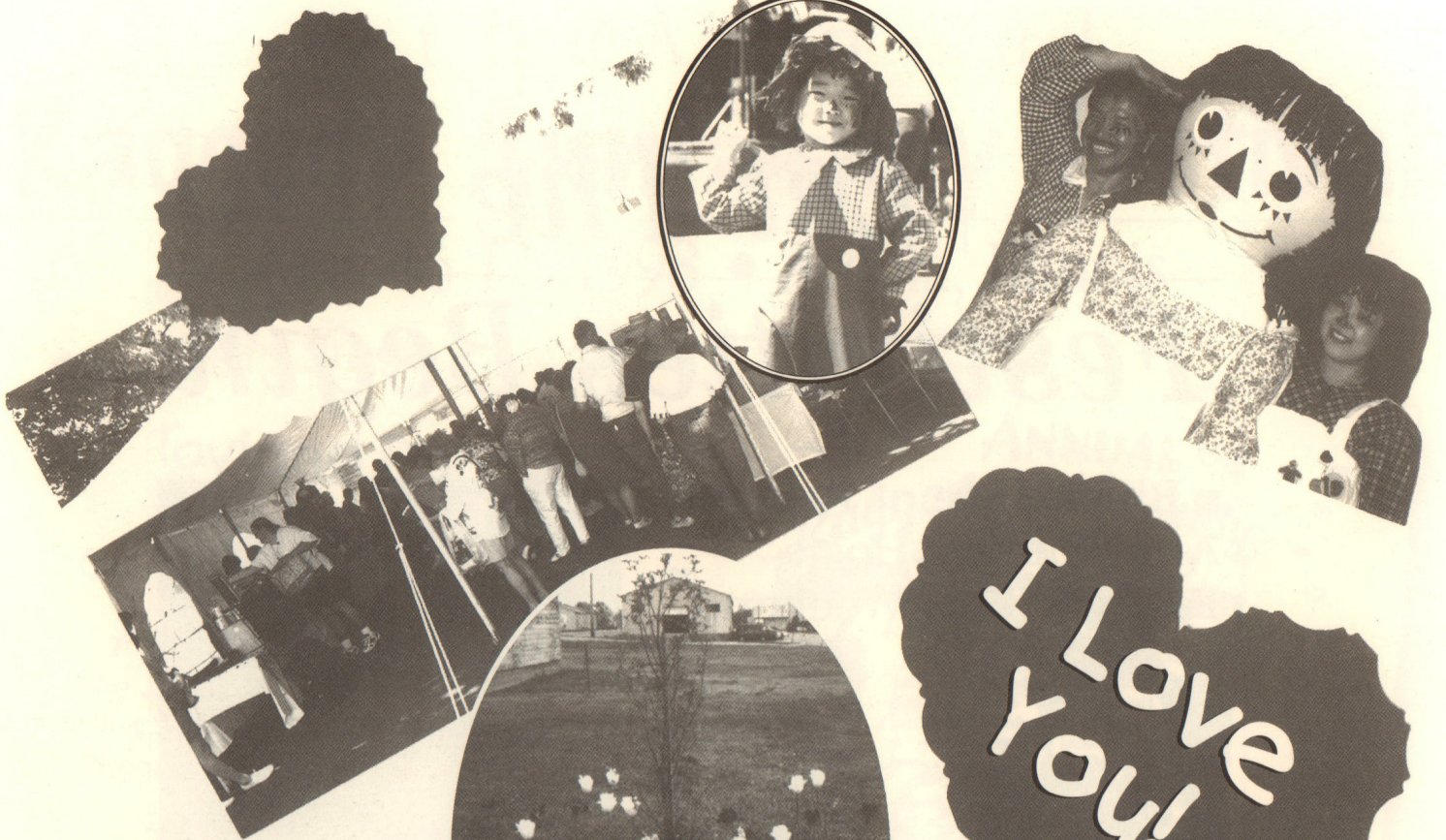
This year's Festival is in memory of Worth Gruelle.

Arcola.

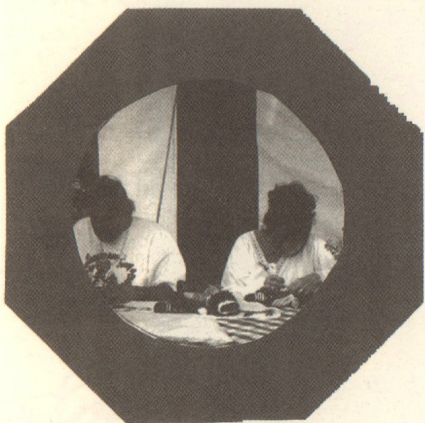
Kim Gruelle will be in the Big Tent on Locust Street. He will have Raggedy items from his shop, "The Last Great Company," for sale both days. There will be book signings Saturday at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Joni Gruelle Wannamaker will be in the Big Tent on Locust Street and will have original water color prints. There will be book signings Saturday at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

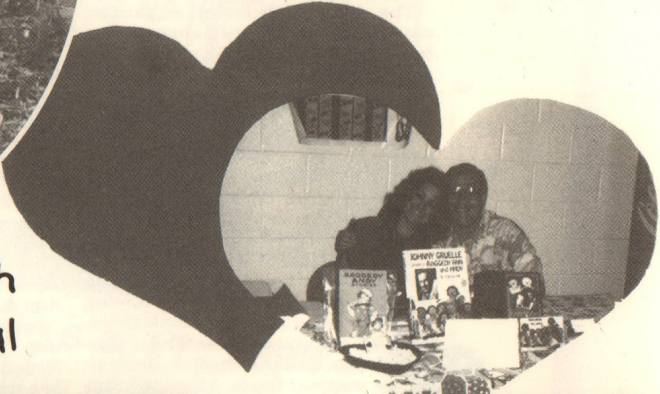
This year's festival is dedicated to the memory of Worth Gruelle, who died April 15, 1997 at the age of 84.



Suzanne & Worth Gruelle Memorial



Teamwork!



Memories of Worth



Photo by Kevin Kilhoffer

Many participants in the parade dressed the part of Raggedy Ann.

Festival-goers reflect affection for Johnny Gruelle's popular rag dolls

By Rob Stroud
Student Intern

ARCOLA — The simple rag doll Johnny Gruelle created in 1915 has gone on to win the hearts of people in his former home town of Arcola as well as the rest of the country.

The popularity of Gruelle's Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls was apparent this weekend at the Raggedy Ann & Andy festival in Arcola.

Main Street in Arcola was filled with vendors selling vintage and new Raggedy Ann and Andy items. Several adults and children dressed like the famous dolls participated in the festival's Raggedy Ann Toyland Parade.

One of the festival's featured attractions was a book signing by Patricia Hall, who wrote a book entitled, "Johnny Gruelle: Creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy."

Hall began collecting Raggedy

Ann & Andy books while in college completing her master's degree in folklore and mythology. She began researching Gruelle's life in the mid-1980s.

"Gruelle was a cartoonist. He was able to make a face that would be memorable and funny," Hall said.

Hall said Gruelle may have got the idea for Raggedy Ann in 1908 after his young daughter Marcella found an old rag doll in her grandmother's closet. Gruelle drew a heart on the doll's chest and wrote the words "I Love You" under the doll's face.

During the next few years Gruelle worked for newspapers in Cleveland and New York. Hall said Gruelle began drawing rag dolls in the background of his cartoons.

"He was finding reasons to put their likenesses in his works," Hall said. In 1915, Gruelle received a design patent for what

would be a series of Raggedy Ann books and dolls. However, Gruelle postponed his work after Marcella died from an infected vaccination shot.

Gruelle resumed his work in 1918. Hall said he may have found the writing to be a soothing way to reconnect with his daughter.

The characters Gruelle created may have helped him get over the pain of his daughter's death but they have also touched the lives of many other people.

Alison Hubbard, a vendor at the festival, said she and her husband, Bill Miller, were in Arcola for a crossstitch show seven years ago when they saw an old Raggedy Ann in an antique store.

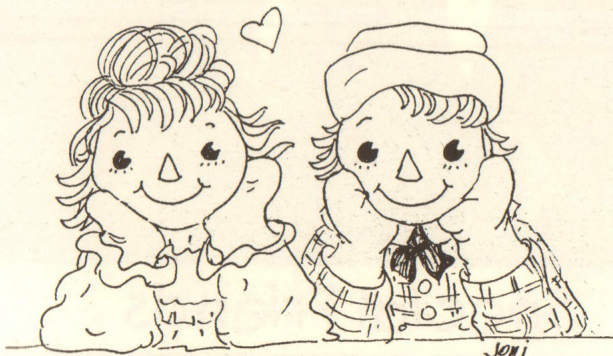
"We fell in love with her," Hubbard said. After buying the doll, Hubbard said they spent the summer buying Raggedy Ann &



Raggedy Exhibitors



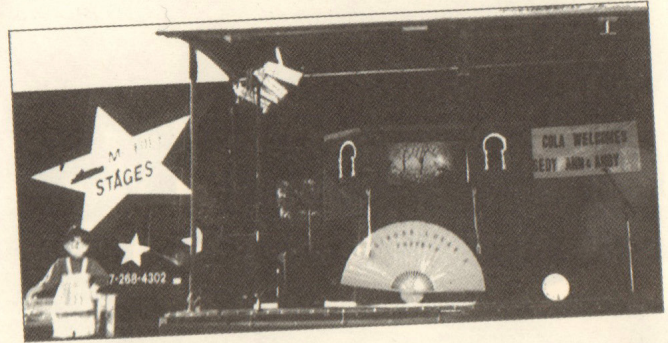
Annette, Joni & Doris





Many Fans
Enjoyed the
Entertainment ...

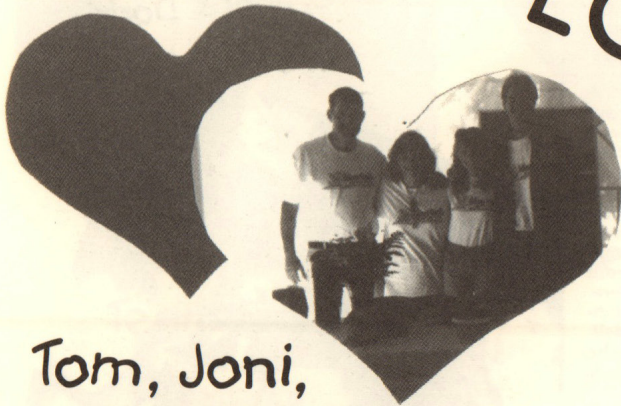
ALL



DAY



LONG



Tom, Joni,
Amy &



Cute as a
Button



Special Friends



Happy Shoppers!

Raggedy Ann & Andy Museum To Be Open For Inspection

The new Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum in downtown Arcola will give fans a sneak peek during the Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival.

The founders of the museum, Joni Gruelle and Tom Wannamaker, want to introduce the museum and solicit ideas from the thousands of loyal Raggedy Ann and Andy lovers who attend the festival. The museum will officially open at the 10th annual festival in 1999.

The Wannamakers, who presently reside in Atlanta, GA, are planning to re-locate to Arcola to run the museum.

Enthusiasts may visit the museum at 110 Main Street from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. The first floor of the unrenovated 2,000 square-foot facility will have a small temporary display of some of Johnny Gruelle's Raggedy Ann and Andy artwork, which will be on display when the museum formally opens.

Museum consultants and staff will also be available to discuss future plans and provide membership information. Visitors will be invited to complete a survey, which the founders will use to help shape exhibits, designs and program plans.

Joni Gruelle adamantly states, "We are very interested in involving the people who have loved and supported the Raggedy Ann and Andy vision for the past 50 years."

Arcola is the birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, the inventor of Raggedy Ann and Andy and a renowned artist who worked in a variety of mediums. The idea for the doll came about as an entertainment piece for Johnny Gruelle's daughter, Marcella, who later died of complications from a school vaccination.

The museum will be dedicated to the memory of Worth and Sue Gruelle. Worth was Johnny's son and carried on his artistic legacy. The museum will be operated as a nonprofit organization led by a board of directors.

Wannamaker said there will be no admission charge to the museum.



Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum founders Tom Wannamaker and Joni Gruelle.



"We'll be looking for a strong membership base as well as grant money," he said.

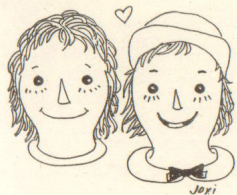
A national advisory committee is being formed to provide leadership on the exhibits and operations of the museum.

The Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum documents and celebrates the artistic and social contributions that this trio made to American popular culture and encourages future generations in their pursuit of art and the values epitomized by Raggedy Ann and friends.

"We want to be proactive in the community, not only as a collector's museum but as a children's museum as well," said Wannamaker.

Wannamaker feels the Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls are experiencing a renaissance.

"Raggedy Ann embodies unconventional love and universal acceptance, and we feel there is a renewed interest in these values," said Wannamaker.



Mother Nature In Festival's Corner

By Chris Slack
Record-Herald Editor

It can probably be said that even Mother Nature loves Raggedy Ann and Andy.

Just like 1997, the weather in central Illinois was delightful both days of the ninth annual Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival. And those attending from as far-away places as Japan were not disappointed as activities throughout the

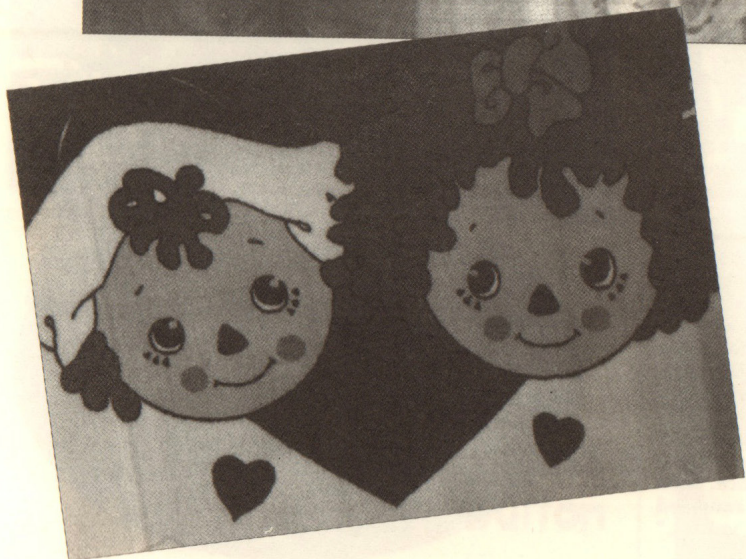
two-day event appealed to a wide variety of individuals' interests.

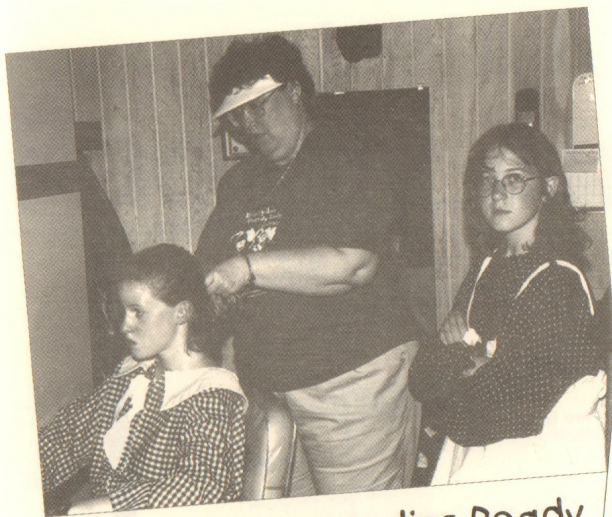
The annual festival is a tribute to Arcola native son Johnny Gruelle, creator of the universally-popular Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and stories.

Festival Co-Chair Doris Knaus said this year's event was a rousing success. While she did not have an estimate on how many attended the festival, Knaus said the two days of sunny skies and

temperatures in the 80s helped contribute to a fun-filled two days of activities.

No Raggedy Ann Festival is complete with appearances from members of the Gruelle family. This year, Kim Gruelle and Joni Gruelle Wannamaker, grandchildren to the late Worth Gruelle, were on hand both days to sign books.





Gettin' the Raggies Ready



Ruth signing at Brunch



Raggedy Ann Look Alike Winners

The top three Raggedy Ann Look-Alike winners (adult and children categories) in this year's Toyland Parade at the Ninth Annual Raggedy Ann And Andy Festival pose prior to the parade Saturday, May 16. Pictured, front row, from left, are Kyla Malletsky (third place), Tiffany Sansone (first place) and Hannah Carruthers (second place). Back row, Tony and Phyllis Nester (first place), Darlene Elrick (second place) and Mary Carruthers (third place). More photos from the festival are on pages 10 and 11.



Kim Gruelle had Raggedy items for sale from his shop, "The Last Great Company," while Joni Gruelle's original water color prints were on display.

A welcome reception at the Arthur First National Bank officially kicked off the weekend's activities, and an auction was then held at the bank. Items auctioned off were Kim Gruelle Raggedy dolls, Joni Gruelle Wannamaker original watercolor artwork and a 1997 Fisher Price Toy Town Museum Raggedy Ann & Andy pulltoy.

Throughout the two days, mainstage entertainment was provided by contemporary Christian music singer Jonathan Pierce and country music performer Ashley Hart. A puppet show and a children's entertainer were also featured, and a street dance featuring music from many different eras had festival-goers kicking up their heels on Saturday night.

A large crowd also lined Main Street for Saturday afternoon's Toyland Parade, which featured floats, Raggedy Ann Look-Alikes and the Arcola High School band, among other entries.

Julia Woolworth, parade chair, said this year's event attracted more than 50 entries (see the accompanying

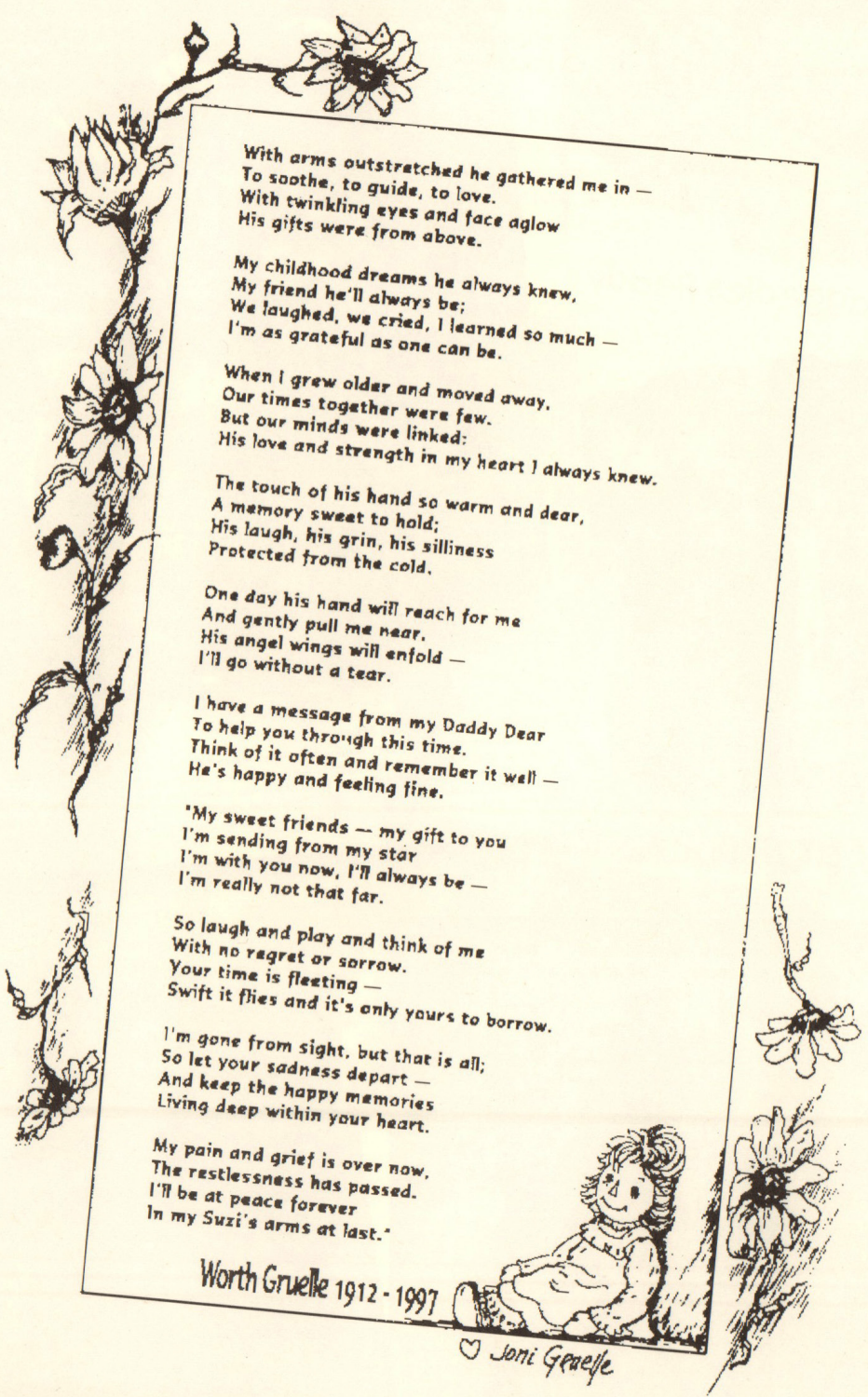
graphic for parade judging results).

Raggedy Ann and Andy enthusiasts were also given the chance to view displays that will be part of the new Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum at 110 Main St., which is scheduled to officially open at the 10th annual festival in 1999.

A small temporary display of some of Johnny Gruelle's Raggedy Ann and Andy artwork was featured. The museum documents and celebrates the artistic and social contributions that Johnny Gruelle and his son and daughter-in-law, Worth and Sue Gruelle, made to American popular culture. The museum will be dedicated to the memory of Worth and Sue Gruelle.

Joni Gruelle and her husband, Tom Wannamaker, are the founders of the museum.

The festival is sponsored each year by the Arcola Chamber of Commerce.



With arms outstretched he gathered me in —
To soothe, to guide, to love.
With twinkling eyes and face aglow
His gifts were from above.

My childhood dreams he always knew,
My friend he'll always be;
We laughed, we cried, I learned so much —
I'm as grateful as one can be.

When I grew older and moved away,
Our times together were few.
But our minds were linked:
His love and strength in my heart I always knew.

The touch of his hand so warm and dear,
A memory sweet to hold;
His laugh, his grin, his silliness
Protected from the cold.

One day his hand will reach for me
And gently pull me near,
His angel wings will enfold —
I'll go without a tear.

I have a message from my Daddy Dear
To help you through this time.
Think of it often and remember it well —
He's happy and feeling fine.

"My sweet friends — my gift to you
I'm sending from my star
I'm with you now, I'll always be —
I'm really not that far.

So laugh and play and think of me
With no regret or sorrow.
Your time is fleeting —
Swift it flies and it's only yours to borrow.

I'm gone from sight, but that is all;
So let your sadness depart —
And keep the happy memories
Living deep within your heart.

My pain and grief is over now,
The restlessness has passed.
I'll be at peace forever
In my Suzi's arms at last."

Worth Gruelle 1912 - 1997

♥ Joni Gruelle

10th Annual Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

May 22-23, 1999 • Arcola, Illinois

ALL DAY ENTERTAINMENT

Toby Twist • Reynolds Petting Zoo • Carnival Rides • Pony Rides

ARCOLA DEPOT:

Johnny Gruelle Memorial • Worth & Suzanne Gruelle Memorial
Raggedy Ann Display Inside

ARCOLA CITY BUILDING:

Raggedy Ann and Andy Collectibles

ON THE STREET:

Arts and Crafts and Food Booths

IN THE TENT:

T-Shirts, Souvenirs, Book Signing by Gruelle Family



JONI

The 10th ANNUAL Raggedy Ann & Andy FESTIVAL



*Raggedy Ann & Raggedy Andy are © TM of Simon & Schuster, Inc. & Hasbro - Playskool, Inc.

10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
Friday, May 21 ♥ 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Arcola is the Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle,
Creator of Raggedy Ann and Andy

Sponsored by Arcola Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 274 • Arcola, IL 61910 • 217-268-4530



GREG LONG

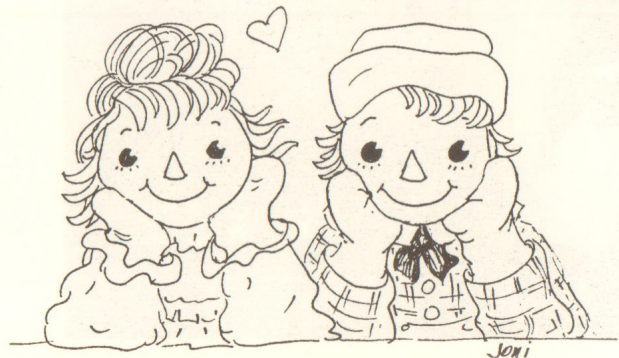
Sunday, May 23 • 1:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Contemporary Christian artist Greg Long has received a Dove Award nomination for "New Artist of the Year." He travels and sings internationally and his song "Love the Lord" finished in the number two spot on CCM's AC year-end chart for 1996. The title cut of his album, "Jesus Saves," has a rhythmic dance beat, a

grooving guitar line and some very obvious black gospel roots. Whether he is on a concert stage, ministering at a prison or in India working with Mission of Mercy (an evangelistic relief organization devoted to feeding, clothing and educating Third World children), he is focused on these two simple words: *Jesus Saves*.

"My focus on this record was wanting to zero in on the message of Christ—who He is, what He's done and what our response is to that. Some may say I'm oversimplifying it, but I think the title track says it beautifully."

In case of rain, Sunday's entertainment will be held at the Arcola High School gym.



JONI

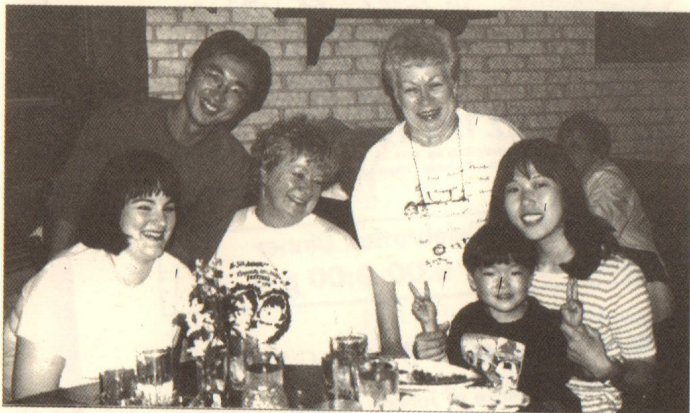
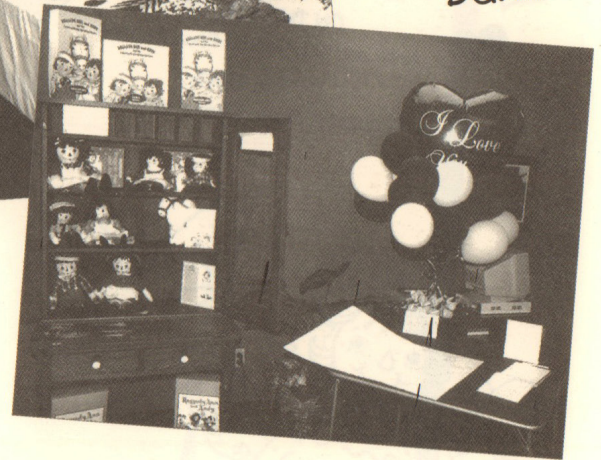
Through the Years with the ...

Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival

1990-1999 • Arcola, Illinois



Welcome Reception and Auction at First National Bank



Enjoying Brunch at Kaskaskia Country Club

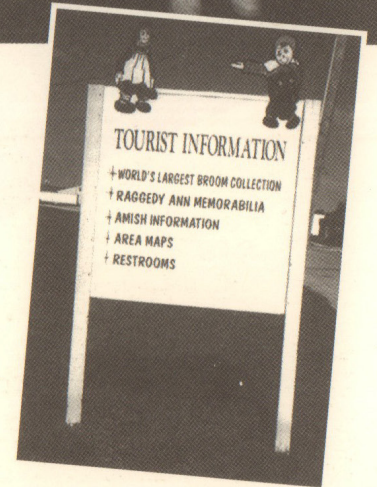


Christmas

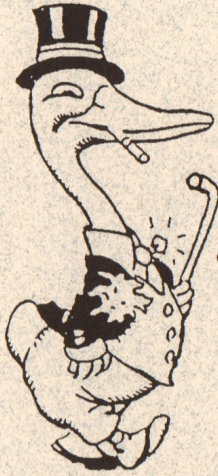


in Arcola

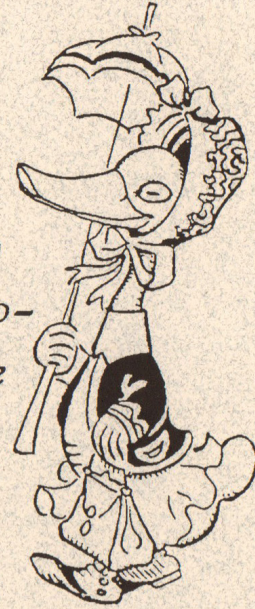
Thank You
for Caring
and
Sharing
Project!



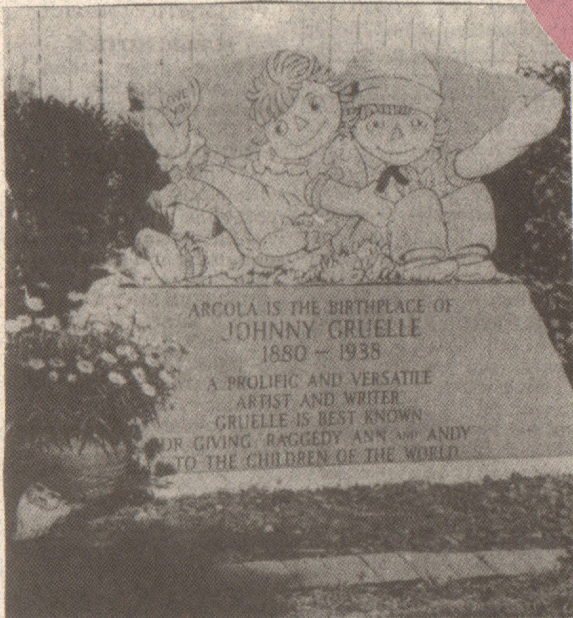
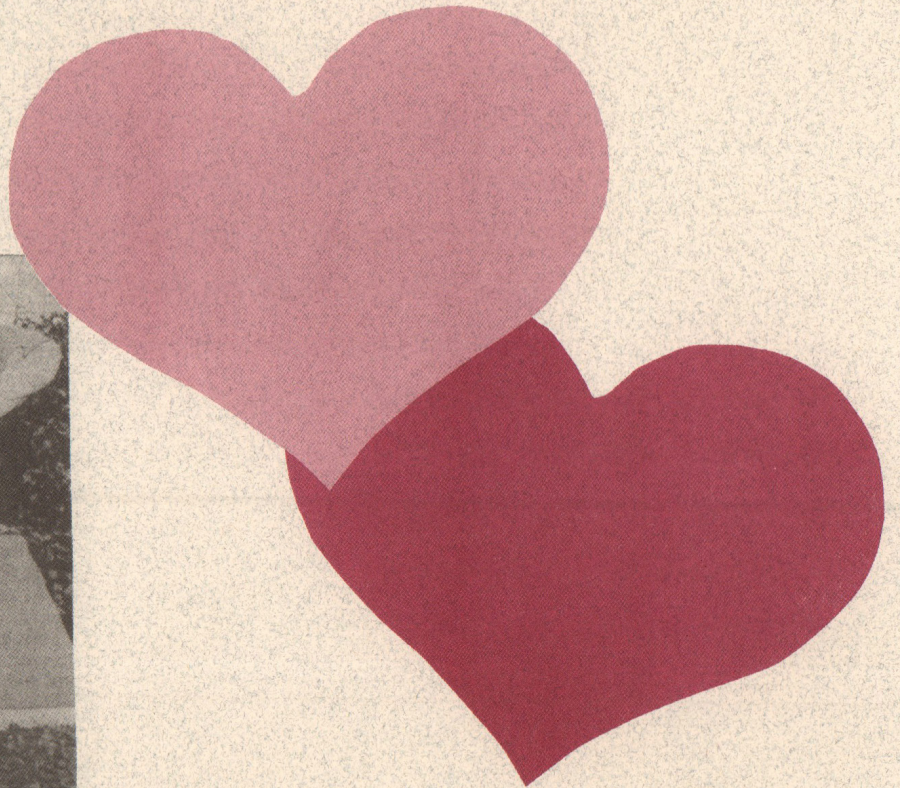
THE
GRUELLE IDEAL



*It is the Gruelle ideal
that books for children
should contain nothing to
cause fright, suggest fear, glo-
rify mischief, excuse malice
or condone cruelty. That
is why they are called*



"BOOKS GOOD FOR
CHILDREN."



This marker near the Depot recognizes Raggedy Ann and Andy creator Johnny Gruelle, who was born in Arcola.

