



~ Part 32 ~
**Reflections on a Common Theme
Festivals**

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CLOUD COUNTY

Mighty Mini-Festivals in Glasco -- by Joan Nothern

Two festivals come to mind when looking ahead to summer in Glasco. Both are tributes to enthusiastic gardeners.

The Day Lily Festival was introduced and promoted by the Glasco Garden Club leader, Irma Schwartz. Her yard on the corner of Haynes and Spaulding was framed in day lilies. She helped plant them in the park, at the churches, and in friends' yards. For several years Glasco welcomed day lily enthusiasts from all over Kansas. They toured and enjoyed the flower show, making the Glasco Day Lily Festival a midsummer destination for many years during the 1990s.

The Glasco Farmers Market was established by local producers in 2003. It did not take long to discover a seasonal bumper crop—rhubarb—the old-fashioned pie-plant was either a favorite or had never been tried. This was the perfect set up to close the rhubarb experience gap.

The First Annual Rhubarb Festival and Tasting Tea was born in 2005. Ever since, the first Friday in June has been set aside for the Annual Rhubarb Festival and Tasting Tea. Rhubarb arrives in crisps and sauces, pies and jellies, punch and ice cream. Each year a new song is written with a tribute or tale for rhubarb. The growing body of music is sung by everyone. This mini-festival is now a treasured community tradition.

OSBORNE COUNTY

Alton Chocolate Festival -- by Carolyn Williams

The first Saturday in December has become the signature time for the Alton Chocolate Festival. Commemorating Russell Stover who was born just a few miles south of Alton, we honor the chocolate he has become famous for by having a chocolate cookies contest for anyone interested in entering their favorite recipe for judging. Everyone else gets to buy a dozen or more of the delicacies.

The day progresses with games, songs, and just general fun! Alton has it all again.

ROOKS COUNTY

Damar Celebrates First Ever Le'Frog Fest -- by Roger Hrabe

The French-Canadian community of Damar has been well-known for celebrating its rich heritage. Many of the festivals have centered around St. Joseph's Church, whether it be a fundraiser or just a celebration of the church community. But a new tradition was started on September 2, 2017. Thanks to the work of a core group of residents and former residents, Damar began a new tradition with the first Le'Frog Fest. Leave it to the good people of Damar to celebrate, and at the same time make fun of what to some may appear as a derogatory term.

People, many of whom were either former residents or had ties to the community, came from many states to enjoy the new festival! Families came from Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, and of course, our great state of Kansas! The food was so good, parade was very entertaining, pickle ball tournament a success, and Mass was beautiful. The girls in the Class of '67 lead the music, and Michele Pfeifer played the organ, bingo was fun, and that was just a sample of the fun. Grand Marshall for the parade was Gene Normandin.