

Manitowoc, Herald-Times

JUL 31 1988

RICHARD HEIDEN via COUD—I

Butch Luecke.

Community braces for onslaught of visitors

ELMWOOD, Wis. (AP) — As Elmwood launches its annual UFO Days celebration, officials say publicity about a proposed landing site for spaceships could lead to more visitors of the human variety. "We've had a lot of publicity since February when the UFO Site Center was announced," said Village President Larry Feiler.

Since then, there have been more than 100 letters from people across the country asking about motel and camping accommodations, he said. But Elmwood, with a population under 800, has no motels and just a few camping sites in its village park. Some enterprising residents, however, have offered to provide overnight camping in their yards. The celebration, which begins today and runs through the weekend, will include bus tours of sites where residents reported seeing UFOs a

decade ago.

The UFO Site Center was proposed this year by a Chippewa Falls group. The center, which would be near Elmwood, would become a headquarters for the study of the phenomenon and would provide a landing pad for alien spacecraft. UFO Days organizers are not con-

nected with the site center corporation, which hopes to raise \$50 million for its project.

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'UFO Days' lands in Elmwood

by Sue Odgaard

ELMWOOD—Amid widespread rumors that representatives from three major TV networks and British Broadcasting will beam down on Elmwood's UFO Days celebration this weekend, local organizers are turning on the landing lights to draw as many area visitors as possible.

Interest in the 10th annual three-day community festival has escalated in recent months with the forming of the UFO Site Center Corp. Its founder, Tom Weber of Chippewa Falls, has targeted Elmwood as the location for a future alien landing zone.

This year's festival, to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, will see the addition of several alien-related souvenirs, bus tours to former UFO sighting spots, and an information booth located above the auditorium.

Weber said last week he has been contacted by media representatives from Europe and across the United States. He and his volunteers at the UFO Information Center will be join-

ed by Donald R. Schmitt, a UFO investigator from the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO studies in Chicago.

Elmwood's Tom Weber, no relation to the Site Center president, said his committee has purchased several new souvenir items including lighted pistols for children, T-shirts, caps, and beverage coolers.

The "Landing Linen", Elmwood's equivalent of the "Homer Hanky", will make its debut next weekend.

Meeting in Plum City last Wednesday night, members of the Pierce County Economic Development Corp. board heard a report on the UFO Days hoopla from vice-president Dolores Radtke of Elmwood.

Although PCEDC steers clear of passing judgment on the scientific merits of the Site Center Inc. project, it welcomes the publicity, according to executive director Jeff Martinka.

The line-up of events at the weekend celebration includes:

- A UFO medallion hunt beginning at 7 p.m., Friday.
- Sidewalk sales offered by Elmwood

merchants

- A splatter ball shooting contest.
 - A basketball camp and softball tournaments.
 - Pancake breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
 - Two-mile and 10K running races beginning at 8:30 a.m., Saturday.
 - A double-elimination volleyball tournament all day Saturday.
 - A 10 a.m. Kiddie Parade on Saturday followed by children's activities conducted by Bob Afdahl and members of his Elmwood wrestling squad.
 - Horseshoe and cow chip throwing contests.
 - A paper plate drop beginning at 1 p.m., Saturday.
 - An amateur talent contest at 6:30 p.m., Saturday.
 - The UFO Grand Parade beginning at 2 p.m., Sunday.
- Live music will be provided on Friday and Saturday evening and food tent items will include UFO burgers and fried chicken.

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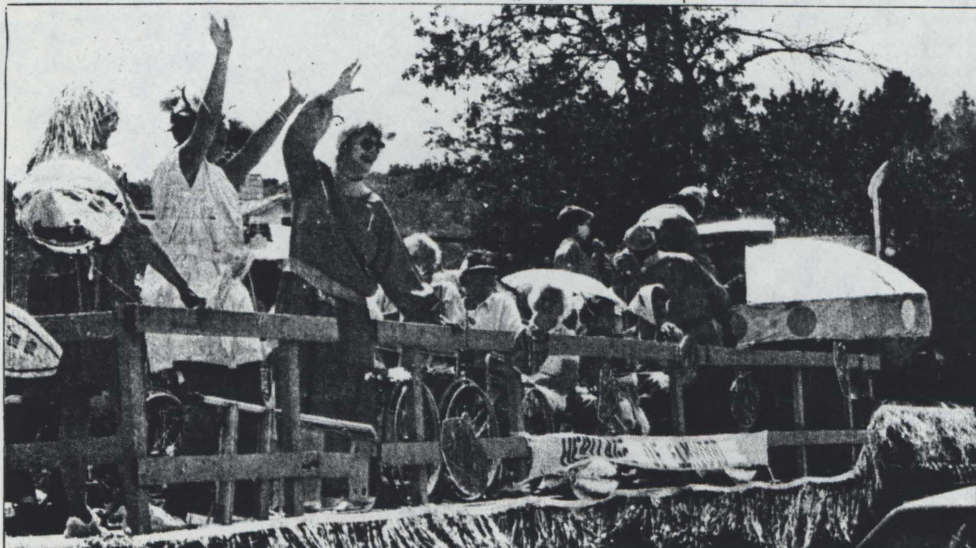


Photo by Steve Dzubay

A BIG HIT IN SUNDAY'S UFO Days parade was this flatbed truck loaded with Heritage of Elmwood residents and staffers dressed as alien visitors. While a stereo blared

music from "Star Trek", "Ghost Busters" and "The Twilight Zone", riders waved and cheered to thousands of parade-goers.

Wisconsin news

Elmwood Argus

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UFO Days Successful

The 10th annual UFO Days at Elmwood ended on Sunday, July 31, 1988.

We will have the results of all the different games and contests, hopefully, in time for next week's paper.

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