

SALUTE

to the Founding Families



Wool spinners and weavers, above, were among several craft demonstrators. At right, Charles and Joyce Sievert of Hallsville, Mo., dressed in period costumes for the barbecue.



Jeff Adams photo

By TERRY JORDAN

James P. Bass had never seen anything quite like it. "This is beautiful," said the resident of McLean, Va., as he looked out over Francis Quadrangle, dressed up nicely on this sunny Sunday afternoon. Red-and-white checkered cloths covered rows of tables, while green and yellow tents flapped gently in the breeze. Dozens of black-and-gold balloons framed a stage on the north side of Jesse Hall, from where musicians played folk songs. Whiffs of barbecue

filled the air.

The occasion June 18 was the Founding Family Barbecue and Dedication, one of the highlights of this year's Sesquicentennial Celebration and the biggest family picnic Francis Quadrangle had ever seen. The honored guests were among the more than 1,500 persons who attended the barbecue. Coming from all parts of the country, they shared a common bond, one extremely important to MU: All were descendants of the Boone County residents who pledged \$117,921.25 to establish the University in Columbia

in 1839. Of the 869 original founding families, 512 were represented.

And while the day ostensibly was designed to honor the past, it also bore testimony to the strength of MU's present and future.

"This is the first time we've been to the University, and let me tell you, we're impressed," said Bass, a retired vice president of American Airlines. He was there with his wife, Bernice, and his brother, U.S. Air Force (ret.) Col. Thomas E. Bass of Gainesville, Texas. Bass' great-great-grandfather,



Jeff Adams photo

Eli Bass, was a prominent farmer and gave \$3,000 to help establish the University. He later was selected a member of its first Board of Curators.

"We should have come here years ago," Bass said. "This is the prettiest, cleanest campus I've ever visited. And we're impressed with what we've learned about the University since we've been here—about the programs that are offered and the research that is being done. We have four grandchildren, and we're going to encourage them to come to MU."

Frances King of Kansas City wore

a ribbon boasting she was a descendant of six founders. "This is a marvelous event," said King, who attended MU in the '40s. "I've done a lot of research on my family, and I can't believe that some of them gave as much money as they did. But I'm proud they did."

Two other guests, Charles Sievert and his wife, Joyce, of Hallsville, Mo., could have been mistaken for founders. She wore an 1830s-era dress that she made herself, and he wore a custom-made,

mid-1800s suit composed of a waistcoat, knee britches and riding boots. Joyce Sievert's great-great-great-grandfather, Isaac Williams, donated \$5 toward the cause in 1839.

The Sieverts are employed at MU. "We think it's great that the University is commemorating its history in this way," Charles Sievert said. "If these people had not pledged that money, the University would be somewhere else in the state."

A bust of James S. Rollins, "the father of the University," was rededicated and placed in the lobby at Jesse

Sesquicentennial draws French art to Campus

Art on loan from the Louvre and other famous museums will be on display at MU this fall. A Sesquicentennial event, "The Art of the July Monarchy: France 1830 to 1848" will feature more than 200 paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and illustrated books. It will open in MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology in Pickard Hall Oct. 21 and continue through Dec. 3.

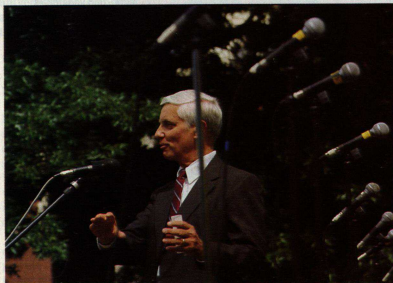
The exhibition is the first ever to focus on the art of France in the 18 years after the French Revolution of 1830. "This exhibit is 10 times larger than anything we've ever had here," says Dr. Forrest McGill, director of the museum. "This period was historically and culturally very important, yet there has never been an exhibition focusing on the events that took place during these 18 years."

McGill notes that the University was established in this same time period, and it is the first public university founded on what had originally been French territory before the Louisiana Purchase.

The exhibition has received two grants totaling \$261,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, \$10,000 in seed money from the MU Sesquicentennial committee, \$45,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts and \$25,000 from Museum Associates.

Also on the Sesquicentennial calendar is a special half-time show at the MU-Nebraska game Oct. 14. The Shelter Insurance Sesquicentennial Singers, accompanied by Marching Mizzou, will entertain fans. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Some alumni will be arriving early for meetings of the national alumni board, Jefferson Club trustees and Development Fund board Oct. 13.

—Carol Hunter



Jeff Adams photo

James P. Bass of McLean, Va., second from right in photo at far left, and members of the Bass family look over records of their lineage. Above, Judge Frank Conley of Missouri's 13th judicial circuit addresses the crowd. Left, MU faculty and staff members served the food, which included barbecued chicken, potato salad, cole slaw and watermelon.



Bob Hill photo


Hall. Rollins represented Boone County in the Missouri General Assembly in 1839 and was instrumental in the campaign to establish MU in Columbia. He also donated 220 acres of land to the University. "We're awfully proud of him," said Rollins' great-grandson, James Sidney Rollins, of Columbia. "We're awfully proud of the University and what it has accomplished. We are sure that in the next 150 years it will be even better."

Singers and musicians provided folk music through the afternoon, and potters and weavers demonstrated

their crafts from various points on the Quad. The guests dined on barbecued chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, potato chips, cookies and watermelon—all donated to the University by Country Pride, Nowell's, Backer's Chips and Central Food Stores. Mizzou employees cooked the food, and University Hospital and Clinics provided the dinnerware.

Don Haskell, director of MU's office of University events, said the barbecue was more than nine months in the planning. "We started with ads and stories in newspapers and mag-

azines, asking descendants to contact us," he says. "We thought it would be a nice thing, a proper thing, during this Sesquicentennial year to honor the families whose donations made MU possible."

Chancellor Haskell Monroe gave a brief history of the founding of MU, which included a mention of some of the most prominent families. "A family is a group that shares a common memory," he said. "I hope today is adding a precious link to those memories." 

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1839-1989