

## Origins of Oktoberfest

By Conrad Yhnell

**T**he great Bavarian national festival, where huge quantities of beer are consumed, has been transported across to the United States. It is now celebrated in many cities throughout the country.

The origin of the festival did not begin with beer, but rather with horse racing. Bavaria had fallen on hard economic times. Horse races had been stopped for a number of years, as they were considered an unjustifiable luxury. However, a horse race was proposed and approved by King Max to celebrate the forth-coming marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig to Princess Theresa on October 12, 1810. The races were held on October 17, followed by a farewell banquet where toasts were drunk by the National Guard. The field where the races occurred was named Theresa Meadows (Thereseinwiese) in honor of the Crown Princess. The present Oktoberfest is held at Thereseinwiese in Munich.

The races were such a success that it was proposed that they would become an annual event. It was not until 1818, when food booths and beer tents appeared on the scene, that the festival took on the appearance that it still has today.

Since this is a Bavarian celebration, the women wear dirndl dresses and the men wear lederhosen, green woolen jackets or coats, and hats with a bushy decoration resembling shaving brushes.

The present Oktoberfest starts in the middle of September and runs 16 days to the first Sunday in October. In the United States, Oktoberfests are held in October and the first part of November.

The festival begins with the entrance of the proprietors of the beer halls on the Thereseinwiese and the tapping of the first beer cask by the local mayor. There is great attention given to creating Gemutlichkeit, which is treasured by all Germans. Incredible quantities of Wiesnbier are downed each year along with tons of pork sausage, roast chicken, and oxen on the spit. After hours or days of heavy drinking, problems sometimes occur in the form of drunken brawls or so-called *beer corpses*, who are people so incapacitated that they have to be carried away. The Oktoberfests in this country are mild in comparison.

## Family Fun at "HOGtoberfest"

Sehr gut! It's time for another Worthog Oktoberfest Picnic and Turbo Nerf Football Challenge. You hogs who haven't had the opportunity to attend the HOGtoberfest should not miss this FAMILY get-together October 29th. There will be something to delight children of all ages.

Everyone, especially a hog, likes to eat, and as always, the club will pony up for the main courses for the feast. Y'all supply the fixin's-pot luck style. Bar-

becued tri-tips, chicken marinated in secret Worthog seasonings, and sausages make up the heart of the meal. The club will supply plastic flatware, paper plates, napkins, cups etc. We'll also have coffee and sodas for the kids and designated drivers.

HOGtoberfesters should bring appropriate homebrew or fine commercial beers to celebrate the season and share with your fellow Worthogs-**especially** with



me! Don't forget your sampling glasses, too. Should  
you for-