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## Bikers join dog mayor for Rabbit Hash fest

By **Deborah Kennedy**  
Enquirer contributor

**RABBIT HASH** - At this year's Old Timer's Day, people got a little taste of Rabbit Hash - literally.

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"It's spicy. It's got a lot of pepper in it," said Rabbit Hash resident Sue Clare, reacting to the cuisine that gave the river hamlet its name.

"And it's low-fat," added her husband, the Rabbit Hash Historic Society president, Don Clare.

The 26-year-old festival started as a potluck dinner for Rabbit Hash "old timers." In addition to the rabbit stew this year, it featured seven live music acts, a line of classic cars and, for the first time ever, a beauty contest.

"Yesterday, we only had about three or four people signed up, but I think once people start drinking some beer, we'll have a real contest," said Robert James, president of the Belleview-McVille Fire Department Boosters.

"Some men have volunteered to dress up as women. It could get scary."

Up and down Lower River Road, people strummed banjos, ate barbecue and rode or dodged the motorcycles that recently have become a Rabbit Hash staple.

"They're a nice crowd, the motorcyclists. I haven't had to shoot one yet," said Doc Baker, who divides his time between Cincinnati and Rabbit Hash.

Rose Horn, of Walton, said that even recent surgery couldn't keep her from coming to Old Timer's Day.

"I just love it. I don't think there's any place like Rabbit Hash," she said.

One of Rabbit Hash's most unusual claims to fame is its mayor, Junior, a 10-year-old Black Labrador, who could be seen resting near an antique grist mill that's owned and operated by his owner, Randy Cochran.

"He just took a swim. We don't want him shaking water on any of his constituents. That wouldn't be a good re-election policy," Cochran said.



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