

The Apalachicola Times

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Family fun Saturday in Battery Park

Times Staff Report

The overcast skies and distant roll of thunder didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm for a day of family fun and games at Battery Park in Apalachicola. Saturday, July 25. There were games for everyone, from the tiniest bean-bag thrower to the vigorous efforts of the traditional mullet toss. The park filled up early as families and kids tried out the playground equipment, and started sniffing around the food booths which offered fried mullet, shrimp jambalya, and other treats. The "Pickers and Gridders" kept the crowd tapping toes to bluegrass and country music, while kids signed up to compete for prizes in the assorted contests: cookie-stacking, crab races, mullet toss, and oyster sack races. There were ball and beanbag targets, and a "treasure hunt" pit for the little ones. The festivities officially began about 3:30 p.m. with an acapella rendition of the National Anthem by Antoinette Harris. Superintendent of Schools Brenda Galloway welcomed the crowd, and quoted a short poem which urged parents to "teach by playing with them." **City Commissioner Van Johnson, on behalf of the City of Apalachicola, the mayor, and commission, gave a welcome speech which emphasized the commitment to the goal of a safe and vibrant park sys-**



The 1908 Cadillac Horseless Carriage drew admirers of the vintage auto era.

That goal, he said, is obtainable. We need a strong sense of community, whereby we cross the lines of race, gender, age and social class to build a brighter future together. Right now, all across this nation, people just like you are coming together and making a difference in their communities," he said. Later in the afternoon, John Lee, of the Apalachicola Times, demonstrated his auctioneer's skills as he persuaded the crowd to take home the diverse items donated by area merchants. Matted photos, gift certificates, dinners and gift baskets went under the gavel to raise funds for the parks project. The fun went on all afternoon and into the evening, as the community's families joined together for what will almost surely become an annual celebration of cooperation and caring, as the second year's event demonstrated.