

Wisconsin clan gathering

By John B. O'Day III

The 1st U.S. Gathering was a great success. The Gathering was held July 6th – 9th in Madison, Wisconsin at the Marriott. We started the weekend with a nice dinner cruise on Lake Mendota. The weather was beautiful and the food, cruise and company were grand. On Friday night we had a reception with registration and an informal meeting. On Saturday some of the clan adventured into Madison for the Art Show, Farmers Market, House on The Rock and some local gardens. In the afternoon we gathered at a park for some food, music and refreshments. Ed O'Day put on a Genealogy clinic and Andy O'Day was our Auctioneer. Both did a great job. We had a fantastic response for both our silent and live Auction. There was a large selection of items. We ended our day at the park around 7:30. Many of us made our way over to the Claddagh Pub for refreshments; by night's end they were pleased with us. (I think?) Now that I think about it we made it over to the Claddagh every night. They had good food and drink. We had quite a collection of Chieftains attend. Our Hereditary Chieftain John O'Day Jr. and his wife Dame Anola O'Day, Bill O'Day, Andy O'Day, and Chieftain elect John O'Day III and our current Chieftain all the way from Australia, Sue Poole. Our attendance was at 138, which for the 1st Gathering was a great number. We saw a lot of old friends from Gatherings in Ireland and also a lot of new faces that we hope to see at the '08 Gathering in Ireland. A Thank You goes out to those who helped with the gathering, Paul, Ed, Bill, Kris, Peggy, Grady, Kelly, Lorie and Kerry O'Day, and Dan Shea. Also Thanks to Sue Poole for all she did and for just being there. Finally a special "Thank You" to the two people that have made all of this possible. John and Anola O'Day. Without them purchasing the Castle back in 1970 most of us probably never would have met. Thanks Mom and Dad. I hope that all who attended had a memorable time, made some new friends and caught up with some old ones.

Thanks, John O'Day III

P.S. The Auction was a great success. With the auction, registration and T-shirt sales we made over \$2000.00 for the Castle maintenance fund. Thanks to all who provided items and to those who bought them.

There are T-shirts available at a reduced price of \$8.00 each plus shipping. I only have large sizes left. If interested e-mail me at joday@wvcp.com.



Some of the O'Days and Days at Madison:
Photo submitted by Anne O'Day, Illinois.