

# Photo of the Month

## Ozark Golden Wedding Jubilee



On June 16, 1950, 117 couples married 50 or more years affirmed their vows on the steps of the Harris Hotel in the second Ozark Golden Wedding Jubilee. (Negative #N008945)

In 1949 and 1950 the City of Rogers paid a very special salute to couples married for 50 years or more. Called the "Ozark Golden Wedding Jubilee," the event was sponsored by the Rogers Chamber of Commerce and was held for the first time on June 23, 1949.

On that date, 78 couples were brought together on the steps of the Harris Hotel (now Peachtree at the Lane) to reaffirm their wedding vows. Couples from as far away as Texas and Iowa attended the ceremony, local businesses closed during the event, and hundreds of spectators lined the street to see the Rev. J.H. Martin lead the participants through the vows.

After the ceremony, a parade featuring about 100 vehicles made its way through the business district to the Lakeside Roller Rink, where a reception honored the participants. A three-section wedding cake designed and baked by Webster's bakery (owned by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Webster of the House of Webster) was served at the reception.

The Jubilee was judged an overall success and was repeated the next year.

In 1950, 117 couples gathered on the Harris Hotel steps to reaffirm their vows. Once again Roy Webster's bakery served up a cake, this one weighing 800 pounds. If the Jubilee was repeated again, no record of that fact remains in the Museum's research files. But the event certainly was a memorable one, both for the participants and for this community.