

There's Always Time for Celebration

PEOPLE love celebrations. Almost any occasion, event, memory or circumstance may be used for a celebration, which might mean a day longer respite from work and a lot of fun.

Religious celebrations may have led the way in significance and pageantry, with patriotic occasions a close second. Harvests, victories, family heritages, hobbies, music, hard times and prosperity all have been among reasons for taking time to celebrate.

A national magazine estimates at least 100 million Americans take part regularly in homemade arts and crafts, with a large part of them, plus spectators, attending celebrations annually.

The thing most commonly celebrated, however, seems to be the passage of time. Young parents may note the days and weeks of their offspring before they reach an anniversary. People continue to count (or miscount) the anniversaries of their lives ever after.

Long ago we read of an individual

who was celebrating the first 25,000 days of his life. That seemed to be an interesting idea and we intended to do likewise, but somehow overlooked it.

Six years ago the United States celebrated our bicentennial as a nation. Another bicentennial celebration is just ahead — that of the U.S. constitution, which will be 200 years old in 1987.

We Oklahomans are celebrating our semi-sesquicentennial of statehood. The commission in charge, not being given to sesquipedalianism (use of long words), wisely called it the Diamond Jubilee.

Before this celebration has reached its climax our attention is being directed toward the coming celebration of the Centennial of the Run of 1889. Plans call for a world's fair in Oklahoma City that could attract more visitors than there were people in both Oklahmoa Territory and Indian Territory a century ago.

Then in the year 2000 we may be able to celebrate the bimillenia of the birth of Christ, even though an error may have thrown calendar

time off five or six years. Of course, this was not the beginning of time, the origin of which is a matter of considerable debate among scientists, evolutionists and religionists.

Scientists speak of the passage of millions or billions of years gone by, basing their ideas upon theoretical assumptions. Religionists speak just as positively of eternity, basing their concepts upon faith handed down through the ages.

Ordinary people regard time as a real, instead of abstract thing, something which may be used, wasted, bought, sold, enjoyed, endured and perhaps most of all, celebrated.

Scientists theorize that if one could travel faster than the speed of light, time actually would run backward. They speculate that if an astronaut could go on a trip at such speeds he could return the day before he left.

Some of them think we may be close to that possibility. If it ever happens, somebody probably will arrange for a celebration of the time, which might be over before it begins.