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THE FAREWELL PARTY HELD RECENTLY AT CITY PARK FOR DR. LORAIN FROST, retiring Iowa City pediatrician, was remarkable not only for the joy it brought to the honoree but for the exhilaration and "good thoughts" generated within the sponsoring committee in four months of planning for the event.

The group of three or four mothers that first put their heads together last May with the thought of organizing a suitable tribute to Dr. Frost gradually came to be tripled in size, and everyone had good ideas to contribute at committee meetings held throughout the summer.

As a result of all this energetic collaboration, some 900 people (adults and many, many children) appeared at the park on Sunday, Sept. 7, and observers were particularly impressed at the smoothness with which everything was carried out, considering the size of the gathering. "You would have thought it was rehearsed!" Dr. Frost later remarked.

Sharing honors at the party was Helen Billick, who has been Dr. Frost's right-hand woman during 23 of her 25 years of practice. "You can't help but think of them as a team," notes a member of one of the retiring physician's many devoted families.

Mrs. Billick's role has been that of counselor to patients; she has provided a dependable, reassuring liaison between the mothers and the doctor. Dr. Frost cites in particular her "talent for working with people."

Paying tribute to her longtime employe as "far more than a receptionist," Dr. Frost quipped to people at the party, "If you had to choose between us, many of you would know whom to choose!" Her implication was that the balance would swing in Mrs. Billick's favor.

A highlight of the party was presentation to Dr. Frost of a Stan Haring painting of her offices at 565 East College Street.

There was also a delightful clothesline art show featuring the original works of Dr. Frost's small patients — everything from the scribbles and fingerpaintings of two- and three-year-olds to more sophisticated and artistic things done by older youngsters.

A poster done by Sarah Jane Boyd showing children in various stages of development proclaimed, "We love you, Dr. Frost and Helen."

Since it won't be feasible to save and display all these wonderful works including a picture of a whale at least four feet long! Dr. Frost has recorded it all on film to be treasured in years to come.

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Another precious memento will be a leather folio containing pictures of about 350 former patients. The committee hadn't quite finished compiling this day of the party, but it should be complete soon.

Although Dr. Frost disclaims any specific plans for her retirement years, she says she still maintains a keen professional interest in such projects as the Mental Retardation Group, Headstart and the Visiting Nurse Association, and anticipates continuing to contribute to these programs in some way.

Dr. Frost and Dr. Lois Boulware have sold their East College Street home but will continue to reside in Iowa City, spending the summers at their Canadian retreat on the French River, 200 miles north of Toronto. Says Dr. Frost, wistfully, "I've been waiting 30 years for next year, when I can stay there ALL SUMMER."

The spontaneity of the City Park party was one of its greatest attributes. Everything was done by word of mouth — no formal invitations were issued — so anyone who missed out just hadn't heard what was afoot. And probably the greatest compliment of all was paid by a young guest, heard to remark, "When I retire, I hope somebody does something like this for me!"

Have You Heard by Johanna Nelson Beers

Retirement celebration for Dr. Loraine Frost and Helen Billick on Sep. 7

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