



Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Kevin Noe, 11, of Morrison, Ill., watches wildlife artist Craig Carlson, of Davenport, sketch a picture of Carlson's dog during the *Quad-City Times Riverssance Festival of Fine Arts*.

Riverssance teaches Q-C kids about art

■ 2-day festival boasts painted faces, big crowds

By Lee Nelson
QUAD-CITY TIMES

She painted blonde hair, a pink hat and some brilliant blue eyes. The sketch of the Medieval princess was a catching resemblance of herself.

It was supposed to be.

The self-portrait was easy for Alisha Keckler to paint, using a mirror as her guide.

"I'm learning how to do a lot of things. This is my second day here," the 8-year-old Bettendorf girl said.

She was among hundreds of children Sunday enjoying the children's area at the *Quad-City Times Riverssance Festival of Fine Art*. The sixth annual two-day outside event was held in Davenport's Lindsay Park, overlooking the Mississippi River.

"I just love it. I got my face painted yesterday, and now I'm going to work with clay," Alisha said.

The children's area, handled by Bet-

tendorf's Center for Cultural Arts, was added three years ago to give children a chance to explore art.

"It opens their eyes to other areas, including cartooning, hat making and castle building," Doug Heimann of Bettendorf said.

He was one of several artists helping the kids with hands-on projects.

The warm sunshine brought thousands of people to browse and buy art works from leather products to sculptures.

They also got a chance to eat goodies from the new Healthy Taste vendors and to listen to singers and musicians.

"We had more people come through the gates Saturday than we did both days last year," said Larry DeVilbiss, Riverssance director for the past four years.

Attendance numbers for Sunday were not available.

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with his underwater watercolors.

"Seeing the crowd is what makes it all worthwhile," he added.

This was Liz McMahon's first year at Riverssance.

She sold oil and acrylic paintings, many depicting the quiet, calm life of sail boating.

"It's a great show. I'm definitely coming back if they'll let me," the Greenville, Wis., woman said.

"It is so beautiful up by the river."