

10,000 attend Central's annual Railroad Festival

BY GREG OLIVER
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CENTRAL — Central business owner Bobby Ballentine said the turnout for Saturday's annual Railroad Festival couldn't have been better, estimating that a crowd of about 10,000 attended the single-day event.

"You looked down the street and couldn't see anything but people," Ballentine said.

The festival, held downtown each spring to celebrate the town's railroad heritage, featured children's games, food and entertainment. Tours to historic sites ranging from the Central Heritage Museum to Collins Ole Towne to the Roller Mill were also featured.

"We received comments

ranging from 'awesome' to 'best thing we've ever seen,'" Ballentine said.

Next year, Ballentine said he would like to see the festival expand to provide additional evening entertainment as well as more train activities and layouts including train vendors.

He would also like to see the event tie in with the Heritage Quilt Trail.

Anyone with ideas or suggestions for next year's event is asked to contact the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce at (864) 654-1200.

"I can't tell you how many people said they had a wonderful time last Saturday," Ballentine said. "I haven't found anyone who didn't."

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