



DRESSED IN WESTERN GEAR and holding toy guns, Cindy Shirley (above) and her husband Patrick had some fun at the Good Samaritan Center's Hoedown Saturday night. Robert Groneweg (below) made a bid during the silent auction.



Good Sam Hoedown offers food and auction

People danced, ate, bought stuff and supported the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center at the nursing home's first Hoedown Saturday night at the Oberlin American Legion Hall.

Around 116 people attended the event, said Cindi Sloan-Sauder, resource development director for the center. Very few of those have family at the center, she added, but John and Connie Simonsson brought Amy Rehm, one of the residents.

Ms. Sauder said they decided to hold the Hoedown because they wanted to have an annual fundraising event and it seemed like something people could identify with, since it is a western theme and this is a farm-and-ranch community.

It was a successful night, she said, and the center will hold the Hoedown each year.

Before the evening, the center asked businesses to donate items for both a silent and live auction. These ranged from gift certificates to art prints to clothing.

Businesses and families were asked to become sponsors, at levels ranging from cowboy to foreman to wrangler to rancher. Table sponsors included the John and Muriel Ready Trust, The Bank, First National Bank, Flying S Partnership, R&M Service Center, Pauls Funeral Home, Rocking R, Dan and Carol Wasson, Triple S Cattle Co. and Metcalf Farms, Stanley Hardware, Ken and Janice Shobe, Culligan Water, Ward Drug Store and Lifetime Eyecare.

The prime rib, said Ms. Sauder, was cooked by Gary Walter and Ron Jansonious. Lynetta Ketterl prepared the rest of the meal.

The Hoedown brought in between \$5,000 to \$7,000 for the center, she said.

A committee will be formed to decide on how the money will be spent on projects at the center. Some possibilities include the beauty shop, activities and equipment.

Ms. Sauder said the center sold out of tickets for the Hoedown,



JAMIE SAUDER held up a horse statue which was sold during the live auction at the Hoedown.



ON THE DANCE FLOOR, Jerry Alstrom and his wife Montine danced during the Good Samaritan Center's Hoedown Saturday night at the American Legion.

so they added three tables. Those tickets sold out in 10 minutes.

It was a good evening and the center will try to have the event at the same time next year.

She said she had a talented committee to help with the planning, including Janice Shobe, co-chair; Mrs. Ketterl, food; Montine Alstrom, ticket sales and accounting; Angela Corcoran, auction; Sheena Dallmann, photography and decorations; Lisa Paulson, publicity and

decorations; Anita Hirsch, design and decorations; Lisa Davies, clean-up volunteers; and Cindy Shirley and Chris Dempewolf, programs and props.

Ms. Sauder said she was overwhelmed by the support the event received and that the Hoedown gave people a good opportunity to do something for the elderly residents, who have contributed so much to the community.