



QUEEN
SAUNDRA
COX

Benton-Franklin County
1968 PREMIUM LIST

4-H HORSE FAIR

AUGUST 17-18

FAIR and RODEO

AUGUST 22-23-24-25



2019-00-075

BENTON--FRANKLIN
FAIR BOARD



Back Row, left to right: Will Gerlitz, Benton County agent; Board Members Frank Lampson, Bernie Chapman, Mel McInturf, Secretary Ken Serier, Treasurer Jack Smith, Cliff Rasch, Ted Leon, Doyle Mathews and Gus Hokanson, Franklin County Agent.

Front Row: Ruth Simmelink, Recording Secretary; Board Members Cork Simmelink and Mary Richmond; President "Slim" Meverden; First Vice-President Kent Herron and Second Vice-President Harry "Bud" Oswalt.

1967--1968

2019-00-07

BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



W. K. Mac Cready, Harry A. Kramer, Wes P. Brown

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Evan Allstrom, Melvin Moore, Jack Williams



Attendants at the Washington
State Fair Assoc. meeting
Nov., 1967

2019-00-07

Friday, October 13, 1967

Gravel Pit Might Be Used For Tri-City Car-Racing

A gravel pit southeast of the Benton-Franklin fairgrounds next year may vibrate with the roar of grinding automobile engines.

The din would be music to the ears of a group of Tri-City auto-racing buffs, who have tried to get something going in the Tri-Cities for years. They plan to form an auto-racing association. They will meet at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Franklin County PUD.

The group wants the Benton-Franklin Fair Association to build the track.

SEEK SANCTION

Gene Wagner, temporary secretary of the association organization committee, today said his group of about 80 enthusiasts will seek sanction by NASCAR, the National Association for Stock Car Racing.

Wagner said he is "not too interested" in a 30-acre site south of Burbank offered by Ray Brock, Tri-City land promoter.

"We'd rather see a track somewhere near the Tri-Cities in Benton or Franklin county. And that gravel pit is made to order."

Ken Serier, Kennewick city attorney and member of the Benton-Franklin fair board, said he is investigating the possibility of the fair-association building the track and operating it as a money-making business.

Serier said Wagner described his plan this week to fair-board members. "And quite frankly we're interested."

Wagner said NASCAR sanction would mean controlled races for all classes of automobiles from jalopies to super racers. "But don't expect to see any rear-engine Offenhausers."

NEW CLUB

The new auto-racing club needs a track. Some local enthusiasts have been racing weekends at the Umatilla speedway near Hermiston.

But Wagner's group doesn't want to operate a track.

Why is the fair association interested?

"We need money to make improvements at the fairgrounds," said Serier. "And if we have an income from auto racing, we could sell revenue bonds to finance our improvements."

Serier said the fair association wants to build a new grandstand and install a mile or 1/2-mile track at the fairgrounds for thoroughbred horse racing and training.

"We could really beef up our fair into one of the best in Washington. And eventually some facilities at the fairgrounds could be replaced and double as a convention center."

"The counties, who provide money for the fair every year,

have tight budgets," Serier said. "We need an income to help the fair and the counties."

BRING INCOME

"And we would like to put in something that would bring an income to the fair association within a year."

Wagner said the gravel pit would make an ideal auto-racing track. "It would have to be scooped and shaped some." Serier said it could resemble the Pasco stadium, which also is a converted gravel pit.

The biggest problem of the fair board is financing. "First

we have to find out how much it would cost to build and then we have to see what the counties can afford in their budgets."

Wagner said the auto track would not include a drag-racing strip. "The drag racers have temporarily given up. . . they now want to join us and form an auto-racing association."

Wagner is being assisted by his brother, Jerry, and Fred Slothower, Kennewick, former secretary of the Atomic Racing Association, and Paul Reiland, Kennewick.

VOICE OF PEOPLE

Grandstand Needed More

DEAR EDITOR:

I hear the Benton-Franklin County Fair Board is calling for

bids to build a \$15,000-\$20,000 office building at the fair grounds. Myself and my friends are amazed at this action by the fair board at this time — when their co-sponsors of this facility (Benton County Sheriffs Posse) are desperately trying to raise funds to replace the grandstand recently lost by fire.

★

It is most bewildering to hear of the building of an office building out there when the public will have no grandstand to be seated on this summer.

I question in anger, and I say, why not use this money to help build a grandstand to service the public instead of a facility for the so-called officials of the grounds. All this smacks of a lack of co-operation between the two prime elements concerned and if they don't start working

together, I say, let the appropriate authorities make the necessary personnel changes without delay.

W. O. VAN PELT,
Kennewick

Wednesday, June 12, 1968

Fair Board OKs Project

A contract for an office and general use building was approved by the Benton-Franklin County Fair Board last night and will be sent to county commissioners for approval.

F. P. (Slim) Meverden, board chairman, said the contract would be with L and M Construction, Kennewick for about \$19,000.

The fair board will meet with

representatives of the Mounted Posse and Chamber of Commerce June 19 to discuss a possible bond issue for a multi-purpose meeting hall and grandstands at the fairgrounds.

Attending last night's meeting was W. D. Heaston, newly appointed member from Pasco, who replaced Ted Leon, who resigned.

Monday, June 17, 1968

Fair Board To Discuss Bond

A proposed bond issue for a meeting hall and a grandstand will be the topic Wednesday in a meeting of the Benton County Fair Board, the Benton County Mounted Posse, and the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in the chamber board room.

Thursday, June 13, 1968

Premium Book Ready For Fair

The 120-page premium book for the 1968 Benton-Franklin County Fair and 4-H Horse Fair is now ready.

A total of 2,500 books were printed and they can be picked up at the extension offices of the two counties or from the Chambers of Commerce.

Fair and rodeo dates are Aug. 22-25 with the 4-H horse fair Aug. 17-18.

Sunday, June 16, 1968

Tickets Available For Fair

Season tickets to the 1968 Benton-Franklin county fair are now available for commission selling by community organizations, according to Jack Smith, Kennewick, ticket chairman.

Smith said organizations can earn 25 cents for each adult or child's season ticket they sell. Organizations may pick up tickets at Kennewick National Bank.

Season tickets, good for all days of the fair, are \$2 for adults and \$1 for 4-H, FFA members and children 12 years and under.

Fair and rodeo dates are August 22-25.

Friday, June 28, 1968

Temporary Stands Due Fairgrounds

Temporary bleachers — new or old — will be purchased to provide seating at this year's Benton - Franklin County Fair and Rodeo.

This plan was unveiled last night at a special meeting of the Benton County Mounted Posse, operators of the fairgrounds.

Posse members were told a local bank agreed to loan \$8,000 to be paid back over a five-year period.

Posse President Ed Wilkerson said the terms of the loan were very good, noting the bank recognized this as an important community project.

Wilkerson said 1,500 uncovered seats will be purchased. They are similar to the portable bleachers left remaining when the covered grandstands were destroyed by fire April 13, he said.

"If adequate used seats can be found, they will be bought," he added.

He said several organizations have offered to loan some old seats, but they have not been adequate.

When will a permanent grandstand be constructed? "That depends on what kind of support we get from the community," Wilkerson said.

He noted several offers to construct a covered grandstand have been made.

"The best offer was \$40,000, but the seats were not very comfortable," he lamented.

The posse would like to construct a grandstand for next year's fair, he said, stating posse members feel obligated to the public.

He said the board probably would get together with an architect to draw up plans after this year's event.

Posse members are seeking any possible avenue to make the project financially feasible, he said.

1968

1968

Certificate of Appreciation

Ruth Simmelink

*The Benton-Franklin Fair and all the members of the
Board of Directors wish to take this means of saying*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART

in making this the most successful fair we have had to date.

BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Wes P. Brown Harry Kramer
W. K. Mac Cready

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Evan Allstrom Melvin M. Moore
Jack Williams

F. P. Meverden, *President*
Kent Herron, *First Vice-President*
Harry "Bud" Oswalt, *Second Vice-President*
Ruth Simmelink, *Secretary*
Jack Smith, *Treasurer*

MEMBERS

Dick Moore, L. Doyle Mathews, Mary Richmond, Cliff
Rasch, Melvin McInturf, Cork Simmelink, Bill Heaston,
Bernie Chapman and Frank Lampson

F. P. Meverden

Tuesday, June 4, 1963

Fair Board Decision Awaited

PROSSER — A contract to build an office-community building for the Benton-Franklin fairgrounds has not been awarded by the Benton County commissioners who are still waiting for a final recommendation from the fair board.

Bids were opened May 2 and a recommendation was made by the fair board to award the contract to the second low bidder Hanford Piping Inc., for \$19,855. Low bidder was L. & M. Sales, Inc., Pasco for \$19,726.16.

F. P. (Slim) Meverden, fair board chairman, told W. K. MacCready, commission chairman, a week ago, the fair board would like time to reconsider its original recommendation that the contract be awarded to the second low bidder.

MacCready indicated the board expects to hear from the fair board by Thursday when the commissioners are in session again.

Committee To Study Proposal

Private Money Advocated For Rebuilding Grandstand

Private financing — not a county bond issue—for rebuilding the Benton-Franklin rodeo grandstand is the only way to guarantee the Benton County Mounted Posse is not "squeezed out" of the operation.

So, F. P. (Slim) Meverden, Benton-Franklin County Fair Board, president, told members of the posse, Tri-City Chamber of Commerce and fair board last night.

He said he preferred a private lease agreement for reconstructing the grandstands destroyed by fire April 13, but no decision was made. A committee will study and report on alternate plans.

If bonds are issued by Benton County for replacing the stands, as has been suggested, the property would first have to be deeded to the coun-

ty, Meverden explained.

GROUND

That could remove the posse from operating the rodeo grounds permanently, he said.

Members of the posse agreed to work with representatives of the Tri-Cities Water Follies to look into the possibility of joint-rental of temporary bleachers for use this summer.

Ed Wilkerson, president of the posse, said a Spokane firm had set a price of \$1.25 apiece plus transportation charges for posse rental of 1,500 seats.

Joint-rental was suggested by Chamber President Keith Adams, who pointed out rental charges for the month between events would be offset by the saving in transportation costs.

Adams also suggested the posse might use the 2,000 Water Follies seats stored in Co-

lumbia Park. The posse needs about 3,000-3,500 for the rodeo grounds.

SEATING

Jim French will head a committee to investigate temporary seating and Wilkerson, the committee studying the pros and cons of the bond issue and private leasing plans for permanent seating. They will report back within two weeks.

Wilkerson said he wants the posse to continue operating the fairgrounds, but is reluctant to commit them to the \$50-60,000 required for grandstand construction.

Meverden pointed out that a bond issue, by Washington Law, would require the Fair Association to deed the ground to Benton County and operation of the rodeo would go up for bids.

"There's no guarantee the posses would make the highest bid—they could get squeezed out of the rodeo and racetrack operation after all their years of hard work," he said.

PROPERTY

The rodeo grounds are owned by the Fair Association, a private corporation organized solely to hold the rodeo grounds property.

Under the present 50-year lease, the Fair Association assigned the posse the rights to operate the grounds, both for the rodeo and the Tumbleweed racetrack.

Tuesday, July 2, 1968

Modernization In Tri-Cities

Chamber To Help Finance Government Study

The Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce will raise about \$2,333 as a one-third share of the cost of financing a study geared toward modernization of government in the Tri-Cities area.

The other two-thirds of the \$7,000 cost, \$4,667, will be sought from federal sources by the Benton-Franklin Governmental Conference. The conference is pushing the study to find ways

to improve local government.

Application is being made to the State Department of Planning and Commerce which in turn will apply to the department of housing and urban development.

Ray Elmgren, headlining the chamber's long-range planning for Benton-Franklin fairgrounds improvement, said his committee believes private means is

the best way to get a new grandstand.

Only block, Elmgren noted, is lack of a written lease agreement between owners of most of the land, the Benton-Franklin Fair Association, and the Benton County Mounted Posse. The 50-year agreement has been lost some time since it was drawn 15 years ago.

With an agreement in hand the two private associations

should be able to get private financing for needed buildings, based on their own revenue potentials, said Elmgren.

Meanwhile, the problem of this year's seating arrangement at the fairgrounds is virtually solved, Jim French told directors. The mounted posse has bought seats for 1,500 at \$5,600, will rent them to the Water Follies Association and use them for the rodeo.

Discussion of a Tri-Cities transportation study proposal got approval by chamber directors, even before the Interstate 82 location decision is made. The directors decided to endorse the plan in September and give it priority among 1969 projects.

They reasoned chamber backing of the government improvement study will absorb its attention the rest of this year.

Wednesday, June 26, 1968

TRI-CITY HERALD, PASCO, KENN EWICK, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON



The Rough Riders

Though it's only wooden these six men on a horse were off to a flying start during groundbreaking ceremonies at the Benton-Franklin Fairgrounds. Plans call for an office and service building. Riding high and whooping it up were, from left, Richard Butherus, building designer for the fair board; Ron McDonald and Paul LaPierre, L and M Sales, contractors; F. P. (Slim) Meverden, fair-board president; Ken Serier, secretary and Alfred Amon, the first fair board president, 20 years ago. The 24-by-60 steel building will be complete in 45 days, and be opened for club meetings other than at fair time.



Wednesday, July 24, 1968



Rodeo Queen Aids Banker

Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo Queen Sandra Cox gave Kennewick banker Wayne Rogers a helping hand, as Rogers tried out the saddle which will be awarded the top all-around cowboy at this year's rodeo. The saddle, made by Hamley's in Pendleton, is worth \$380

and was purchased by the Benton County Mounted Posse, sponsors of the Aug. 23-25 rodeo. It is on display at the Highlands branch of the Seattle First National Bank, where Rogers is manager. Later this week, the saddle will be moved to the Kennewick National Bank.

Thursday, July 25, 1968



SCHEDULED HERE — Western singing star Wynn Stewart has been booked for a three-day appearance during the Benton-Franklin County Fair Aug. 22-25. Stewart, a recording star for Capital records, will bring his new western band "The Tourists."

Wednesday, July 31, 1968

All Sorts Of Gadgets On Display

An exhibit trailer at the Benton-Franklin County Fair Aug. 22-25 will allow fairgoers to view some of the latest inventions.

Gadgets of every sort will be on display—courtesy of Inventor's Research and Development Co. Inc., a Boise firm working to get patents and find markets for more than 250 inventions.

Joe Balthazor, the firm's local representative, said many local inventions might be on display if patent protection can be obtained in time.

Three first-prize winning gadgets at this year's Inventor's Congress in Great Falls, Mont., are scheduled for display.

Tuesday, July 30, 1968

Grandview Show Begins 5-Fair Show

Five fairs are scheduled in the area in the next 30 days.

At Grandview, the Yakima Valley Junior Horse Fair will be July 27 and the Yakima Valley Junior Fair Aug. 14-17.

The Benton County Junior Fair will be held Aug. 8-11 at Benton City with entries due July 29.

The Benton-Franklin 4-H Horse Show is set for Aug. 17-18 at Kennewick. Entries must be in by July 26.

The Benton-Franklin County Fair will be Aug. 22-25 in Kennewick. Entry blanks are due Aug. 2. Premium books for the fair at Kennewick may be obtained at extension offices in Prosser, Kennewick and Pasco.

A flailing hoof of a startled horse or cow can be deadly, an extension agent reminded, urging parents to keep small children a safe distance back.

High Democrat Dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Margaret Price, 55, vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee since 1960, died Tuesday. Mrs. Price, a member of the committee since 1952, lived in Washington, D.C., with her husband Hickman Price Jr.

Sunday, August 4, 1968

Overseers Named For Horse Fair

Superintendents have been named for the annual Benton-Franklin County 4-H horse fair Aug. 17-18 at the Kennewick fairgrounds.

Superintendents over the 4-H light horse division are Jim Lancaster, Charles Pease, Dave Price and Robert Brown.

Junior superintendents are Margaret Surplus, Pat Jennings, Joan Rieckman, Janice Needham, Laura Amdahl, Cathy Lux, Jana Peterson, Jim

Jay, Sue Mixon, Linda Jennings, John Stredwick, Dale Heaston, Marie Cockrum and Dale Cram.

Superintendents in the 4-H and FFA herdsman's contest are Leonard Lewis and Peggy Rake.

Junior superintendents are Len Lewis and Karen Rake.

The annual 4-H horse fair is held a week prior to the main fair, Aug. 22-25.

Thursday, August 1, 1968

4-H Clubs' Exhibits Judged

Demonstration contests for 4-H clubs, a part of the Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo, were held yesterday and today in the Franklin County PUD auditorium. The demonstrations are held prior to the main fair.

Sixteen categories are listed for the judging and each contestant is allowed a maximum of 20 minutes for a demonstration. Categories include such topics as community development, arts and crafts, plant sciences, civil defense and farm safety.

Demonstrations will be held Aug. 5-7 in Benton City.

Fair and Rodeo dates are Aug. 22-25 with the 4-H horse fair scheduled Aug. 17-18 at the fairgrounds in Kennewick.

Fair Stock Entries Are Limited

Tomorrow is the final day for entries for this year's market stock sale at the Benton-Franklin County fair.

Entries are limited to 4-H Club and FFA chapter members in Benton and Franklin counties.

Qualification for livestock entries includes swine 190-240 pounds, lambs 85-120 pounds, and steers at least 800 pounds.

Exhibitors are limited to sell two market lambs, two swine and one market steer.

Entries should be mailed to the Benton-Franklin County Fair Association, Box 694, Kennewick.

The market stock sale will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23 during the Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo.

Sunday, August 4, 1968



RUTH SIMMELINK
... secretary

Tri-Cities Joins Fair Board

Ruth Simmelink, Kennewick, has been named a member of the Benton-Franklin County Fair Board and will serve as secretary of the organization.

She replaces Kenneth Scier, Kennewick, who resigned recently.

A member of the community since 1907, Mrs. Simmelink served as secretary of the Benton-Franklin Tuberculosis society for many years and was state president of the Washington State Homemakers council.

For the past six years she has served as secretary to the Kennewick and Tri-Cities Chambers of Commerce and has been recording secretary of the fair board for the past three years.

Her son, R. M. (Cork) Simmelink, Kennewick, is also a member of the fair board.

Tuesday, August 6, 1968

Fair Livestock Judges Named

Official livestock judges have been named for the Benton-Franklin County Fair Aug. 22-25.

Herald Catlin, Yakima, will judge market classes of beef and Angus breeding classes. Gary Grieb, Walla Walla, will be the judge for all beef breeding classes except Angus.

Other judges include: dairy, Stanley Maiden, Walla Walla; poultry, M. C. Hougan, Yakima; sheep, Keith Jones, Grandview; swine, Ray Meenach, Valleyford.

Tuesday, August 6, 1968

Fair Stock Overseers Are Named

Superintendents over the 4-H and FFA livestock divisions have been announced for the Benton - Franklin County Fair and Rodeo, Aug. 22-25, by F. P. (Slim) Meverden, fair board president.

Superintendents are:

Beef division—Lyman Nelson, Richland; Duane Lathim, Kahlotus; Gene O'Conner, Mesa; Jerry Van Hollebecke, Pasco; Mrs. Ed Oswald, Benton City. Junior superintendents — Dale Oswald, Kennewick; Nancy Stallings, Richland; Tom Maulden, Randy Urbach, Gary Middleton, all Pasco.

Dairy division — Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gano, Selah; Walter Peterson, Prosser. Junior superintendents — Cathy Van Blaricom, Pasco; Pat Gage, Richland.

Swine division — Frank Buckingham, Jack Taylor, Pasco; Bob Beckner, Washtucna. Junior—Jenny Harris, Pasco.

Sheep division — Jerry Manderville, Mrs. W. D. Heaston, Pasco; Mrs. Lyman Nelson, Richland; Mrs. Robert Brown, Kennewick. Junior — Melanie Heaston, Karen Berg, Pasco; Ross Crawford, Mesa; Sandy Brown, Kennewick.

Tuesday, August 6, 1968

Grange Picks Fair Theme

"Land of Fantasy" is the theme for the Grange booth contest at this year's Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo Aug. 22-25.

Separate classifications are set up for both dryland and irrigated land booths.

Booths are to be representative of the principal products of the farms in the community and are to include as many crops and products as possible.

Booth are judged on such items as general arrangement, theme, appeal, quality of produce and diversity of product varieties.

Last year's winners were Kahlotus Grange for the dryland area and Columbia Valley Grange for the irrigated area.

Eddie L. Petross is superintendent for agricultural booth displays at the fair.

Wednesday, July 7, 1968



'Queen' Wins Saddle

Saundra Cox, 1968 Benton-Franklin Fair and Rodeo queen, proved she knew the rodeo business as she won top cowgirl honors at last weekend's Junior Rodeo in West Richland. Saundra was presented a special prize saddle, in addition to winning two silver buckles. Forsaking the rodeo circuit for the role of rodeo queen, Saundra will reign over the Aug. 23-25 Benton-Franklin County affair, which will feature some of the top cowboys in the country.

Wednesday, August 7, 1968

Fair To Offer Wheat Awards

Special wheat feeding awards will go to livestock winners at the Benton-Franklin County Fair sponsored by the Benton and Franklin County Association of Wheat Growers and the Washington Wheat Growers association.

The trophies will be presented to the champion and reserve champion market steer, hog and lamb in both the 4-H and FFA divisions.

Benton-Franklin County Fair dates are Aug. 22-25 with the 4-H horse fair set for Aug. 17-18.

Wednesday, August 7, 1968

Livestock Officials Announced

Superintendents over the open class livestock departments at the Benton-Franklin county fair and rodeo, Aug. 22-25, have been announced by F. P. (Slim) Meverden, president.

Open class beef superintendents are Lyman Nelson, Duane Lathim, Gene O'Conner, Jerry Van Hollebecke and Mrs. Ed Oswald. Junior superintendents are Tom Maulden, Rany Urbach, Gary Mikkleton, Dale Oswald and Nancy Stallings.

Dairy cattle — Mr. and Mrs. Gano, Walter Peterson; junior superintendents, Cathy Van Blaricom and Pat Gage.

Open class swine — Frank Buckingham, Jack Taylor, Bob Beckner; junior superintendent, Jenny Harris.

Open class sheep—Jerry Manderville, Mrs. W. D. Heaston, Mrs. Lyman Nelson, Mrs. Robert Brown; junior superintendents, Melanie Heaston, Ross Crawford, Karen Berg, Sandy Brown.

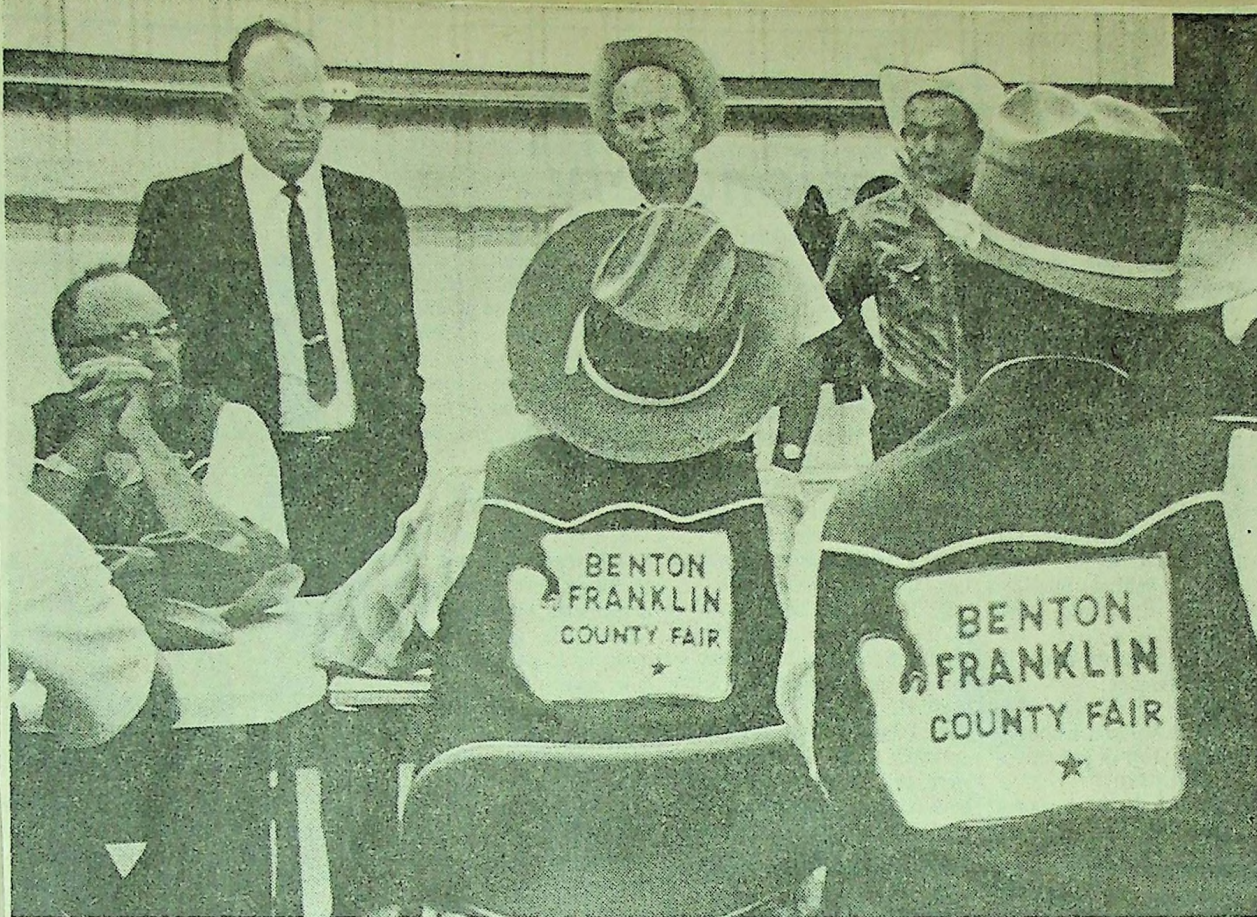
Open class poultry — Bob Brashier, Vernon Delp, Bernice Countrymen, Mrs. Joe Jackson, Sterrod Stockdale; junior superintendent, Holly Adams.

9-00-07



QUEEN SAUNDRA COX

Wednesday, August 14, 1968



Discussion was lively at a meeting of the Benton-Franklin Fair Board meeting last night, as members of the Benton County Mounted Posse proposed a new system for spectators getting into the rodeo. Standing from left were Ken

Serier, park board member, Ed Wilkerson, and Fred Schroeder, Posse members. Seated, facing the camera, was Mel McInturf, fair-board member.

Rodeo Admission Plan Rejected

By DON LIVINGSTONE
Herald Staff Writer

Benton-Franklin Fair board members last night turned down a proposal of the Benton County Mounted Posse to admit spectators to the rodeo without a fair ticket.

The posse sponsors the rodeo and automobile thrill show.

People desiring to see the rodeo must buy a ticket to get on the fairgrounds, plus a rodeo ticket. F. P. (Slim) Meverden, fair board president, said according to state law, no portion of fair gate receipts can be allocated to the rodeo.

The posse request is the result of recommendations from a three-member committee appointed by the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce.

On the committee were Ray Elmgren, a member of the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce; Ken Serier, fair board member, and Ed Wilkerson, posse board.

The posse gets all profits derived from tickets to their events and concessions on the rodeo grounds.

Meverden said one reason the posse's proposal didn't appeal to the fair board was the fact the board already had paid \$4,000 for advertising the rodeo as well as the fair.

"The fair board," Meverden said, "is more interested in keeping the fair and rodeo a package plan rather than letting it go two ways. It has been this way for 20 years."

The posse, as an enticement, proposed to pay all costs of the fair and rodeo queen court. However, the fair board made a counterproposal to pay \$500 for the expenses of the queen and her court.

The posse also proposed allowing the fair board to use the rodeo grounds without charge. The fair board's counter-proposal was to pay \$1,000 for fair activities to be held on the rodeo grounds.

The Benton County Posse leases its grounds from the Fair Association. Proposals of the fair board will be made at a meeting of the posse board, 8 p.m. today.

Weather permitting, the posse

board will meet at their rodeo site. Otherwise it will be held at the Kennewick PUD.

If proposals made by the fair board are approved by the posse season ticket prices for the fairgrounds will be \$2. Daily tickets are \$1.

The season ticket price includes the 4-H Horse Fair this

weekend, and the fair, Aug. 22-25. Tickets for the rodeo and automobile thrill show have to be purchased separately.

Meverden said the fair board will hold a special meeting Saturday at the fairgrounds to discuss the bond issue for a proposed indoor arena. No time has been set.

Friday, August 16, 1968

Fair Plans Scramble

Catch-a-calf-and-keep-it will be the object of the annual calf scramble to be held at the Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo Aug. 22-25.

The contest is open to members of the Benton County Junior Posse, Benton or Franklin county 4-H or FFA member of an agricultural group that is part of the regular school curriculum.

Contestants must have passed their 10th birthday but cannot be more than a senior in high school. Boys will be divided into three age groups and participate in each of the three rodeo shows.

To win, a boy must catch, halter and lead a calf into the winner's circle.

Winners will care for their calf as part of their animal project during the year and are to show it at the 1969 fair and rodeo.

Calves for the scramble are furnished by the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce. Dick Moore is superintendent for the calf scramble.

Rodeo shows are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the Kennewick fairground arena.

Thursday, August 8, 1968

4-H Exhibit Overseers Are Named

Superintendents in charge of 4-H exhibits at the Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo Aug. 22-25 have been announced.

4-H Food exhibits — Mrs. Wayne Thorne, Kennewick; Mrs. Glen Erwin, Richland; Mrs. Louis Treiber, Mesa; Mrs. G. Richard Black, Connell.

Junior superintendents — Karen Leewon, Connell; Vicki Thompson, Judge Campbell, Richland; Christie Goodsell, Mesa; Mary Lou Olmslead, Nancy Roseberry, Sharon Schapar, Tina Boose, Prosser; Denis Razor, Shari Lock, Judy Thorne, Becky Thompson, Kennewick.

4-H Home Improvement — Mrs. Wilford Clark, Richland. Junior superintendents — Ann Tabasinske, Myrna Mabbitt, Richland; Kathy Thompson, Connell; Debra Chase, Mesa.

4-H Clothing Exhibits — Mrs. John Robinson, Mrs. W. B. Kennelly, Mrs. Alfred Rogers, Mrs. Clair Baugh, Kennewick; Mrs. Earl Flager, Richland; Mrs. Truman Brown, Prosser.

Junior superintendents — Wendy Bohlke, Bonnie Brown, Gloria Baker, Judy Bean, Prosser; Sandy Robinson, Pam Petermann, Teresa Robinson, Kathi MacKenzie, Cindy Anderson, Wendy Adams, Karen Mensinger, Paula Rogers, Marlene Middleton, Karla Shoemaker, Kennewick; Pam Ervin, Richland; Ferral Harris, Pasco.

4-H Arts and crafts, Mrs. Beryl Watson, Kaholus; 4-H entomology, Wyatt Conc, Prosser and John Graff, Grandview.

Friday, August 9, 1968

Fair And Rodeo Chairmen Named

Committee chairmen for this year's Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo have been announced by F. P. (Slim) Mevenden, fair board president.

Chairmen include: advertising and street decorations, R. M. Simmelink; commercial display space, Henry Koch; eats and concessions and grounds, Frank Lampson; exhibit buildings, Mrs. B. D. Richmond; Mel McInturf; fair book, 4-H horse fair, Kent Herron; queen and her court, Mel McInturf; market stock sale, youth and livestock, Harry (Bud) Oswalt; posse liaison, Bernie Chapman; poultry and rabbits, Vernon Delp; tickets and gate, Jack Smith; extension advisors, Will Gerlitz, Gus Hokanson; FFA advisor, Walt Grisham.

Fair dates are Aug. 22-25 with the horse fair Aug. 17-18.

Wednesday, August 14, 1968

Milking Contest Coming

Bring your own pail, stool and cow and enter the milking contest at the Benton-Franklin county fair and rodeo.

The junior contest, for milkers under 19 years of age, will be held Aug. 22, at 5 p.m. The senior contest will be held Aug. 24, also at 5 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

The contestant obtaining the most milk by weight in two minutes of milking will be judged the winner. Cows used must be entered in a dairy class at the fair.

This is a hand-milking contest—no milking machines allowed.

Dates of the Benton Franklin fair and rodeo are Aug. 22-25 with the horse fair slated for Aug. 17-18.

Wednesday, August 14, 1968

Free Admission To Fair Granted

Complimentary admission to the Benton-Franklin County Fair will be given to those at three Tri-City nursing homes.

Members of the Pasco-Kennewick and Richland Rotary clubs will provide the transportation and escort those at Heather, Hillcrest and Hawthorne nursing homes to the fair Sunday morning, Aug. 25. The free admission is compliments of the fair association.

Fair and rodeo dates are Aug. 22-25.

Thursday, August 15, 1968

Rodeo Admission Remains Same

Benton County Mounted Posse board members last night agreed to continue for a year the plan of the Benton-Franklin Fair board for admittance of spectators to the rodeo.

Under the proposal made by the fair board, spectators desiring to see the rodeo must, first, purchase a ticket to the fairgrounds. Then they must purchase a separate rodeo ticket at their gate.

Ed Wilkerson, captain of the Posse, said, "We feel the proposal is acceptable for one year, but not for a long-range program."

Friday, August 16, 1968

Family-Day Tickets For Fair

Thursday and Friday will be reduced rate "family day" at the Benton-Franklin Fair and Carnival. Tri-City merchants are now giving away complimentary "family day" tickets to the fair and carnival.

With a merchant's ticket you can ride any ride at the carnival for 15 cents, and get into the fair for half price on Thursday and Friday.

The family day fares are good all day Thursday and until 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Fair dates are Aug. 22-25. The Tournament of Thrills will be Thursday night with three rodeos scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday, August 18, 1968

Fair Kiddies Parade To Be Held Aug. 23

The children's parade for the Benton-Franklin County fair and rodeo will be held Aug. 23, in Kennewick, according to chairman Mrs. Don Michel.

Sponsored by Kennewick Junior Women's Club, the parade will start at 10 a.m. Children will assemble at the First Methodist Church parking lot.

Route of the parade will be down Kennewick Avenue to Washington Street, Washington to First Avenue, First Avenue to Auburn Street. It will dis-

assemble at the Safeway parking lot.

"This is a shorter route than last year", Mrs. Michel said. "It was too far for some of the smaller children to walk."

Prizes will be awarded for best costumes, decorated wheels, pets, and horse and marching units in two age groups—8 and under, and 9 and over.

Entry blanks should be filled out and mailed to Mrs. Michel, 426 W. 20th Ave., Kennewick, or brought with the children the day of the parade.

CHILDREN'S PARADE ENTRY BLANK

Division _____
Name _____ Age _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Type of dress or costume _____
Organization Representing _____

Friday, August 16, 1968

Western Star To Sing Here

Eleven performances of country-and-western singing star Wynn Stewart have been scheduled at the Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo.

Stewart and his "Tourist" band will appear at 3, 7 and 10 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with two Sunday performances at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Stewart, whose best-selling record was "It's Such a Pretty World Today," will appear in a special stage area in the main fairgrounds.

Fair dates are Aug. 22-25 with three rodeo performances slated.

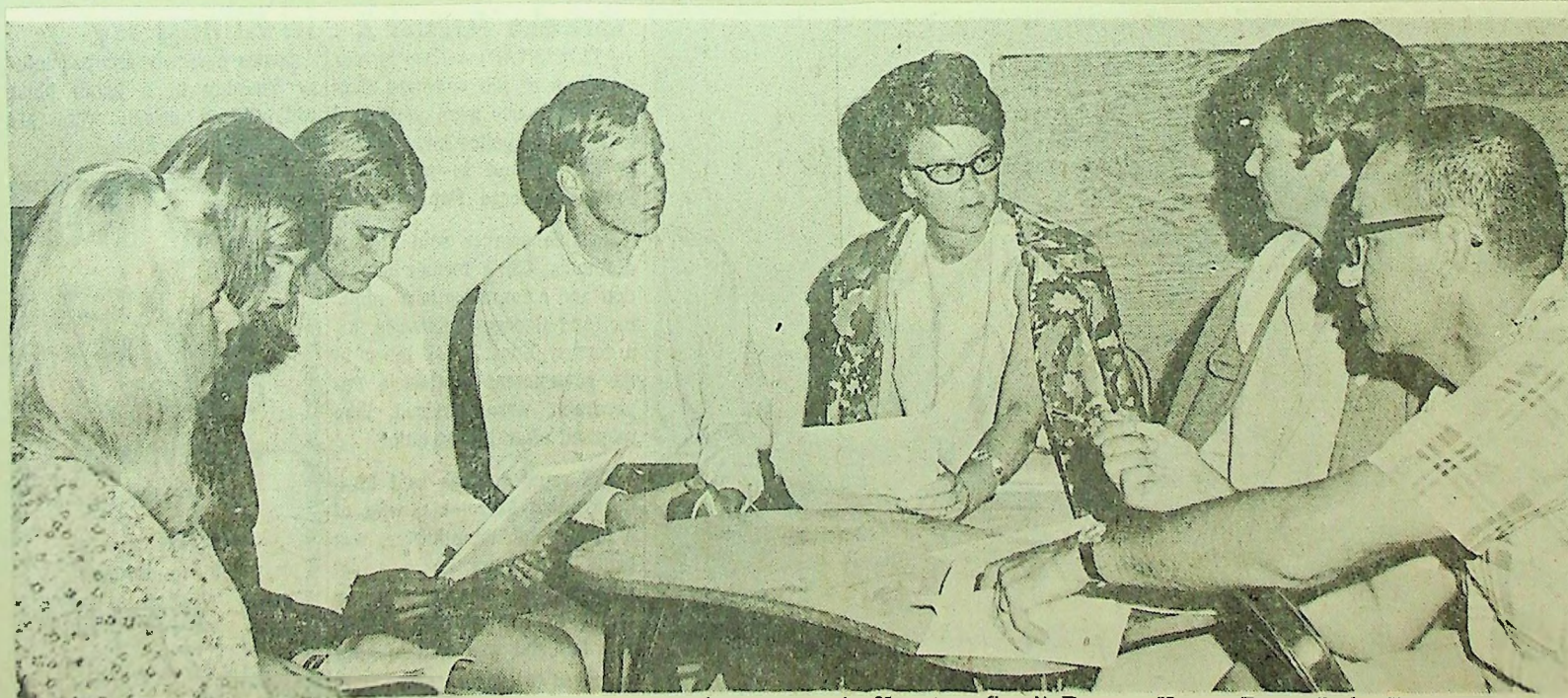
Tuesday, August 20, 1968



These are the people charged with the responsibility of staging the annual Benton-Franklin County Fair. Board members include: front row, from left, Jack Smith, treasurer; Mary Richmond, R. M. (Cork) Simmelink, Mel McInturf, Mrs. Ruth Simmelink, secretary; F. P. (Slim) Meverden, president; Cliff

Rasch. Back row: Dick Moore, Harry (Bud) Oswald, vice president; Kent Herron, vice president; Dr. W. D. Heaston, Doyle Mathews and Frank Lampson. Absent was Bernie Chapman.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



These are some of the superintendents and junior superintendents who will be in charge of the 4-H and FFA sheep on exhibit at the Benton-Franklin Fair. Clockwise, left to right, are Mel-

anie Heaston, Sandi Brown, Karen Berg, Dale Heaston, Mrs. W. D. Heaston, Mrs. Robert Brown and Jerry Manderville.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968

Fair President To Step Down After 5 Years



F. P. (SLIM) MEVERDEN

By JACK ORCHARD
Herald Staff Writer

"Some people like baseball, some people like old cars. I like fairs."

That's how F. P. (Slim) Meverden, Benton-Franklin County Fair Board president since 1963, described his enthusiasm over what some people would regard as a mere "farm celebration."

Fairs have become more than an avocation for Meverden, who will wrap up his five year tenure as board president this October. Being fair board president, he says, "is like a second career."

But Meverden wouldn't trade his interest in the fair for any other job or hobby in the world.

"I just like the fair, I like working with the clean-cut kids. I like working with a dedicated bunch such as our fair board. I like the fair atmosphere."

ENTHUSIASM

Much of Meverden's enthusiasm has been translated into ideas and hard work at improving the celebration and the fairgrounds itself.

Latest of the projects he has thrown his spry frame behind is the 3,000 seat, \$250,000 indoor all-purpose arena, which he hopes will be constructed on the grounds by 1969.

At 62, one wouldn't think Meverden could develop a small boy's enthusiasm at being around a fair. Yet his fellow workers sometimes confess "that Slim tires us out," with his myriad of suggestions for making it a better place.

Mrs. Meverden, long-ago disposed to being a fair trooper, occasionally wonders out loud, "if there is anything else on Slim's mind during late August."

FAIR FUN

Perhaps the reason Meverden has submerged himself so deeply is that he didn't discover how fun a fair could be until he was

we don't have a full-time fair manager, I'm it. . . but then I don't mind."

The job has taken its toll on him, despite the rampant enthusiasm with which he greets each fair season.

"After awhile, I think someone else should be allowed to try their plans," he said.

That time will soon come and Meverden looked wistfully into the future for some of the ideas he thinks a new president may find useful.

"Besides the indoor arena, which we definitely need, we should replace the older exhibit buildings, possibly construct a regional historical museum and maybe start on another larger business display building.

"My goal in the last couple of years has been to utilize the fairgrounds as a year-around community center. The people of this area have spent good tax money on improving that place, they should get 365 days use out of it.

"By integrating the fairgrounds with the mainstream of Tri-City recreational life, maybe we can help bridge the gap between the farm and the city."

Doing that would be taking a leaf out of Slim Meverden's own life story.

a grown man.

"I was a city boy a lot of my life. I only got interested in fairs around 1950 when I bought a half-share of Fair Association stock.

Pretty soon I was nominated for the board and somehow they got me to run that crazy calf scramble after I was elected."

"The calf scramble is the greatest thing for boys I've ever seen. I ran the thing while on the board for ten years and we had some 600 boys run after 60 calves while I supervised the show."

In 1963, Meverden's fellow fair association members voted him into the fair board presidency, a job which he welcomed with his own special vigor.

IMPROVEMENTS

Since becoming president he has seen five new buildings arise on the fairgrounds landscape, including a new fair office-meeting room. Besides the capital improvements, the board, under Meverden, has paved and grassed-in most of the formerly dirt fair and carnival area.

Aside from his efforts, the Kennewick printer and part-time "fair manager," gives most of the credit for the improvements to his fellow fair board members and to previous board presidents, Frank Lampson and J. C. Pratt.

"Pratt and Lampson had to build things like sewers and water mains out there. They literally turned a hill of rock into a useable recreation area. Not only that they left the rest of us some cash to work with.

"Now, this fair board we have is the workingest bunch I've ever seen. They're the ones with the ideas. They're the ones who make this thing go."

But even Meverden confesses there are a lot of responsibilities that fall directly on the president's shoulders. "Because

Tuesday, August 20, 1968

Many Exhibits To Mark Fair

At this year's Benton-Franklin fair, you can exhibit everything from a muscovy to an emden, from a corriedale to a brangus.

In fact, there's hardly anything that doesn't grow out of the ground, isn't seen in the farm barnyard or that you can make with your hands that can't be exhibited.

One glance will tell you the fair's 120-page premium book lists almost everything.

Some of the "brand" names, however, may not be too familiar to the casual fair-goer. A muscovy is a breed of duck, an emden is a goose, a corriedale is a sheep and a brangus is a relatively new type of beef cow that's a cross between a brahma and an Angus.

Other lesser known breeds that can be exhibited at the fair might be a silver fox or checkered giant (rabbits), toggenburg (goat), Austria white (chicken), spots (swine), or a French mandarin homing pigeon.

At the fair there are categories for quince jelly, a collection of six rocks, canned snap beans, snickerdoodles (cookies), three stalks of dill, two rutabagas, one kale, or a broom-holder or pincushion you have made.

You can also display for the judges approval a single nasturtium, an african violet, a hooked scatter rug, an embroidered quilt, 4-needle mittens, a cup cake, some fudge candy or an original sculpture.

You can enter your stamp collection, your exhibit of gems and minerals, a display of live

bees or three sections of white comb honey.

There is also a prize for the tallest stalk of corn and the tallest sunflower.

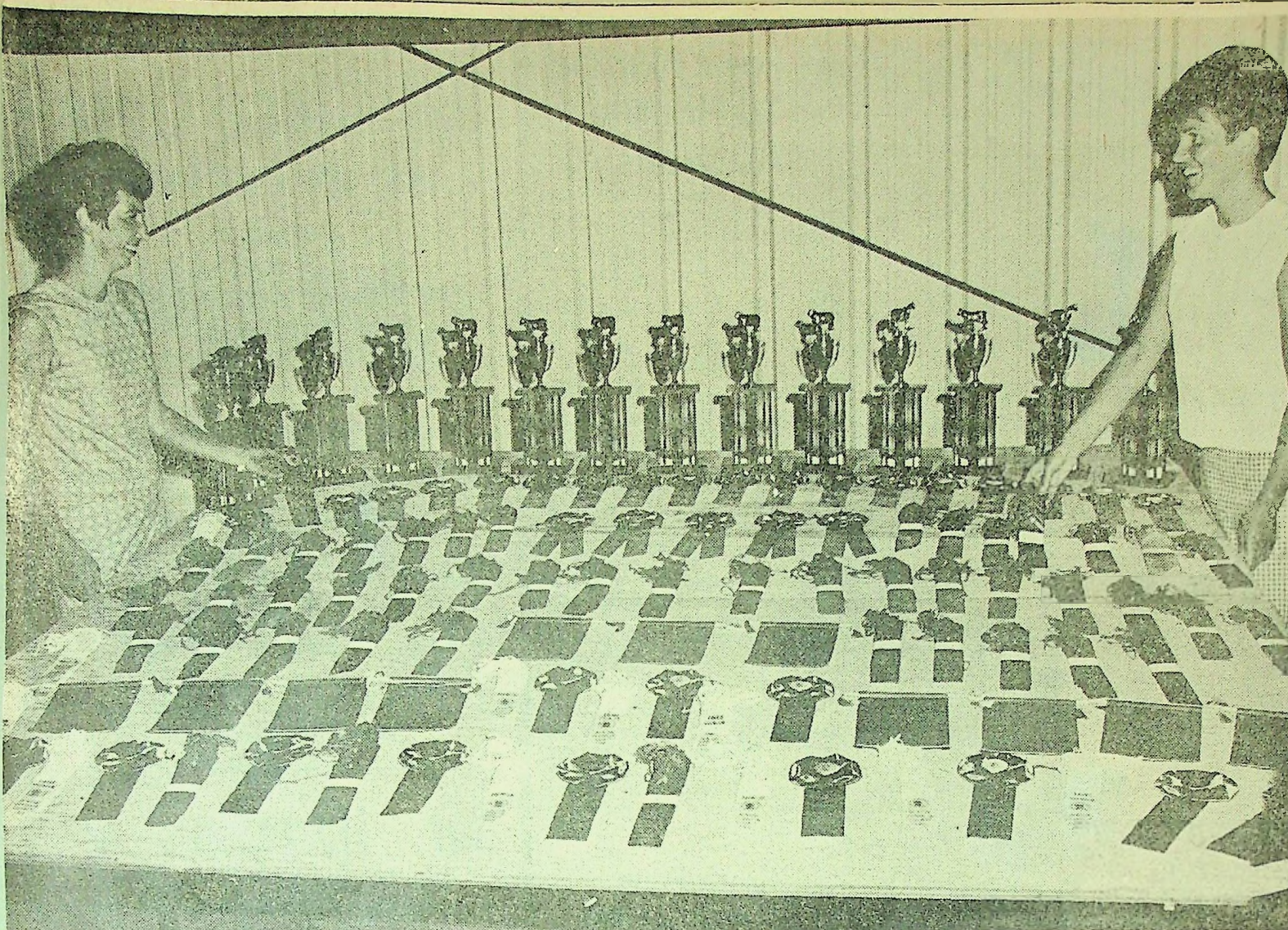
During the fair, you can show your skill at driving a tractor, training a dog, milking a cow, catching a wild calf, or identifying different types of weeds.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



Janice Needham, 18, of Kennewick, is princess of the Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lorn Needham and graduated this year from Kennewick High School. A junior 4-H

club leader, she likes riding, drawing and hiking. Janice plans to further her knowledge in the training of horses. Her quarterhorse's name is "Pancho."



Mrs. Jane Foreman, Kennewick, premium secretary, right, and Mrs. Joy Gregg, Kennewick, look over just a small portion of the some 10,000 assorted ribbons, banners and trophies that

will be awarded during the Benton-Franklin county fair and rodeo.



Going over plans for the clothing and foods displays at the Benton-Franklin county fair are these superintendents and junior superintendents: Seated, left, Mrs. C. L. Baugh, Kenne-

wick, and Tina Boast, Prosser. Standing—Mrs. Wayne Thorne, Kennewick; Ferral Harris, Pasco, and Wendy Bohlke, Prosser.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



Preparing for the "team" luncheon serving contest at this weekend's Benton-Franklin Fair were two Highlands 4-Hers and their pair of guest evaluators. The contestants were Betsy Anderson, second from left, and Lorene Larson, sitting across

from Betsy. Their "judges" were Enid Thomas, left, and Lorna Larson. The luncheon serving contest is one of the 15 food preparation competitions being held during this year's Fair.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



These superintendents and junior superintendents will oversee the beef departments and the market stock sale. Front row, left to right, are: Nancy Stallings, Richland; Kathy Turner and Sharon Hilker, both Pasco, and extension agent

Paul Friedrichsen. Second row—Ken Udelinek, Gary Middleton, Randy Urbach, all Pasco; Dale Oswalt, Kennewick, and extension agent Will Gerlitz, Prosser. Back row—Al Udlinek, Jim Rogers, both of Pasco, and Duane Lathim, Kahlotus.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968

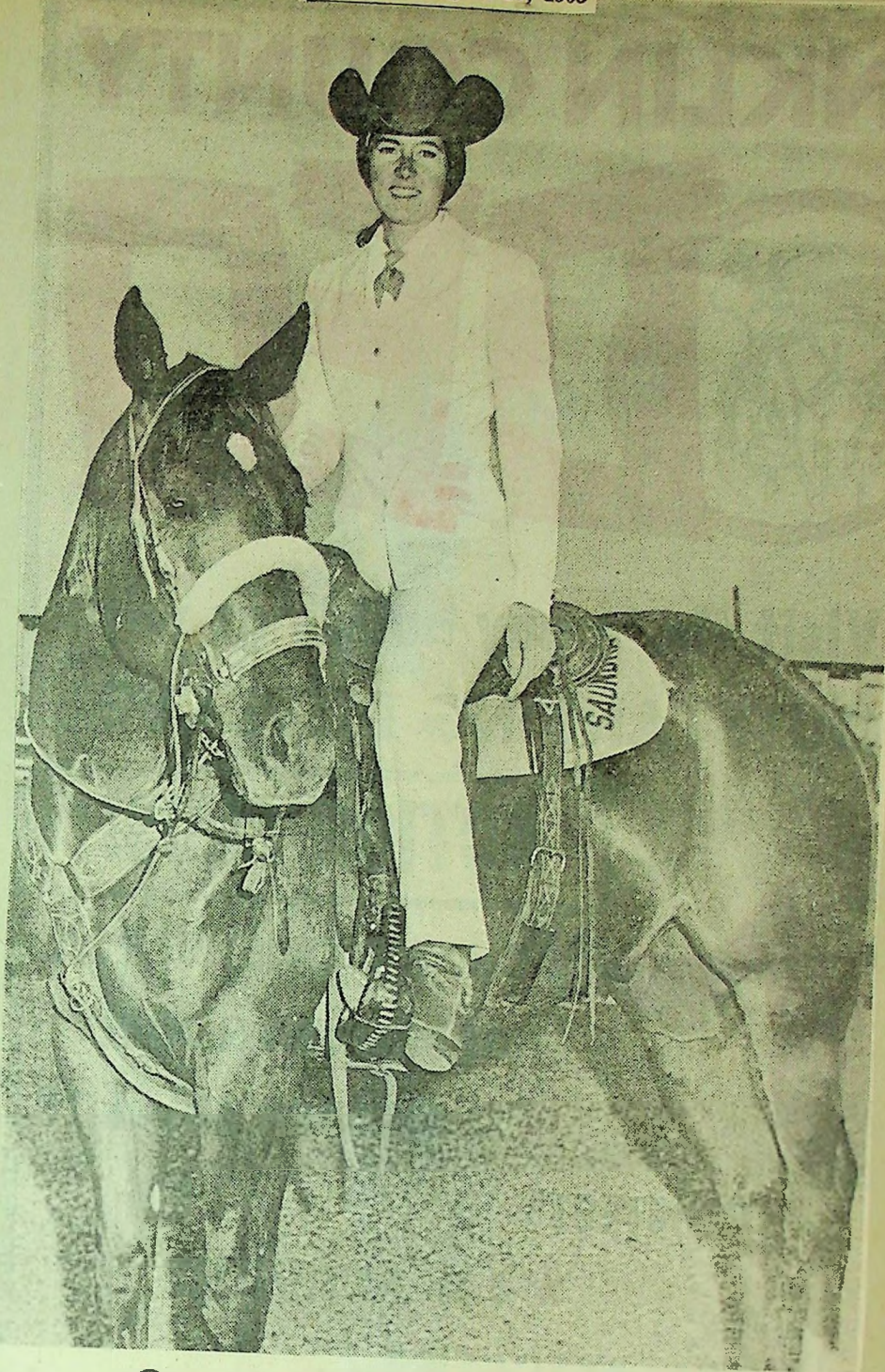


New Uniforms For Fair Board

Trying on their official uniforms are two new members of the Benton-Franklin County Fair Board, Mrs. Ruth Simmelink, Kennewick, and

Dr. W. D. Heaston, Pasco. Both were appointed to the board during the last 3 months.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



Queen Saundra Awaits

Saundra Cox, 18, of Mesa is queen of the 1968 Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo. Queen Saundra graduated in June from Connell High School and plans to attend Yakima Junior College this fall. She was a member of her school's pep club, girl's athletic association, student council, debate team, tennis team

and basketball team. She also plays the piano. She has been riding since she was a child. Her quarterhorse's name is "Copper." "Although I like all kinds of sports, horses are my first love," said Saundra. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cox.

Credit Goes To Those In Blue Hat

It won't be hard to spot a Benton-Franklin County Fair board member among the crowd of fair-goers.

They're the guys in the blue hats.

Beneath that blue hat is one of the 14 people who are responsible for making the fair go off on time and in good fashion. But their task is no one-man effort.

Fair board members work year-round maintaining, planning and improving the fair grounds. They set fair policies and cooperate with county officials in developing the fair area with new buildings and construction projects.

Their latest venture is the proposed indoor arena, which could seat some 3,000 spectators for such diverse events as horse shows and ice extravaganzas. The board hopes to build the new arena by 1969, with flooring available for concrete, wood, dirt and ice surfaces.

Election to the fair board comes by vote of the 200 fair

association stockholders. The association is a private corporation formed in 1949 to underwrite fair expenses.

To be elected to the board, one must hold stock in the fair association. Board members are elected annually, but custom usually dictates that board members are rarely replaced after one year, except by their own request.

Current president is F. P. (Slim) Meverden, who has served since 1963 and will retire this October.

Pasco presidents from 1949 on are Alfred Amon, Ken Serier, J. C. Pratt and Frank Lampson.

The Fair Association, over which the president presides, has one important function besides underwriting the fair and

electing the fair board.

The association owns the rodeo grounds. It, in turn, leases the operation of the grounds and maintenance of the grandstand to the Benton County Mounted Posse.

The Fair Association does not own the fairgrounds. The county does and the fair board operates the fair as a county function.

Likewise, the posse does not own the rodeo arena. It operates it for the fair association.

The blue hats, vests and western ties the board members wear make the group distinctive from other fair patrons. It gives spectators an easy means of identification, should they need information concerning the fair.

The board has a history of

each purchasing fair season tickets and gives out no free passes to members.

Serving as board officers for the 1968 season are Meverden, Kent Herron, first vice president and director of the horse fair; Harry (Bud) Oswalt, second vice president and director of the stock show; Ruth Simmelink, secretary; Jack Smith, treasurer and ticket manager.

Other members include, Bernice Chapman, liaison to the posse and rodeo; Lampson, grounds concessions manager; Mel McInturf, director of exhibit Building No. 3; Mrs. B. D. Richmond, director of Exhibit Buildings No. 1 and 2; Robert M. Simmelink, advertising and street decorations chairman; Cliff Rasch, Dick Moore, Bill Heaston and Doyle Mathews.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968

Today's Fair Grew From 1909 Grape Festival

By JACK ORCHARD
Herald Staff Writer

The 1909 grape crop in Kennewick did more than line the farmers' pockets. It also started a tradition.

That tradition has resulted in this week's Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo.

Grand-daddy of the modern fair was a smaller celebration started in Kennewick after the successful grape harvest of 1909.

Farmers dubbed it "The Kennewick Grape Carnival." Little did they know they had spawned one of the biggest farm festivals in the Inland Empire.

J. C. Pratt, Benton County assessor, who attended the grape festivities as a boy, recalled the early fair and the sentiment behind it.

"Everyone always wanted an annual fair."

FESTIVAL FOLDS

But wanting the fair and supporting it were two different things. After a five year run from 1909-1913, the "Grape Carnival" folded.

According to Pratt the "Grape Carnival" was revived in the late 1920's, when the farm festival was merged with city-founded "Kennewick Fair." Its home was a water-front location on the Columbia River, not far from the grain elevators and the old bridge.

But the second Kennewick-based fair was as short-lived as the first.

Depression set in on area farmers. The fair was scrapped.

The fair re-opened in 1936, with the accent switched away from farming to rodeo. The date for the event was July 4. The old rodeo grounds were situated where Kennewick High School is now located.

Kennewick pioneer, Howard Amon, set up the first rodeo. He claimed he purchased the site for \$63 owed in back taxes on the land.

Local contestants like Roscoe (Rock) Richmond, Pat Owens, Lyle Simmelink and Van Kilmer competed for the rodeo purses, small by today's standards, but as one gritty bronc rider put it, "better than the damn relief wage."

The third Kennewick fair lasted only six years, 1936-41. It was discontinued during World War II. Before shutting down, the rodeo and fair grounds were moved once again. This time to what is now Fruitland Park.

After the war, the fair was resumed. With the increased population of the area, fair attendance shot upward. For the first time, it appeared the Kennewick fair wouldn't collapse after a brief run.

The post-war event was more grown-up than its predecessors. The date was moved back into late September, to attract more exhibitors. Even Hollywood entertainment was brought to play at down-town dances. Among those, Amon recalled was the late Spike Jones and his orchestra.

In 1948, the fair took a big step to insure its continued existence. Interested area citizens formed a Benton County Fair Association.

Fair association members purchased \$25 shares to raise money for the event. Elected from their membership was the Fair board which by county authority, has governed the fair ever since.

Amon was first fair board president. The first site for the Benton County Fair was in Kee-waydin Park, where so many exhibitors showed wares that tents had to be set up to house the displays.

SITE MOVED

The following year the fair board moved the fair to its present location at Fairway and Oak Streets.

The first building on the site was a quonset hut. Later that year another building was moved in. The fair date was changed to late August.

Today's fair grounds have grown from the two building-20 acre site of 1949, to 13 buildings and 80 acres.

One memorable event associated with the 1949 fair was the four-and-a-half day filibuster by local radio personality Bud Alden, seeking funds to build Kennewick General Hospital. Alden raised some \$20,000.

Also associated with the 1949 fair was the first modern day Benton County rodeo. The rodeo was sponsored by the Benton County Mounted Posse, which has retained rodeo sponsorship the last 20 years.

It is financed separately from the fair.

After the posse took over rodeo sponsorship, they began constructing a grandstand at the rodeo grounds site. The original grandstand burned in April of this year.

At first both the fair and rodeo lost money. Debts as high as \$11,000 were incurred. But more stock was sold in the Fair Association and the financial crisis was met. Rodeo debts were off-set by increased posse membership and dues.

Sentiment for a combination

of the Benton County Fair and the Franklin County Fair became widespread in the Tri-Cities during the early 1950's. Finally in 1954 the two were merged.

As a combined effort, the double fair and rodeo annually attracted 25,000 spectators in its initial years. Attendance in the last three years has jumped to the 75,000 mark, making the bi-county show one of best-attended in Eastern Washington.

Highlight of the 1955 fair was an old-time Hatfield-McCoy beard growing contest. The hairy competition attracted nation-wide attention to the celebration.

Under the 1954 agreement, both sponsoring counties agreed to authorize the combined fair as their only county-wide fair. County funds have been used liberally to build up the fair grounds and attract exhibitors and entertainment. A bi-county Fair Board was also chartered.

A fixture at the new rodeos was stock bred by Joe Kelsey, Tonasket. Kelsey continues today, to supply wild bulls, spirited broncs and lively calves.

Several capital improvements have been made at the grounds, with the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce assisting the Fair Board in expanding the display buildings and improving the acreage.

In recent years, two major set-backs have hit the celebration. The first, in 1956, was the complete rain-out of the rodeo

program. The second was the April fire which destroyed \$40,000 worth of grandstand seating at the rodeo arena.

Despite the misfortune, the 1968 fair is predicted to be the best ever. The Mounted Posse has purchased substitute

bleachers for rodeo grounds and the entire show will go on as scheduled. This year the grand marshal will be Gov. Dan Evans, fresh from his role as keynote speaker at the Republican National Convention.

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



FAIR FLOWERS — Selecting rose specimens for entry into the flower show at the Benton-Franklin fair were Mrs. James Shivley, Norman Shivley, 11, and Mrs. Glenn Massic. Both women are members of the Rose society and the Garden Genie's club. Mrs. Shivley also is a member of the Blue Mountain Arranger's

Guild. Norman's interest stems from the fact that there is a complete junior division in both the specimen and floral arranging sections at this year's fair. Anyone may enter the competition. Flowers and arrangements are to be brought to the fair grounds from 1 to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Year-Round Fairgrounds Is Goal

The first step in the Benton-Franklin County Fair Board's program to make the fairgrounds a year-around recreation facility will be unveiled at this week's fair.

It is the \$20,000 Fair office building.

The new structure is located just to the left of the grounds' main gate, but is designed to be used separately from the rest of the fair buildings.

F. P. (Slim) Meverden, fair board president, said the build-

ing "will be open to any organization for meeting purposes, anytime of the year."

YEAR AROUND

Carrying out Meverden's pledge to use the office as a year-around meeting place, the building was constructed with the front entrance outside the fenced-in fairgrounds area. Thus entry into the grounds is not necessary for entry to the structure.

Yet, keeping with its functions as the fairground's focal point, the back entrance opens directly onto the fairgrounds. Also on the back side of the building are three windows available for paying off premiums, obtaining tickets to fair events and an information center.

The office is a 24-foot by 60-foot structure and features electric air conditioning-heat. It is the first building on the fairgrounds with climate control.

Meverden said the office would be divided into two private offices and a large meeting room. With an eye to the future, the Fair Board has reserved one of the offices for as yet unnamed full-time fair manager.

HANDLE GROUPS

The meeting room would be equipped with a large table and some 20-25 chairs to handle committee-like meeting groups. Meverden said more chairs could be added to enlarge the room's capacity.

All fair-related organizations are figured eventually to use the office as their meeting place. As wall decoration, all pictures of past Fair and Rodeo queens will be displayed in the meeting room.

At present they adorn the walls of the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce board room.

"The real use of this new office," commented Meverden, "will be made outside the fair season."

"It's going to be a community-wide meeting place and we'll be happy to let any group use it."

EXPANSION

Meverden said the office may play an important part in the ex-

pansion of the fairgrounds to a year around area recreation center.

That office, in addition to its functions as the main fair office and a meeting place, may also serve as ticket headquarters and scheduling center for our proposed new indoor arena.

The new office will get its baptismal this weekend with the premium windows and the sec-

retary's office sure to be humming.

But the building may receive another baptismal, should Gov. Dan Evans, grand marshal of the fair and rodeo parade, decide to come to the fairgrounds.

"We'll have it all set up," Meverden smiled "to give the governor the red carpet treatment if he decides to come out here after the parade."

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



It Has To Do With Seeds

All right, now lift. Bobby Countryman, 6, and Connie Rodig, 7, couldn't get a grip on this huge pumpkin entered at the Benton-Franklin County Fair, which officially starts tomorrow. The mammoth vegetable belongs to Martin Pickarski, Star Route, Mesa. How

did he get such a big one? he mentioned something about "having different kind of seeds." Bobby is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Countryman, 3404 S. Gum St., and Connie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rodig, 725 W. 27th Ave., both Kennewick.

Major Improvements Added To Fairgrounds

Several major improvements have been added to the Benton-Franklin County Fairgrounds for the 1968 season.

Most noticeable is 20 acres of grass, planted and growing throughout the carnival and infield areas of the grounds.

Formerly this acreage was a dirt and gravel area, which soon became dusty after fair patrons trooped over it.

The new grass is an extra thick variety, which grows back rapidly despite heavy foot traffic. It cost the Fair Board \$400.

The Board also planted a windbreak of trees at the southwest end of the carnival compound.

Coupled with the blacktop surfacing installed last year these improvements should make the fairgrounds a dust free place.

Another addition is a \$3,000 annex to the swine shed. Instead of being used for swine, it will be reserved for sheep exhibits.

Among other capital improvements, the Board had lighting and power supply hook-ups read-

ied for visiting campers and trailers at the south end of the grounds (furthest from the main gate).

The area primarily will house 4-H and FFA advisors, who like to remain on the fairgrounds 24 hours a day to supervise their groups' exhibits.

Two other buildings, already fixtures on the grounds, will have a new look for this year. One, the poultry exhibit building, will receive a new flooring.

The other, the former Fair office building, will be used exclusively for arts and crafts exhibits, instead of sharing space with the business office.

A possible return exhibit which may be housed in the old office building, is the Marmes man anthropological display, set up by Washington State University scientists.

F.P. (Slim) Meverden, Fair Board president said the fair will "be shooting this year for a perfect rating from the state

fair commission."

"We missed by only a few points last year," Meverden commented, "mostly because of the inadequate floor in the

poultry building. This year we expect to be right at the top, proving what everybody now realizes, that we are a superior fair celebration."

Wednesday, August 21, 1968

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



In charge of the swine exhibits at the Benton-Franklin County Fair are (left to right) Mrs.

Frank Buckingham, Jennie Harris, Frank Buckingham and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Taylor.

Wednesday, August 21, 1968

Wednesday, August 21, 1968



It's "Western Wear Week" in the Tri-Cities and Marty Mendiola, 7, Kennewick, "mounted his horse" outfitted in Western hat, boots, shirt and vest. He's ready to gallop off to the Benton-Franklin County Fair and Rodeo, being held tomorrow through Sunday at the fairgrounds in Kennewick. Marty is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mendiola, 2027 W. Fifth Ave. (Herald photo by Ralph Worsham).

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1968

Flag Raising To Honor Pratt

J. C. Pratt, Benton County assessor and past president of the Benton-Franklin fair board, and his wife will be honored at flag raising ceremonies at 9 a.m. tomorrow officially opening the Benton-Franklin fair and rodeo.

Pratt was a long-time member of the fair board and took an active part in state fair association activities.

The Boy Scouts will assist with the flag raising. Other guests will include fair and rodeo queen Sandra Cox and her princess, Janet Needham.

FAMILY DAY

Thursday will be "family day" at the fair with half-price admissions in effect for those having coupons being given away by Tri-City merchants. Other coupons will be honored for reduced rates on carnival rides.

Family day prices on admissions and carnival rides will in effect through 6 p.m.

Fair, rodeo schedule on page 6.

Friday.

Exhibit buildings will open at 11 a.m. tomorrow and will be open until 11 p.m. daily.

Thursday largely will be devoted to the judging of exhibits and livestock at the fair.

STEWART SINGS

Western singing star Wynn Stewart will make his first appearance at 3 p.m. Additional shows are slated for 7 and 10 p.m. daily.

The Benton County Mounted Posse will present the Tournament of Thrills show at 8 p.m. Thursday.

Friday's events include a tractor operators contest, kiddies parade, market stock sale and the first of three RCA-approved rodeos at 8 p.m.

Gov. Daniel Evans will be grand marshal of the grand parade at 2 p.m. Saturday.



Office For Fair

Fair board members Mary Richmond and Bud Oswald looked over the interior-floor plan of the new office building shown in the back-

ground that will be in use for the first time at this year's Benton-Franklin County Fair.

Wednesday, August 21, 1968

FAIR-RODEO SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

- 6 p.m. Entries for floriculture close.
- 7:30 p.m. Judging of floriculture.
- 8 p.m. All other entries close.
- 8:15 p.m. Livestock exhibitor, superintendent and 4-H leaders meeting.
- 11 p.m. Agriculture booths complete.
Midnight curfew.

THURSDAY

- 6 a.m. Weigh market stock (swine then sheep).
- 8:30 a.m. Horticultural exhibits and booths judged.
- 9 a.m. Official opening of fair.
- 9 a.m. Judging of 4-H and FFA dairy.
- 9 a.m. Judging of 4-H and FFA market stock (weigh market beef upon completion of judging).
- 9 a.m. 4-H and FFA poultry judging contest.
- 10 a.m. 4-H and FFA rabbit judging contest.
- 11 a.m. Exhibit buildings open.
- 11 a.m. Judging of poultry and rabbits.
- 2 p.m. 4-H and FFA fitting and showing contests.
- 3 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 5 p.m. Junior Dairy milking contest.
- 7 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 8 p.m. Tournament of Thrills-rodeo grounds.
- 10 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 11 p.m. Exhibit buildings close.
Midnight curfew.

(Family day at the fair. Reduced rates on carnival rides, fair admission half-price with coupons available from Tri-City merchants.)

FRIDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Tractor operators contest.
- 9 a.m. Judging of livestock breeding animals.
- 9 a.m. Judging open class dairy.
- 10 a.m. Kiddies Parade, Kennewick.
- 11 a.m. Exhibit buildings open.
- 1:30 p.m. Market stock sale.
- 3 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 7 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 8 p.m. Rodeo.
- 10 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 11 p.m. Exhibit buildings close.
Midnight curfew.

(Family day at the fair until 6:30 p.m. Reduced rates on carnival rides, fair admission half-price with coupons from Tri-City merchants.)

SATURDAY

- 8:45 a.m. 4-H and FFA livestock judging team registration.
- 9 a.m. 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest begins.
- 10:45 a.m. 4-H and FFA dairy judging Registration.
- 11 a.m. 4-H and FFA dairy judging contest.
- 11 a.m. Exhibit buildings open.
- 11:30 a.m. Weed identification contest.
- 2 p.m. Parade, Kennewick.
- 3 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 4 p.m. Judging contest ribbons—Fair Office.
- 5 p.m. Senior dairy milking contest.
- 7 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 8 p.m. Rodeo.
- 10 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 11 p.m. Exhibit building close.
Midnight curfew.

SUNDAY

- 11 a.m. Exhibit buildings open.
- 1 p.m. Rodeo—trophy saddle and awards.
- 1:30 p.m. Livestock exhibitor meeting—fair evaluation.
- 3 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 5 p.m. Presentation of livestock herdsman's banners.
- 6 p.m. Premium checks available at fair office.
- 6 p.m. Market stock may be removed.
- 7 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 8 p.m. All other exhibits and booths are to be removed.

Wednesday, August 21, 1968



Stock Sale Is Friday

Al Udlinek, left, and Jim Rogers, both Pasco, will be in charge of the annual market-stock sale Friday at 1:30 p.m. at the Benton-Franklin Fair. Over 200 head of beef, swine

and sheep will be sold with the money going to their 4-H and FFA youth owners. Anyone is eligible to bid and buy at the annual sale.

Wednesday, August 21, 1968



Truck Punctures Dry Well

In a dry well at the entrance of the Benton-Franklin Fairgrounds yesterday was this dump truck. Driver Ronnie Bates, Pasco, working for Matheson Sand and Gravel, Kennewick, said he was told to back up at that spot and spread dust retardant. The rear of the truck dropped

through the sand covered dry well. Teenagers, working at the fair, unloaded the five yards of dust retardant, and dug out the truck within an hour. There was no damage to the truck. A fence was then installed around the well.

Food Judging At Fair: Best Time Is In Morn



Judging can goods at Benton-Franklin County Fair was a chore because the cans and bottles are never opened. In the process of inspecting were, from left, Mrs. Wayne Thorne, Kennewick, senior food superintendent; Karen Lowen,

16, Connell, junior food superintendent, and Mrs. George Kleinbach, Cunningham, judge. Mrs. Kleinbach said she noted the coloring and how clear the food was in the jars.

By JACK ORCHARD
Herald Staff Writer
Even the sophisticated city slicker should be impressed

with quality of youth exhibits being presented at this year's Benton-Franklin County Fair.

The tip-off was given yesterday by the home-economics judges who called the young people's fair project, "one of the best groups in a long time."

Many took an extra bite of cookie or a second look at a hand-made dress during their day of ribbon-awarding.

With several hundred clothing and food exhibits to judge there was a good deal of work.

Mrs. George Kleinbach, Cunningham, said she warms up for her eight hours of tasting rolls and bread by drinking two glasses of water for breakfast.

"As the day wears on I usually don't eat lunch or snack. I figure all the trial bites I take into someone else's rolls are food enough."

Mrs. Kleinbach has been a judge for three years. She says she looks for eye pleasing foods as much as taste teasing ones.

Another food judge, Mrs. Wayne Thorne, Kennewick, said her cookie judging "requires some taste endurance."

"We always start with the cookies which are less spicy so we can judge their taste as fairly as the real sweet ones. By the end of the afternoon, you have a lot of trouble determining each exhibit's own characteristics. They all begin tasting alike."

As a cue to future fair exhibitors, Mrs. Thorne said the best time to have food presentations judged is in the morning.

"We're fresher then and so are the foods."

Two other cookie judges, Mrs. Lois Latzko, Richland, and Mrs. Carl Baumbart, Lind, agreed that a judge's taste buds "get tired," by 5 p.m. Mrs. Latzko said she "sometimes takes lots of extra bites in the morning, but rarely in the afternoon."

Mrs. Baumbart chimed in that the exhibits are always good, but the best of the entries are cookies with uniform size,

taste and texture. "I like them real chewy." That may have explained her pre-occupation with a group of peanut butter cookies.

Across the room, in Exhibit Building No. 1 were the clothing judges.

Said one, "We don't get to eat what we judge, but we do get a beautiful display of color and originality."

Virginia Vaupel, Benton County Extension Agent and head clothing superintendent for the last 11 fairs, said she is "impressed with the way young girls can make clothes which look just like the ones you can buy in most stores."

She displayed a pair of wool coats, which appeared as well-made as many of the fashionable "teen" coats now retailed.

The clothes, ranging from pajamas to formals and house-coats to jumpers, are all hung

Flower Classifying A Bit Easier

Judging flower exhibits at this year's fair may not be as pleasant as one would imagine.

Mrs. Fred Sylvester, Pasco, entry clerk in the floriculture division, said she would never trade her job as flower

classifier for one as flower judge.

"With my hay fever I'd die when the first arrangement of marigolds passed under my nose."



'Touching' Scene

"Give me a little kiss" said Kelly Hall, 5, to Ada, the goat. The "touching" scene, similar to others which take place when animal and child get together, was at the Benton Franklin County Fair yesterday. Ada is owned by David Gailbraith, Kennewick, and Kelly "is owned" by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hall, 2512 Road 96, Pasco. Other fair and rodeo stories, pictures on pages 1, 17.

on a 100-foot rack prior to judging. John Schmidt, home economics instructor at Richland's Chief Joseph Junior High School but a "rookie" fair judge, said she "was really delighted by the originality" shown by the youthful seamstresses.

She added that her own prejudices about designs and color combination don't get in the way of her selections, but do attract her to something she would like to have in her wardrobe.

Fair: Best Time Is In Morning

By JACK ORCHARD
Herald Staff Writer

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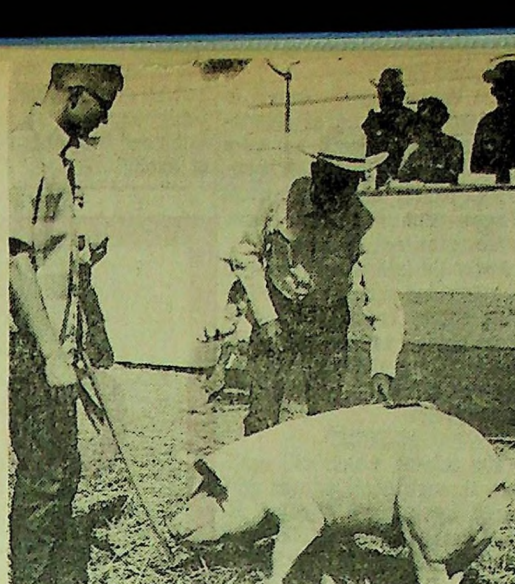
Mrs. Schmidt judged garments largely on first-glance exterior appearance. "You can usually tell what the inside looks like by the outside. If it looks nice, it's probably made that way."



At the 1967 market stock sale, the FFA Grand Champion lamb was owned by Dave Rickenbach, Pasco, and purchased by J. R. Ayres, Kennewick.



Last year Toppenish Sales yard was the buyer of the 4-H Grand Champion beef owned and shown by Gary Burns, Pasco.



Richard Carlson, Prosser, showed the Grand champion FFA hog last year on which the high bidder was Prosser Sales Yard.

GIVE A BOOST TO OUR 4-H AND FFA YOUNGSTERS

BOOSTERS

These business firms and individuals have shown their support of Benton-Franklin FFA and 4-H work through purchases at the market stock sale at the fair during recent years.

Lee Alexander	Old National Bank, Rich.
Armour Meat Co.	Old National Bank, Pasco
Baker Produce	Othello Livestock Market
Basin Dept. Store	Pacific Fruit and Prod.
Big Pierre Lumber	Pasco Pack
Beb Burns	Pasco, Kenn. Rotary Club
Bridge Pumps Auto Supply	Pasco Machine
Chick Sales	Peoples National Bank
Chinese Gardens	Pele Peterson Ins.
G. W. Clinebell	Preston Tractor Co.
Clark, Jennings & Assoc.	Prosser Livestock Market
Columbia Crop Chemical	R. & M. Ranch
Connell Grain Growers	Richmond Implement
Continental Grain Co.	Jim Rogers
Continental Oil Co.	Safeway Stores
Denneny Bros. Auto Supls.	Sargent Pump & Irrig.
Dick's Tirecap	Seattle 1st Nat. Bank, Rich.
Dunning-Ray Ins.	Seattle 1st Nat. Bank, Connell
Empire Seed Co.	Seattle 1st Nat. Bank, Kennewick
Farmer's Exchange	Sime Construction Co.
General Telephone	Smith Tractor Co.
Guenther Irrig.	Seuall Implement
Ben Haworth	Sun Basin Growers
Fred Holmes	Toppenish Sales Yard
I.G.A. Food Lines	L. W. Vail Co.
Jones Frozen Foods	Van Waters & Rogers
John M. Keltch, Inc.	Welch Bros. Chemical
KORD Radio	Western Pack
Lahlinen Buick Co.	W. R. Grace Co.
Mesa Builders Supply	Western Farmers
National Bank of Commerce, Kenn.	Ben J. Allhoff
National Bank of Commerce, Rich.	Fred Beckner
Old National Bank, Benton City	J. R. Ayres
Lyle W. Neff	Carl Byrd Motors
	Harder Farm Chemical
	Dessri Marine Inc.

BUY!

AT THE BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR

MARKET STOCK SALE

KENNEWICK FAIRGROUNDS

Tomorrow, Friday, 1:30 P.M.

Here's your opportunity to buy 239 head of beef, lambs and hogs at this annual sale. These are animals raised with tender-loving care by 4-H and FFA youths of Benton and Franklin counties.

Their efforts for a year of hard work can best be recognized by the above-market prices they receive for their livestock at the sale. The money you pay goes directly to these youths. Anyone can bid - Anyone can buy. Individuals and business firms invited.

A Good Place To Buy Locker Meat. Fill up that locker and give a 4-H or FFA'er a helping hand at the same time. Arrangements for cutting and wrapping your meat can be made right there at the sale.

You Can Buy Without Owning! Let's say you want to help out the young people but you don't want a hog, beef or sheep! You buy the animal of your choice by bidding at the auction. You pay the difference between what you bid and the market price that day and your animal is then taken over by a local meat packer.

You've done your part but you won't have to shock your wife by leading home an 800-pound beef or a 200-pound hog.

See how easy it is?

ANYONE CAN BID & BUY



J. R. Ayres, Kennewick, made his second "champion" purchase of the day last year, when he bought the 4-H Grand Champion Lamb owned by Denise Beckner, Washtucna.



The grand champion FFA Beef was shown last year by Alan Rogers, Pasco. Top bidder for it at the auction was Continental Grain of Pasco.



At last year's sale, Richard Lathim, Kahlotus, showed the Grand Champion 4-H hog. It was purchased by a firm from his home town, Harder Chemical Company.



AUG. 22-25

Thursday, August 22, 1968



A couple of Richland girls showed envy at Mrs. Carl Baumgart, Lind, as she tasted cookie after cookie at the Benton Franklin County Fair this week. The girls, Charlotte Haverluk, 8, of 1914 Hoxie Ave. left,

and Joy Latzko, 8, of 1818 Marshall Ave., wouldn't have minded helping out. Mrs. Baumgart took about 300 bites but admitted some weren't more than crumbs.

Feverish Activity Noted As Bicounty Fair Opens

By JAN-UDO WENZEL
Herald Staff Writer

Although the official opening took place this morning, the fairgrounds teemed with feverish activity yesterday.

It was the final chance for all participants to give that extra little bit of polish which might make the difference between a blue and a red ribbon.

Only a few visitors strolled around the grounds and they seemed to be in the way of those final preparations.

WORK

But there were lots of young people, mostly teenagers who had one day left before the culmination of their year's work today.

Some were scrubbing their animals down with water and many a steer looked sleek and shiny.

Final touches also were put to the commercial and artistic exhibits. Could one detect a little ironic note that the political parties had their booths in the commercial display hall?

Women manning the food

stands were kept busy during the afternoon, because those final touches made many thirsty and increased the appetite.

The mid-way was quiet. Where there will be music and cascades of light tonight, there was only canvass covers and hard work last night.

The merry-go-rounds were still hidden by covers and some of the rides were still being assembled. The candied apples and cotton sugar was still to be put out.

FLAGS

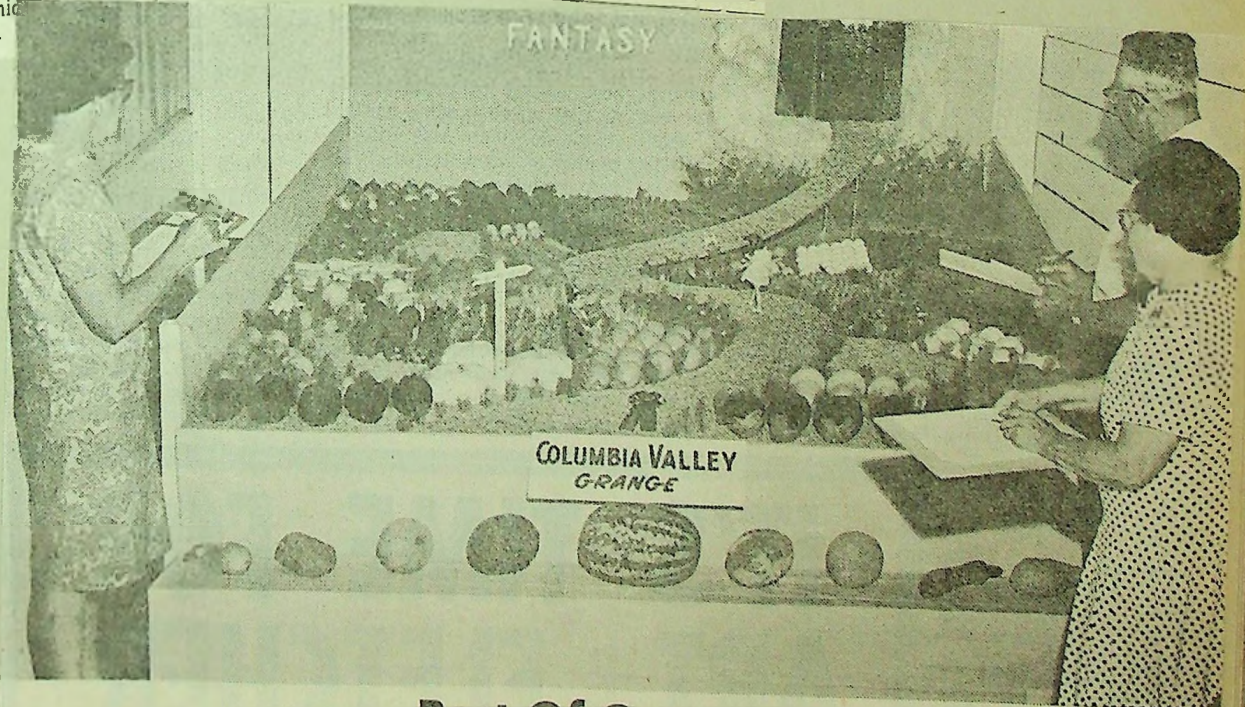
And if anyone wonders what those flags are flying beside our own, they are Canadian and from British Columbia. And those blue or yellow banners

over one of the displays at the midway, which carry a design similar to the Star of David, are left-overs from last year's celebration of confederation in Canada.

And for the first time, the fair will have a display by local writers. Poems written by people in Benton and Franklin counties are exhibited in the same building as the works of local painters.

Several people could be overheard commenting that this year's fair would be the best ever and for the youngsters who put their hearts into their work it will be one of the greatest shows in which participants.

Thursday, August 22, 1968



Best Of Granges

A blue ribbon went to the Columbia Valley Grange, Pasco, at the Benton Franklin County Fair. With fantasyland as the theme, it was judged the best of the Granges in the irrigated farm exhibits. The "yellow brick road" to the

Wizard of Oz is corn and the castle is made of red beans. Judging were, from left, Mrs. C. H. Scrupps and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Walker, all Odessa. Winner of the dryland farm exhibits was the Kahlolus Grange.



Kennewick Avenue's toadstools were used to good advantage this morning by spectators for the kiddies parade. The rain delayed the start of

the parade but failed to dampen the spirits of the many boys and girls who entered. (Page of fair pictures on page 24)

20 Youngsters Parade In Rain

Light rain failed to dampen spirits of 220 Tri-City youngsters as they trooped through the wet streets of Kennewick during today's Benton Franklin county fair kiddie's parade.

The event got off to a 15 minute delayed start due to numerous late entries, who feared the rain would wash out annual event.

Colorful tricycles and bicycles lined up. One small girl was dressed in a bunny rabbit outfit, complete with a bird on her hat.

Fair attendance the first day is estimated at 6,500. That is down from last year's all-time high of 8,500. Most of the drop came from a decrease in spectators at the Mustang Daredevil Show.

Fair officials hailed their first day as "one of the best ever." Officials said the threat of bad weather cut what they hoped to be a record capacity throng for the fair car show. Some 3,600 attended. Last year the Mustang show drew 6,000 fans.

The parade opened with the Kennewick High School band and a drill team leading the way, playing "Windy." "Singing In The Rain" might have been more appropriate.

BIKES

Following the band the kids' decorated bikes and trikes peeled a fast pace down Day Street turning onto Ken-

newick Avenue. Several youthful whoops and waves to parents hiding under store awnings punctuated the drizzling march.

The line turned up Washington Street, with a "float" carrying the Kennewick park department's, "Park Queens" and a group of horses bringing up the rear. One small rider bore a sign saying "Rodeo Queen-1982."

WINNERS

Parade winners were:

Costume division—8 and under: first—Debbie Wolfe-Lisa Meier, both Kennewick; honorable mention—Sherri and Kim Scott, both Kennewick; Twice and Thrice Club, Kennewick.

Costume division—9 and over: Shelley Winegar-Kathy Nelson, both Kennewick; honorable mention—Kelley Marsden, Kennewick; Robin Hood and his Merry Men, Kennewick.

Pets—first — Beverly Hillbillies, Burbank Heights; honorable mention — Walter Tinney, Kennewick; clown and dog, Kennewick.

Wheels—first — Lonnie Sharina Rouse, both Kennewick and Triple T's, Kennewick; honorable mention — David Dickman, Kennewick.

Horses—first — Monte McCormick, Kennewick; honorable mention, Debbie Maupin, Kennewick; Ruthellen-Roscann Meach, both Prosser.

Special mention — Cub Scout Pack No. 157 — Kennewick.

FAIR-RODEO SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

- 7 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 8 p.m. Rodeo.
- 10 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 11 p.m. Exhibit buildings close. Midnight curfew.

(Family day at the fair until 6:30 p.m. Reduced rates on carnival rides, fair admission half-price with coupons from Tri-City merchants)

SATURDAY

- 8:45 a.m. 4-H and FFA livestock judging team registration.
- 9 a.m. 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest begins.
- 10:45 a.m. 4-H and FFA dairy judging Registration.
- 11 a.m. 4-H and FFA dairy judging contest.
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- 11:30 a.m. Weed identification contest.
- 2 p.m. Parade, Kennewick.
- 3 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 4 p.m. Judging contest ribbons—Fair Office.
- 5 p.m. Senior dairy milking contest.
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- 11 a.m. Exhibit buildings open.
- 1 p.m. Rodeo—trophy saddle and awards.
- 1:30 p.m. Livestock exhibitor meeting—fair evaluation.
- 3 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 5 p.m. Presentation of livestock herdsman's banners.
- 6 p.m. Premium checks available at fair office.
- 6 p.m. Market stock may be removed.
- 7 p.m. Wynn Stewart and Tourist Band.
- 7-8 p.m. All other exhibits and booths are to be removed.



The stars of the outdoor show at the Benton County Fair and Rodeo got together on stage. Gayle Holly, Kennewick, and Wynn Stuart, Dallas, Tex., are country and western singers who have been appearing in three shows a day near the entrance of the fairgrounds. Stuart's band, the Tourists, a four-piece combo, are also part of the show—as well as the road manager, Guy Nelson, who gets into the act with a song or two.

Western Singing Stars Hit Fair

By CHARLES BRINKERHOFF
Herald Staff Writer

An added attraction at the Benton Franklin County Fair this year is a nationally-known country and western singer, Wynn Stuart, and his band, a four-piece combo called the Tourists.

Booked separately, but appearing on the same stage with Stuart is a popular Kennewick-based singer, Gayle Holly.

Stuart has been a familiar figure on the country and western charts for several years. His latest release, "In Love", is "really going places. It's being picked as one to watch all over the country," said Stuart's road manager, Guy Nelson.

RECORD

His recording of "It's such a Pretty, World Today" has been followed by 42 other artists trying to duplicate his success with the song. "I was just lucky enough to sing it first," Stuart said.

He is a veteran of 20 years as a country and western musician. "I started when I was 12 years old," he said.

Stuart's group has its home base in Texas, but is on the road about ten months a year.

They arrived in Kennewick Thursday from Lewiston barely in time for the first performance at 3 p.m. A bus breakdown in Lewiston delayed them.

"We rented a station wagon to get here," Stuart said.

Stuart sang three songs during the first 40-minute show at 3 p.m. yesterday. "Normally he'll do a 30-minute show by

himself," said Nelson.

Wearing a narrow-brimmed straw hat slouched over his forehead ("somebody gave it to me," he said), a short silver and black jacket, casual beige pants and white boots with black high heels, Stuart was conservatively dressed for a country and western singer as he strummed his guitar in accompaniment for Miss Holly, who sang most of the show's songs.

HARD

"Singing outside with the wind blowing is really hard on your throat," said Stuart, who has a recording session scheduled in Hollywood after his appearances here.

Also appearing as Stuart's band are Dale Noe on electric guitar, writer of several country and western hits; Ralph Mooney, steel guitar player who plays for many of the top musicians; Cal Freeman, who "plays everything and sings" and Bobby Pittman, a vocalist and drummer.

Final appearances are scheduled today, at 3, 7 and 10 p.m.

Friday, August 23, 1968



Riding High

Getting a free ride on the back of a sheep was "Super Chicken," a blue-ribbon winner at the Benton Franklin County Fair. Judy Egbert, 11, Kennewick, had to hold the uncooperative sheep

"Liz" so there wouldn't be any misunderstanding about the trip. The sheep is owned by Cheryl Keller, 11, Kennewick.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1968

Fair Attendance Ties 1967 Record: 40,000 Persons

Despite intermittent bad weather, Benton-Franklin County Fair attendance again hit the 40,000 mark, during its four-day run.

The preliminary head count was made early this morning by Jack Smith, fair ticket manager and Board President F. P. (Slim) Meverden. Meverden said a more accurate break-down of attendance totals will be made later this week.

Fair officials were pleased with the turn-out, since bad weather threatened to duplicate the 1966 wash-out of many activities. The 40,000 mark equalled last year's record attendance.

RESPONSE

They noted there was good response to the commercial exhibits and to Wynn Stewart and the Tourist Band, the fair's main professional entertainment.

Meverden said \$12,000 in premiums were paid out yesterday, during the fair's closing session. That figured topped the \$11,123 paid last year.

Rodeo officials were also

★ ★ ★

Livestock Winners Named

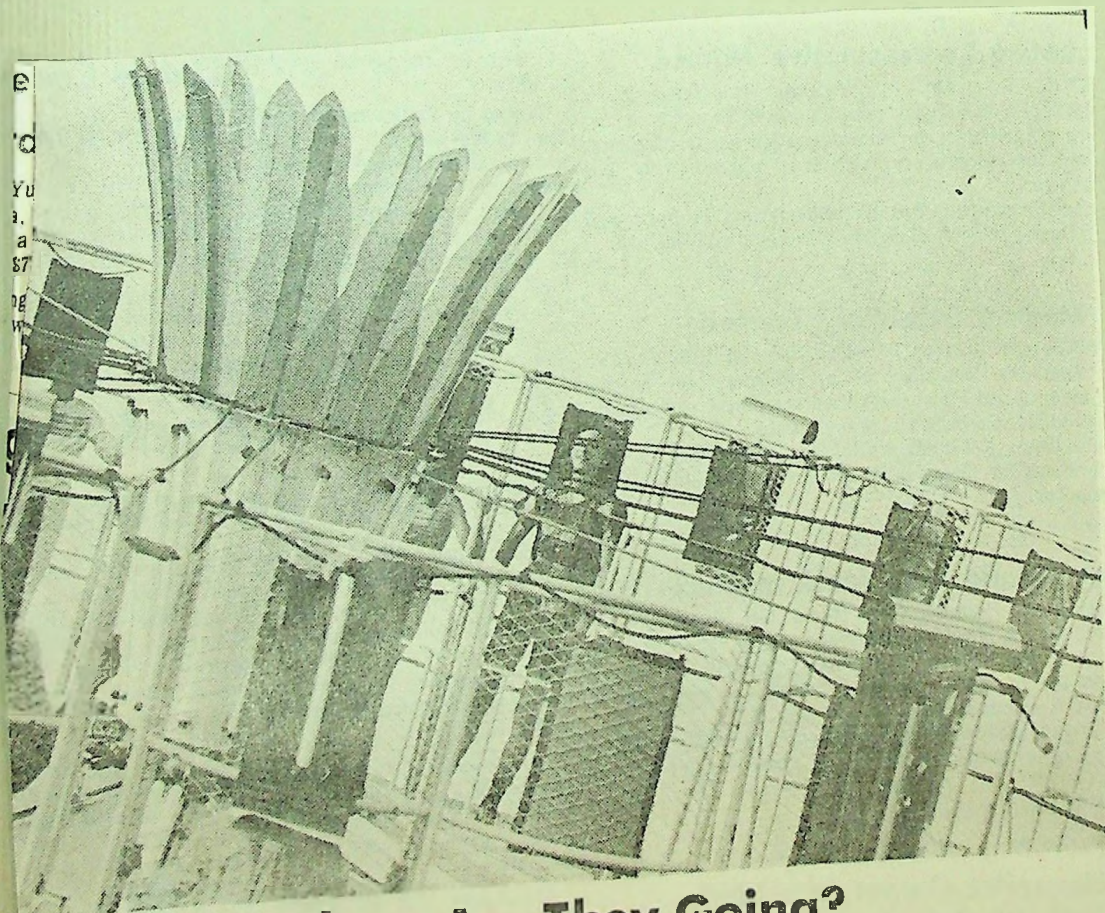
Winners in livestock competition at the Benton-Franklin County Fair were announced today.

In Future Farmers of America competition, Don Huddleston, Connell, took the Angus grand champion; Bruce Prengruber, Prosser, Angus reserve champion, and Roy Thompson was other-breeds champion.

4-H winners were Mark Bennett, Connell, Hereford grand champion; Randy Urbach, Pasco, Angus reserve champion; Toby Heer, Kennewick, shorthorn champion, and Dale Cram, Kennewick, other-breeds champion.

Dave Rickenbach, Pasco, took FAA market sheep champion honors. Reserve champion was Steve Kniveton, Connell. Brenda Taylor, Mesa, took 4-H market sheep grand champion honors; and JoAnn Ross, Washtucna, reserve champion.

Scott Cochraue, Kahlutus, took market swine grand champion, and Kelly Cochraue took reserve champ honors.



Where Are They Going?

Around and around she goes and where she stops no one knows. This is one of the carnival rides at the

fair in Kennewick. There are many rides and exciting things to do at the fairgrounds through Sunday.



Superintendents In 4-H Exhibits

Among the superintendents in charge of the 4-H poultry and rabbit exhibits at the Fair are Mrs.

Joe Jackson, left; Helen Countryman, all Kennebec.

Friday, August 23, 1968



Fair's First-Born

Petting the first calf born at the Benton-Franklin County Fair this year was Tamie Jarrett, 5, Basin City, as Rex Combs, 16, of 703 E. 27th Ave., Kennebec, helped hold

it steady. Owner of the calf is Roy Gano, Selah. The calf "arrived" at 4 a.m. Thursday — seven hours before this picture was taken.

Building Proposal On Ballot

PROSSER — A 160-by-240-foot multi-purpose building for the Benton County Fairgrounds will be on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Benton County Commissioners approved placing the \$300,000 bond issue before voters. It will require a 60 per cent favorable vote.

Chairman W. K. MacCready said the building could be constructed the early part of next year and be available year-round for numerous types of events.

The enclosed building would not, however, be large enough for rodeos.

There would be interchangeable floors so there could be horse and stock shows and ice and roller skating. There could be exhibits for rockhounds and other large organizations staging mammoth displays.

Some \$50,000 of the \$300,000 would be for furnishing such as seating for 3,000 persons.

The proposal was made and presented to the commissioners by the fair board. Franklin County is not included in the project proposal.

Tri-City Herald

TELEPHONE 526-2121

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1968

SECOND PAGE ONE



Broadly smiling at the throng at the Benton Franklin County Fair and Rodeo Parade Saturday afternoon was Judi Eckhardt, Tri-City Water Follies princess, on the Tri-Cities float. Thou-

sands turned out to watch the long parade in downtown Kennewick. (Photo by Ralph Worsham).

Fair Parade Called 'One Of Biggest'

Rodeo pictures and stories on pages 25 and 28.

The Benton Franklin County Fair and Rodeo Parade was called one of the biggest ever.

Thousands lined the streets throughout the downtown section Saturday afternoon to watch an extra long parade.

There were about 55 entries with many coming from various cities in Eastern Washington.

Sweepstakes winner was "Touch of Spain," the Prosser

Chamber of Commerce float. It has already won top awards in parades this year.

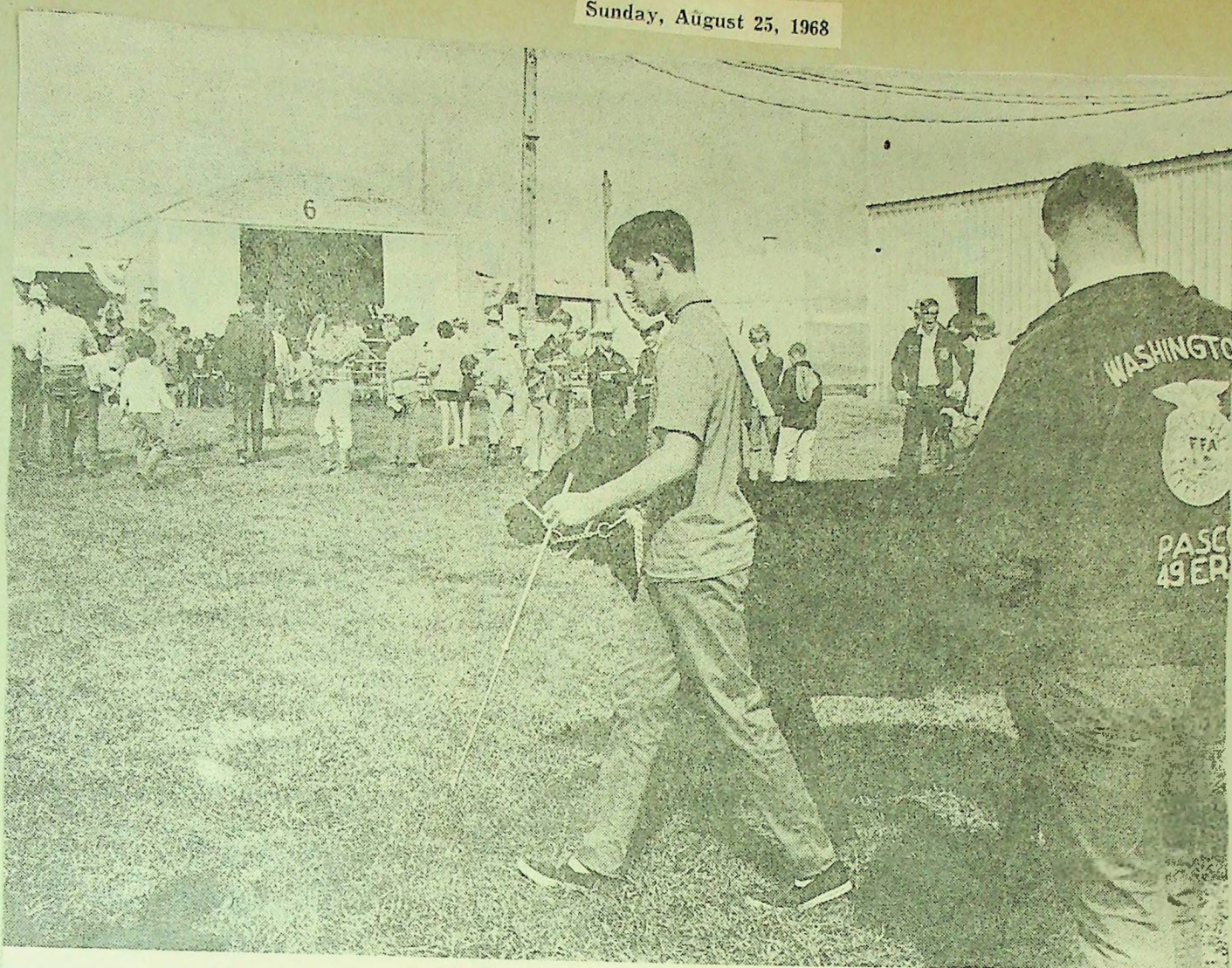
Other first place winners were: Kennewick High band, Benton County PUD, Tri-City Water Follies Float, Kennewick High School Drill Team, Lind's Heart of the World's Wheat, Richland Rainbow's International Friendship, Franklin County Mounted Posse, Ellensburg's Casey Jones Special and South Eastern Washington Fair and Frontier Days in Walla Walla.



Ridin' for a fall but quick Friday night at the Benton Franklin County Rodeo was Tommy Patton of Kennewick. He failed to stay on the

bull the required eight seconds but few of the others could manage the feat either.

Sunday, August 25, 1968



A judge in the Future Farmers of America group watched as one of the participants in the FFA and 4-H

judging contest paraded his steer yesterday. After cattle judging the competitors judged lambs.

Friday, August 23, 1968



Ride'Em Cowboy

Some 16 4-H and FFA youths were in a scramble at the Benton Franklin County Rodeo Friday night with about a dozen calves. These fellows had a tough time keeping up with the fleeing calves. Winner of the scramble was Pat Lock, 15, of 3323 W. 10th Ave., Kennewick, a member

of the Highlands Sage and Sun Riders 4-H Club. He received \$100 from the sponsoring Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce for getting a calf with a halter on it and into a marked circle first.

Sunday, August 25, 1968



Mark Bennett, Connell, stood by his 1,100-pound steer which was the 4-H Grand Champion at the Benton-

Franklin County Fair. The steer got 75 cents a pound from Grigg's Department Store, Pasco.

Fairgrounds Arena Proposal Approved For Nov. 5 Vote

A bond issue for the proposed \$300,000 indoor arena at the Benton-Franklin fairgrounds will be placed on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

The go-ahead was given today by F. P. (Slim) Meverden, fair board president, who said Benton County commissioners told him yesterday they will approve the bond issue for placement on the fall ballot.

The commissioners asked Meverden to submit a formal written request for the issue by Thursday. A meeting with

the commissioners and the fair board was not held yesterday due to another commitment by the commission.

Meverden said he talked by telephone to the three-man commission yesterday afternoon. They assured him the bond issue would be presented to voters in November.

He said the formal request will be hand-carried to the commissioners tomorrow morning.

The issue will be voted on only by Benton County residents, despite the bi-county

make-up of the fair board, which is sponsoring the proposal. It will be treated like any other capital improvement measure proposed to be erected on county land.

The fairgrounds property is owned by Benton County.

Meverden said he already has received requests from area businesses concerning the operation of the arena as a part-time ice rink.

The planned structure is scheduled to be 160 feet by 240 feet. It will have interchangeable floorings.

Tuesday, August 27, 1968

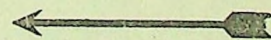
Sunday, August 25, 1968



BA

BA

This sheep got the highest price of any animal ever sold at the Benton Franklin County Fair. Proudly holding the 4-H Grand Champion was its



owner, Brenta Taylor, Star Route, Mesa. The sheep, weighing 110 pounds, was sold at \$2.10 a pound to Grigg's Department Store, Pasco.

DIVISIONS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
4-H HORSE SHOW

4-H and FFA DIVISION

FFA FARM MECHANICS

4-H FFA TRACTOR OPERATORS CONTEST

1968 CALF SCRAMBLE

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ecology, Wallula Chapter Award

WEED IDENTIFICATION CONTEST

OPEN CLASS HOME ECONOMICS

FINE ARTS & CREATIVE CRAFTS SHOW

OPEN CLASS FLORICULTURE

OPEN CLASS BEEF

OPEN CLASS REGISTERED DAIRY CATTLE

OPEN CLASS SWINE

OPEN CLASS SHEEP

OPEN CLASS POULTRY

WOOL SHOW

OPEN CLASS RABBITS

OPEN CLASS AGRONOMY

OPEN CLASS HORTICULTURE

OPEN CLASS BEES and HONEY

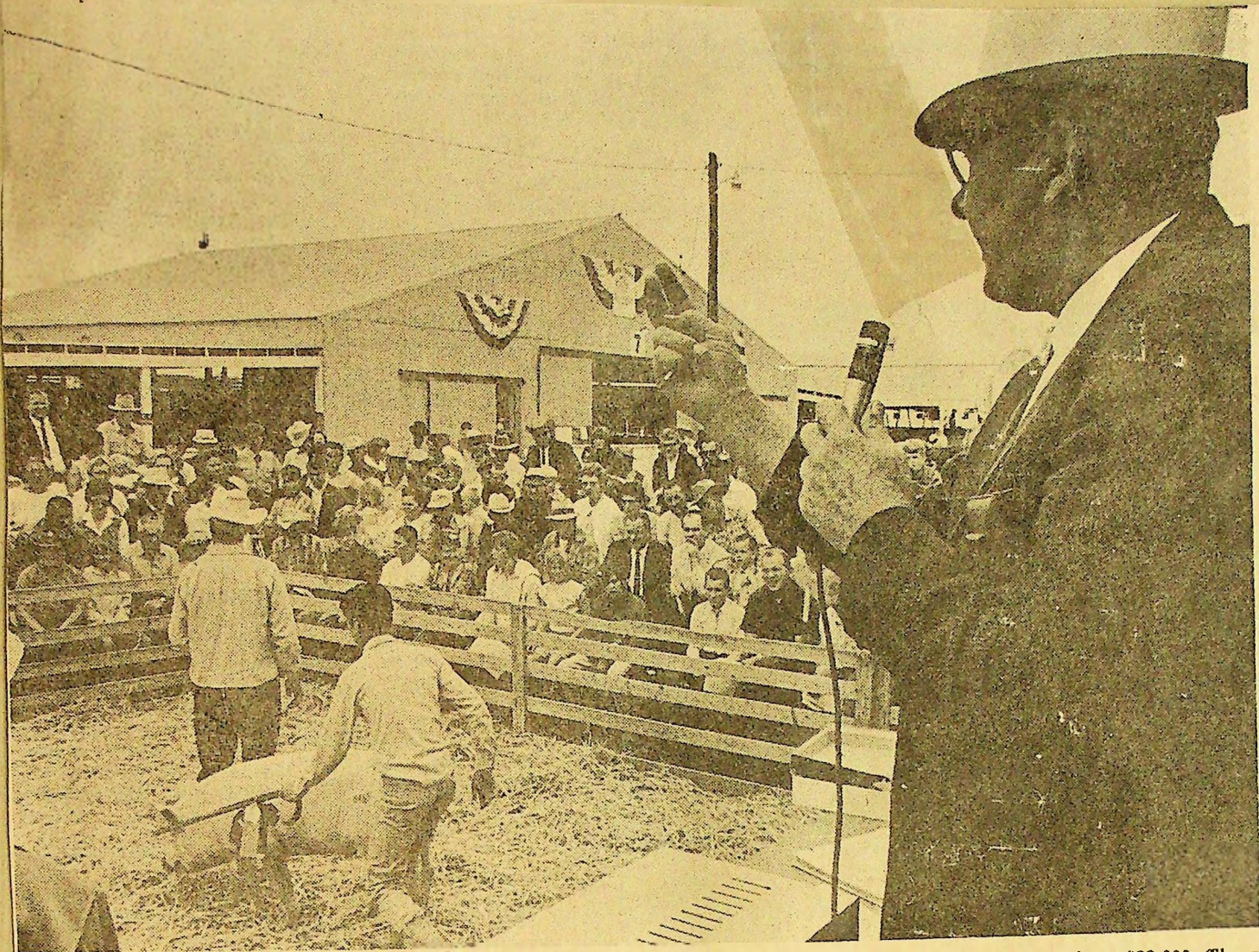
FINE ARTS and CREATIVE CRAFTS

GEMS and MINERALS

JUNIOR GRANGE EXHIBIT

AGRICULTURAL BOOTH DISPLAYS

Sunday, August 25, 1968



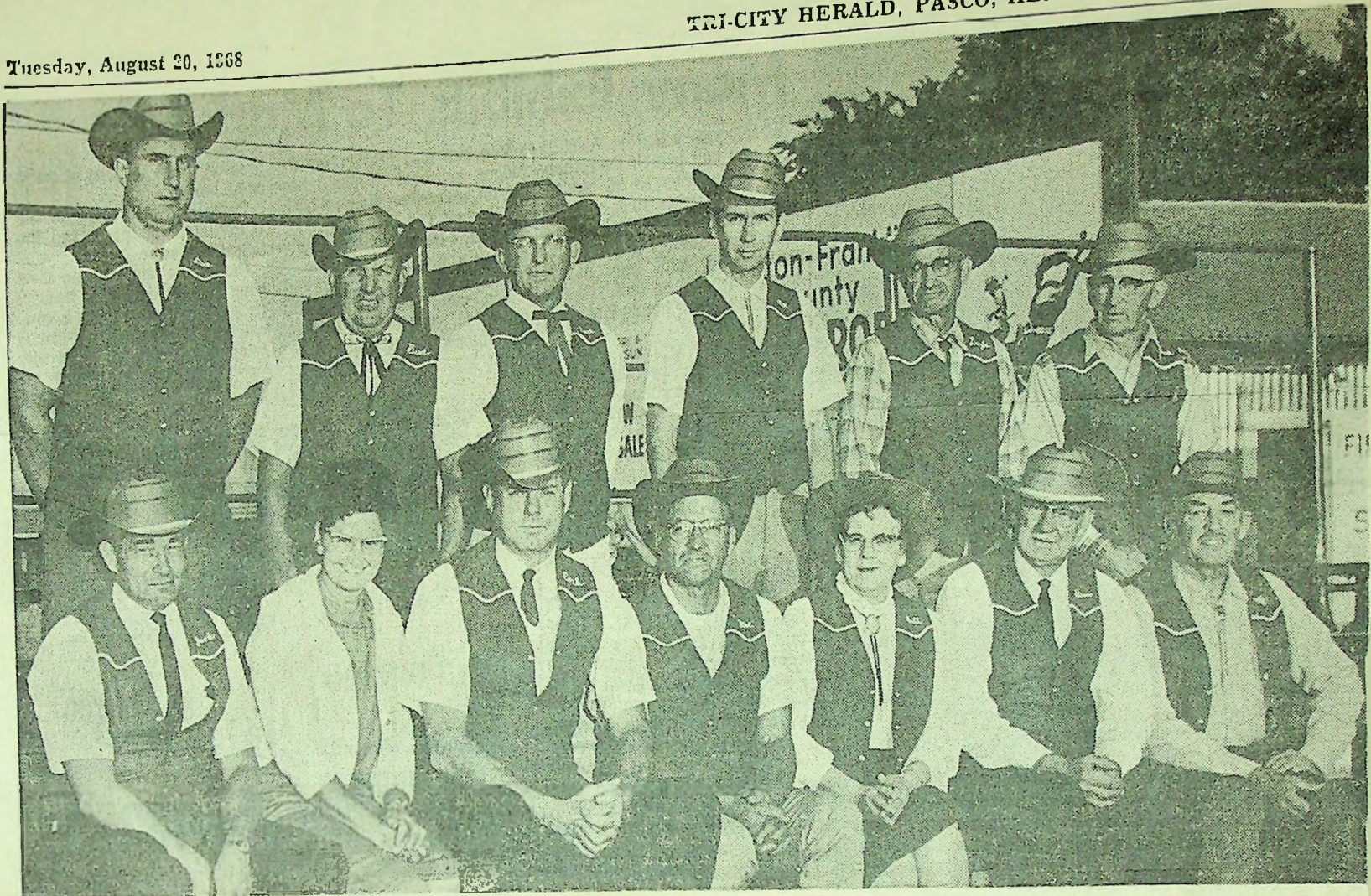
Conducting the Benton Franklin County Future Farmers of America and 4-H Market Stock Sale at the fairgrounds was Mike Cronin, Othello, one of the four auctioneers. Auctioned off were 95 lambs, 43 sheep and 60

steers with receipts amounting to about \$38,000. The sale is sponsored by the Benton-Franklin County 4-H and FFA Market Stock Sale Committee.



SHOW RING

Tuesday, August 20, 1968



These are the people charged with the responsibility of staging the annual Benton-Franklin County Fair. Board members include: front row, from left, Jack Smith, treasurer; Mary Richmond, R. M. (Cork) Simmelink, Mel McInturf, Mrs. Ruth Simmelink, secretary; F. P. (Slim) Meverden, president; Cliff

Rasch. Back row: Dick Moore, Harry (Bud) Oswalt, vice president; Kent Herron, vice president; Dr. W. D. Heaston, Doyle Mathews and Frank Lampson. Absent was Bernie Chapman.

Major Improvements Added To Fairgrounds

Several major improvements have been added to the Benton-Franklin County Fairgrounds for the 1968 season.

Most noticeable is 20 acres of grass, planted and growing throughout the carnival and infield areas of the grounds.

Formerly this acreage was a dirt and gravel area, which soon became dusty after fair patrons trooped over it.

The new grass is an extra thick variety, which grows back rapidly despite heavy foot traffic. It cost the Fair Board \$400.

The Board also planted a windbreak of trees at the southwest end of the carnival compound.

Coupled with the blacktop surfacing installed last year these improvements should make the fairgrounds a dust free place.

Another addition is a \$3,000 annex to the swine shed. Instead of being used for swine, it will be reserved for sheep exhibits.

Among other capital improvements, the Board had lighting and power supply hook-ups read-

ied for visiting campers and trailers at the south end of the grounds (furthest from the main gate).

The area primarily will house 4-H and FFA advisors, who like to remain on the fairgrounds 24 hours a day to supervise their groups' exhibits.

Two other buildings, already fixtures on the grounds, will have a new look for this year. One, the poultry exhibit building, will receive a new flooring.

The other, the former Fair office building, will be used exclusively for arts and crafts exhibits, instead of sharing space with the business office.

A possible return exhibit which may be housed in the old office building, is the Marmes man anthropological display, set up by Washington State University scientists.

F.P. (Slim) Meverden, Fair Board president said the fair will "be shooting this year for a perfect rating from the state

fair commission."

"We missed by only a few points last year," Meverden commented, "mostly because of the inadequate floor in the

poultry building. This year we expect to be right at the top, proving what everybody now realizes, that we are a superior fair celebration."



Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1968 Pasco, Kennewick, Richland, Washington



Fair Gets Excellent Rating

The 1968 Benton-Franklin County Fair has been given excellent ratings by the Fairs Division of the State Agricultural Education Office.

In a report released yesterday to fair board president, F. P. (Slim) Meverden, the fair scored 905 out of a possible 1,000 judging points.

Meverden, elated at the evaluation, said a total of 750 is considered good.

The bi-county fair was judged by Bert L. Brown, administrator in the state's vocational agriculture department. Brown and nine other judges rate and comment on each of the 39 Washington county's fairs.

Brown gave the local fair its highest ratings in general attractiveness and community and area interest.

Brown said of the fair, "I'm going to rate this fair high, for it's that kind of fair. Grounds were neat and attractive. The new office building is a very fine addition. It's a nice improvement and the state got its \$5,000 worth."

Brown was referring to the \$5,000 in state funds which was used to construct the new \$20,000 office-meeting building. The remainder of the cost was financed locally. The building was in use for the first time at the August fair.

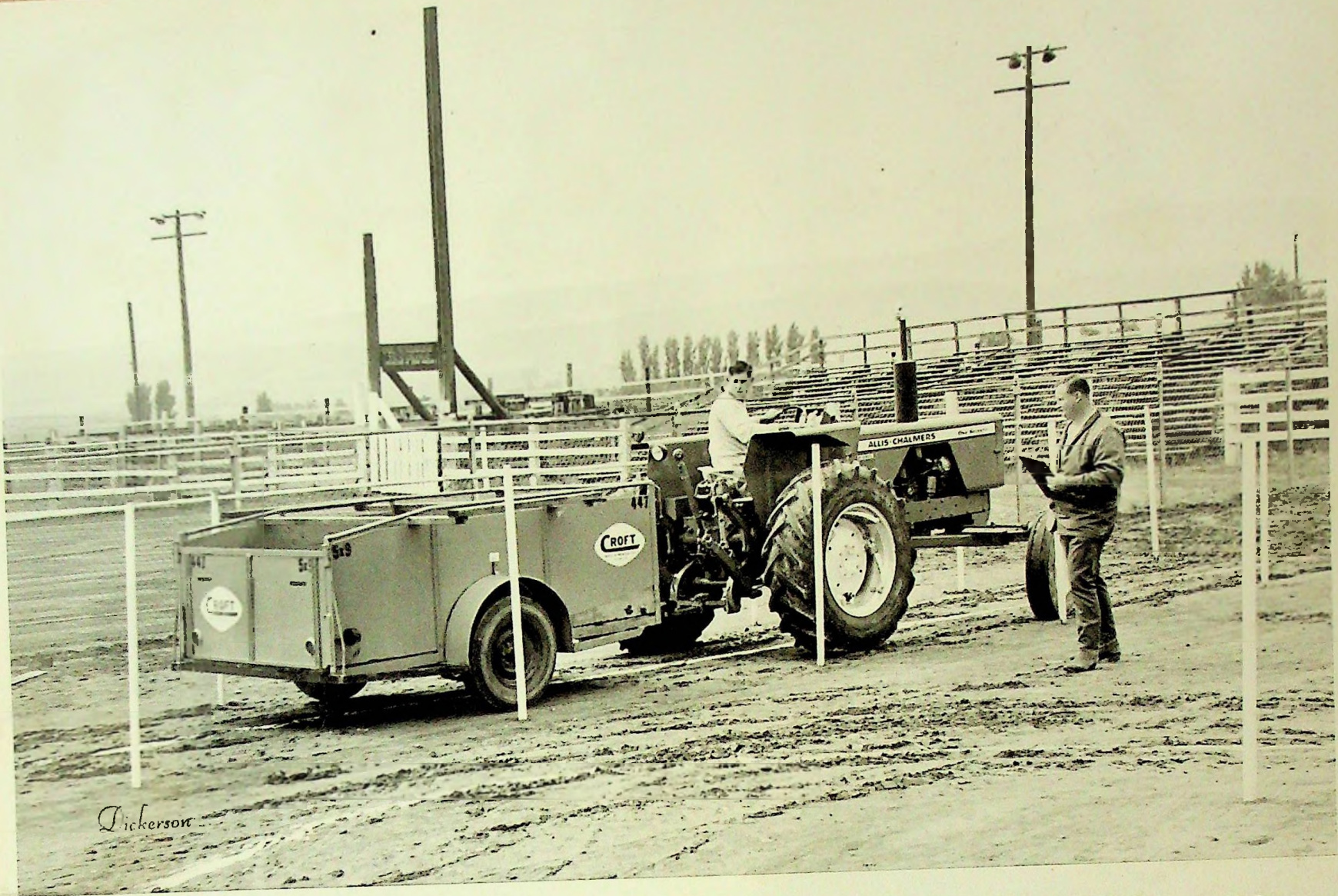
The fair examiner was particularly impressed with the livestock exhibits. "Good house-keeping, fine animals and outstanding showmanship were displayed throughout."

"The 4-H sewing is also the best I've ever seen. In the foods section, there were so many entries and all were well-labeled and specified as to awards. All the grange booths were excellent in quality and originality."

Meverden gave credit for the top ratings to the building superintendents, "who do all the work and never get recognized."

With the excellent marks given to the fair, Meverden said the fair is in outstanding position to get money back from the state for premium reimbursement.





Dickerson

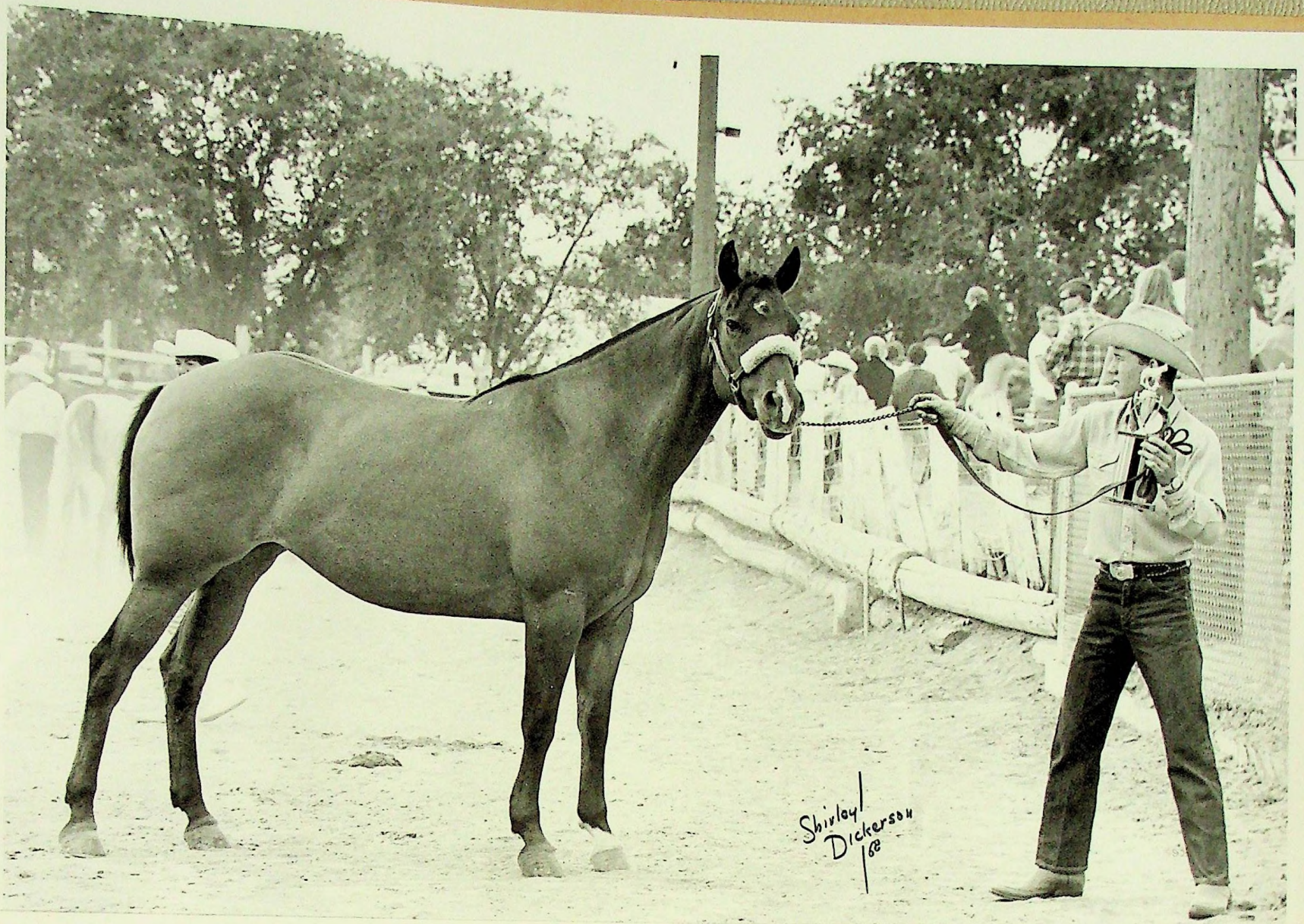
in rock
fish

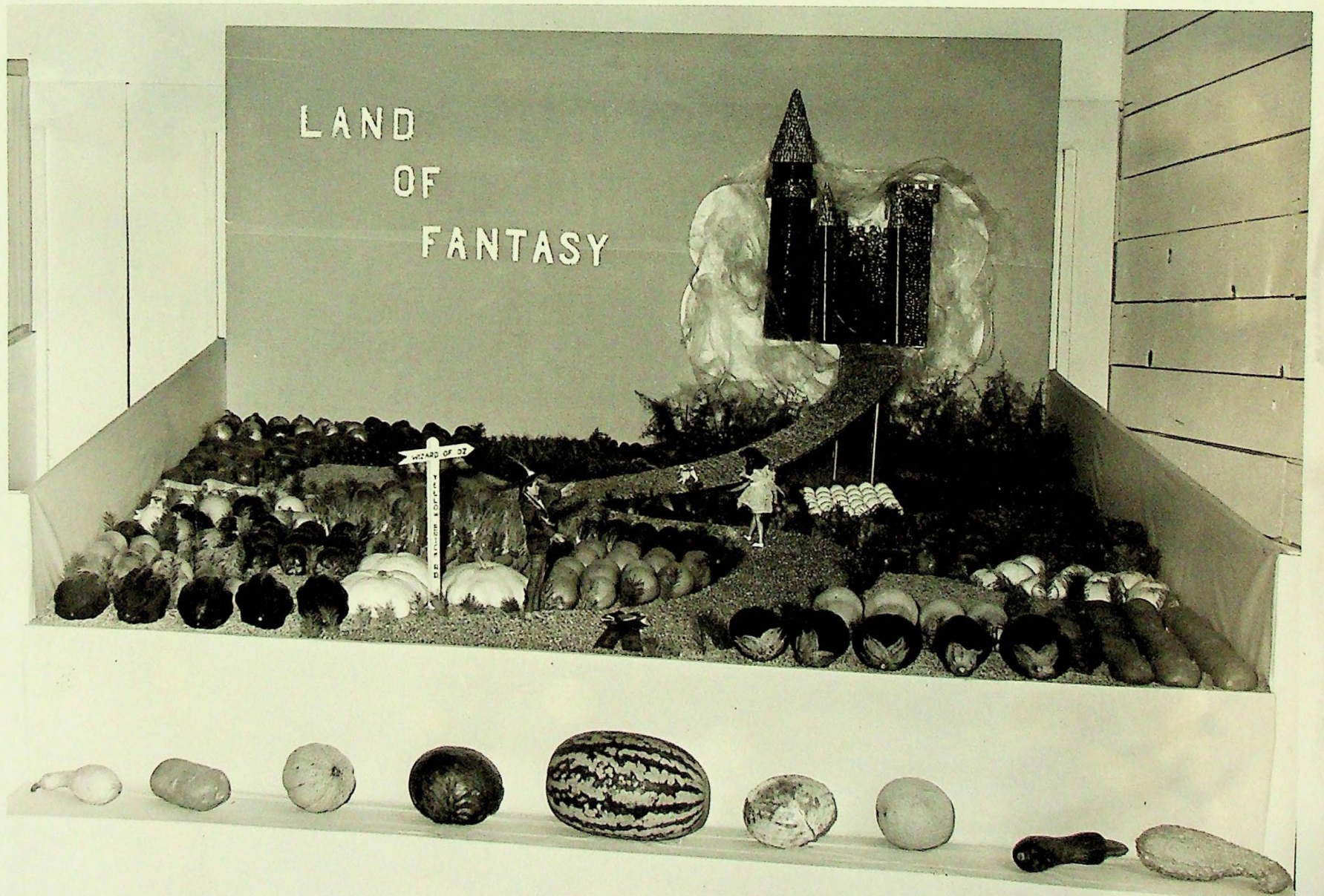
\$25.00

rogers



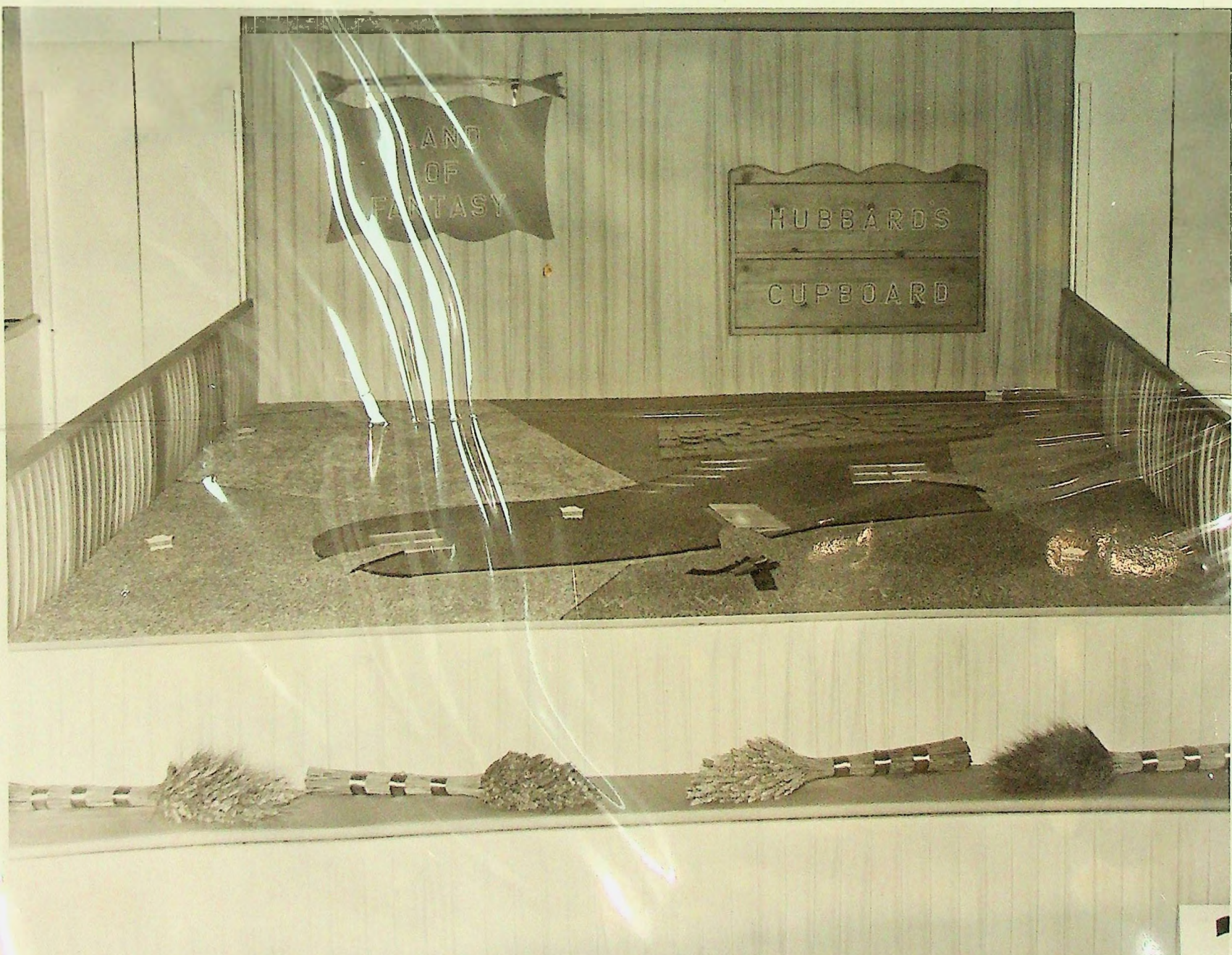
Shirley
Dickerson
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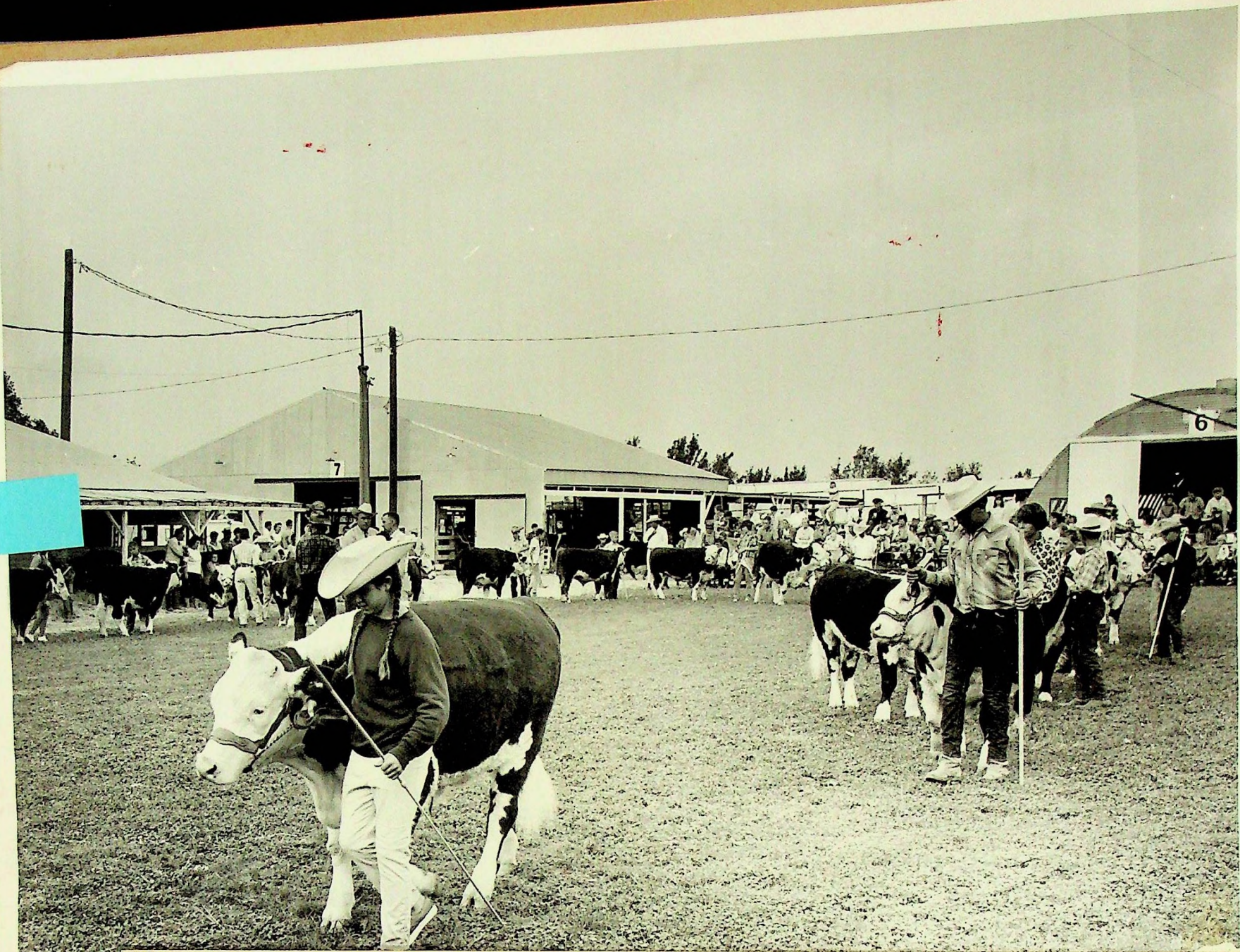




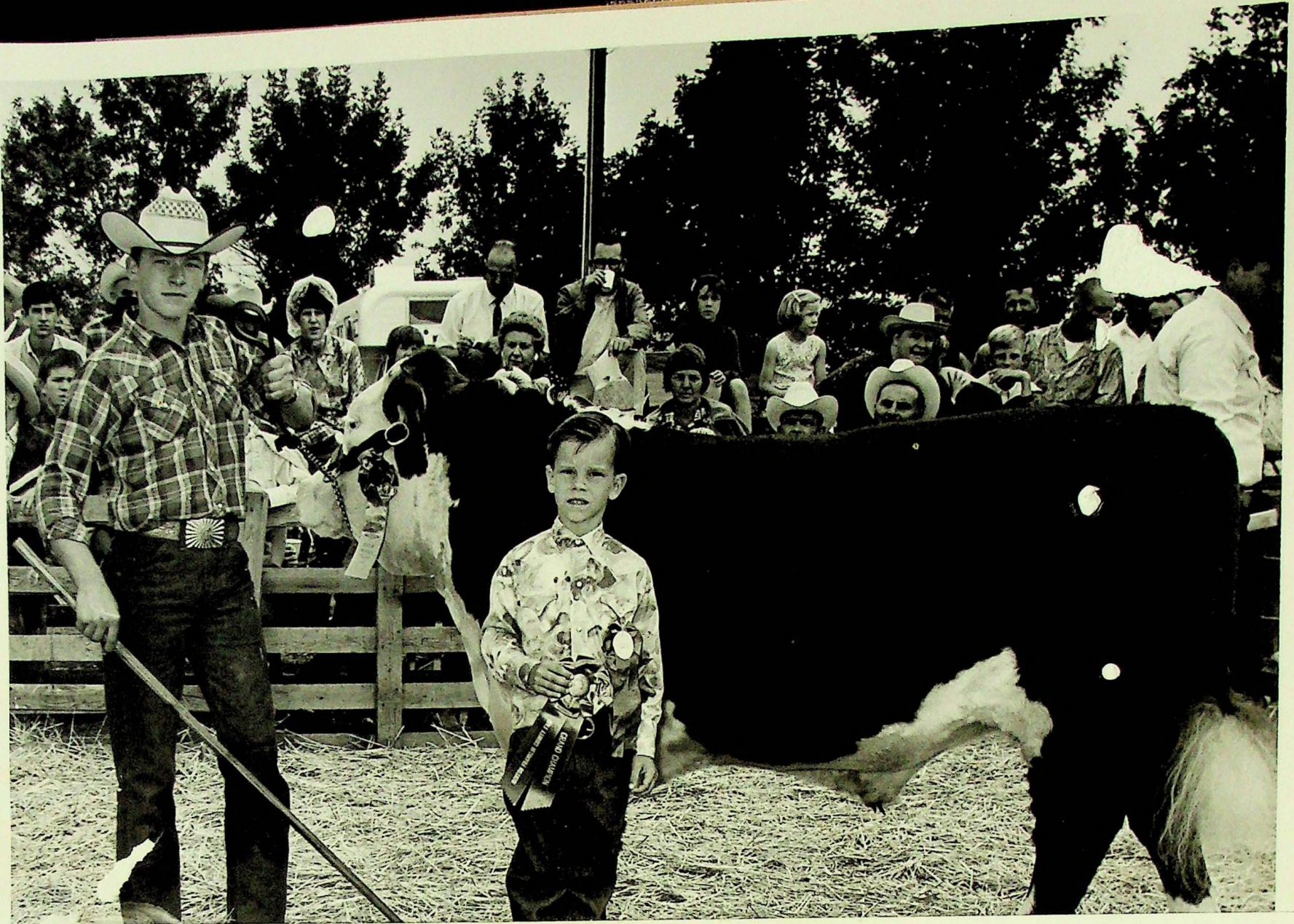
Dickerson

COLUMBIA VALLEY
GRANGE







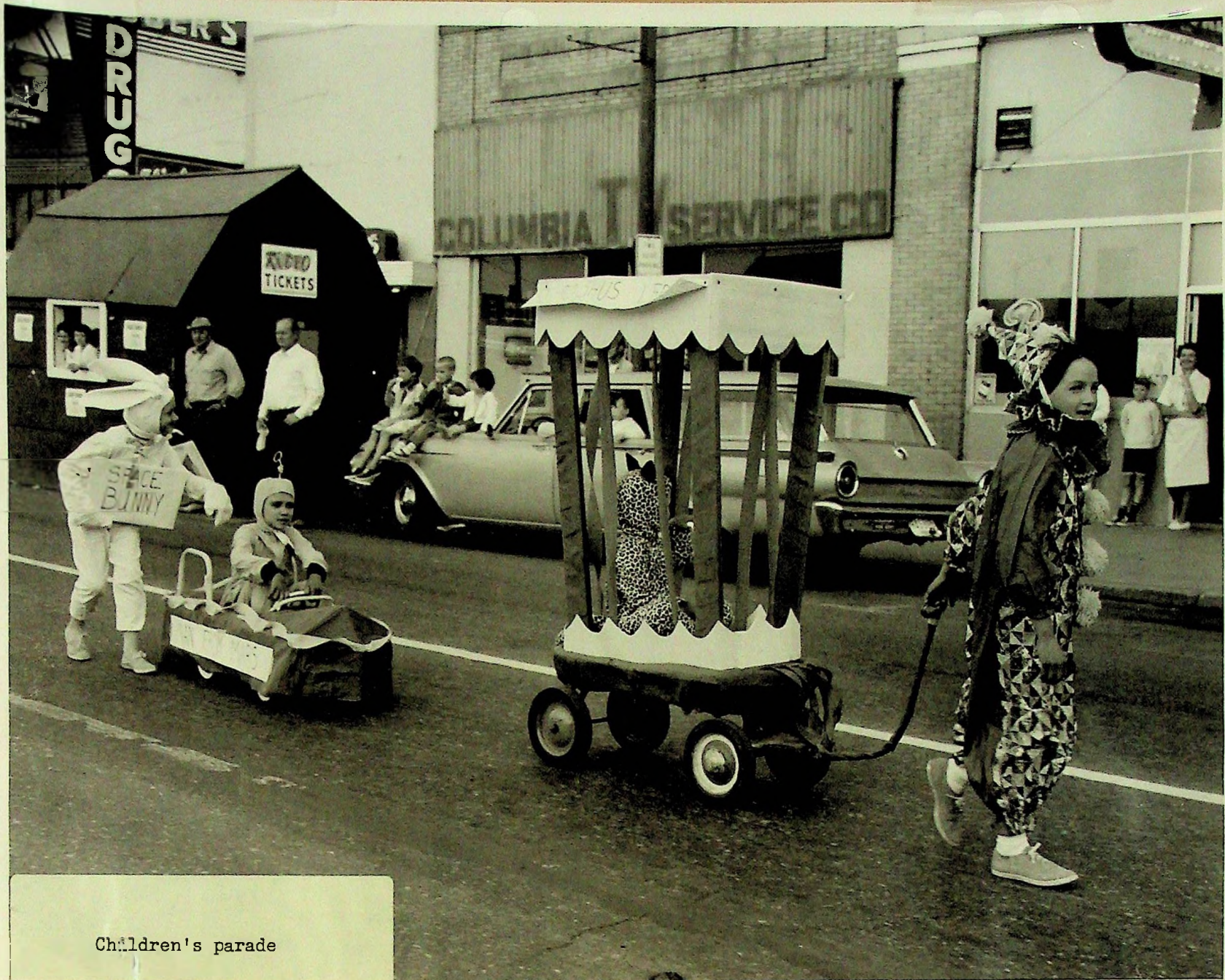




The Grand Parade



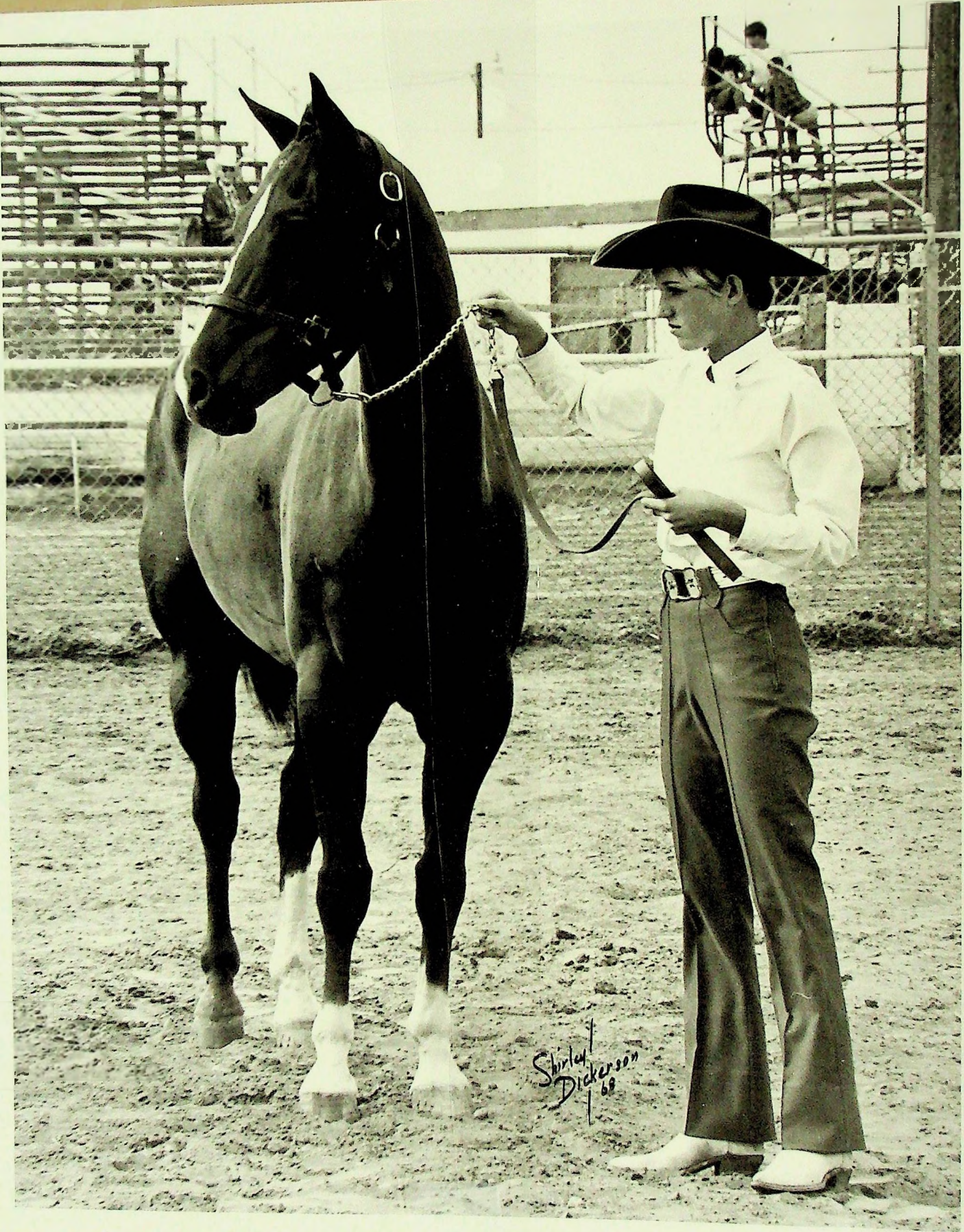




Children's parade



Shirley
Dickens




CROWN
ALBUMS
D-299

