

1990

Theme: "Country Calico"

Premium Book Dedicated in memory of Ted Thompson

Upon receiving word of a successful application, the museum grant funds (\$25,000) were received from the Washington State Energy office. Remodeling was started in the Multi-Purpose Building for the temporary museum home. Portable horse stalls were rented and set up north of the Indoor Arena barn to accommodate growing 4-H horse entries. Eleven food concessions along with the Ice Cream parlor catered to the public. The First Aid station was set up in a tent with discussion leading through to a future building. Booster button sales were open to civic groups, 4-H clubs as well as the royalty candidates, with a sales percentage for all.

Michael Johnson, popular RCA recording artist, was the featured arena act, on Saturday afternoon.

Grand Marshals: Ron and Barbara Wachter

Fair Queen: Julie Aune, Lacrosse

Rodeo Queen: Melinda Moore, Kahlotus

Rodeo Princess: Denise Hatley, Pullman

1991

Theme: "Hoofin' It to the Fair"

As the Public Service Building second floor was being remodeled the offices shuffled, the Fair office joined the parks and Recreation staff in the U.S. Bank Building.

The museum committee set up an exhibit in the Multi-Purpose Building. Longacres Race Track in Seattle closed, with future plans for a new race track within three years. Satellite wagering still continued at smaller tracks around the state. Decreasing pari-mutuel funding will happen as a result until the new facility is built.

Grand marshals: Whitman County Horse Racing Association

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Repp

Fair Queen: Michelle, Bruce, Lacrosse

Rodeo Queen: Jennifer Bageant, St. John

Rodeo Princess: Tamera Avery, Colfax

1992

Theme: "Harvest Jubilee"

Receiving a \$22,000 State Fair Special Assistance grant resulted in two horse barns been moved from the Endicott highway intersection location to grounds east of the beef barn and near the main ticket gates. This provided safer public access for 4-H horse activities. A 40' washrack system was among the final improvements to the 4-H Horse Barn move.

New electrical service and wiring were installed on the grounds. During the summer months, the Fair earned substantial revenues from camping fees from the Welded Construction Company. The campers were working on expansion of Canada to California gas pipeline.

For the first time, wristbands are used for fair admissions instead of booster buttons. The Whitman County Historical Society set up a "Wheat Sacks to Sea" photographic display for the museum in the Multi-Purpose Building.

The 20th anniversary of the Palouse Empire Rodeo Association was commemorated. The Pullman Chamber of Commerce Sponsored Cow Chip Bingo at the Old McDonald's Barn.

Grand Marshals: Dwayne and Melba Shahan

Fair Queen: Tammy Henniger, Lacrosse

Rodeo Queen Tamara Avery, Colfax

1993

Theme: "A Family A-Fair"

Bob Reynolds, Operation Coordinator resigned. James Karr took over temporarily until April when George Gatzkiewicz was hired for the remainder of the year. A demolition derby was held in conjunction with Colfax Concrete River Days in July. This popular event drew 1,500 spectators the first year.

Due to new state regulations, the Threshing Bee Committee was required to pay a \$300 fee to register and certify the safety of the steam engine that is used during the September threshing demonstration.

A major change this year was moving the Sheep division to the large arena barn and placing the beef in the former Sheep barn. A controversial decision, this was done to provide additional space for the increasing sheep entries (Beef entries totaled less than 30).

The new First Aid Building was set up next to the Ice Cream Parlor and dedicated as the Broeckel Clinic on Saturday of the Fair. The grand Parade and crowning of Miss Palouse Empire Fair moved to the Community Building stage due to a windstorm. Ben and Berniece Krom were the first to be inducted into the Palouse Empire Fair Hall of Fame in honor of their many years of service.

Entertainment included The Sender's, a popular 50's group from Moscow and Safari Reptile Show, which thrilled students on 3rd grader day.

Grand Marshals: Ben and Berniece Krom

Fair Queen: Tandi Dodge, Lacrosse

Rodeo Queen: Jennifer Brockel, Lacrosse

Rodeo Princess: Ann Larson, Colfax

1994

Theme: "Homespun Country Fun"

Fair Program: Dedicated in memory of DeLon Ray

Dean Weidenaar was hired as ground Operation Coordinator. Sticker ribbons were used in place of the standard 2" x 8" blue, red, and white ribbons. Many exhibitors expressed their preference for the return of standardized ribbons.

This year was a year of changes. The Grand Parade moved from Saturday to Sunday to accommodate high school sports scheduling. The Fair Office set up in a small meeting room of the Community Building to be more central and accessible to the superintendents and staff. The Livestock Sale time was moved from 4pm to 1pm. The Livestock Sale personnel used the Fair office by the Rodeo arena. The Fair contracted with the Carnival Company for new and improved rides and attractions. The Royalty contest was moved from Thursday to Friday night. Neill Motors, Pullman, and the Dodge Corporation became corporate sponsors of the rodeo.

Admission prices were raised to \$10.00 for an adult four-day wristband and \$5.00 for adult daily admission. Advance day passes came on the scene at \$4.00 for those looking for discounted prices.

Fritz Steiger and Della Mae Evens were inducted into the Palouse Empire Fair Hall of Fame during the Grand Parade.

"Men in the Making", a popular 50's group from Spokane, entertained enthusiastic crowds Saturday afternoon. A sumo wrestling contest was also held during the four days.

Grand Marshal: Carl Ousley

Fair Queen: Kelly Bruce, Lacrosse

Rodeo Queen: Korby Riebold, Potlatch

1995

Theme: "Barnyard Boogie Time"

Fair Premium Book: Dedicated in memory of Brian Aase

The Community Building was the focus of a remodeling project. Paneled walls were painted, the stage was sanded and refinished, and the kitchen was painted and papered. Compliments and increased bookings for weddings and receptions were a result of the remodeling.

Llama and Emu divisions were added to the premium book entries. A heavy windstorm on July 6 & 7 damaged trees, roofs, and building doors with extensive damage to the Operation Coordinator's trailer. A new roof was installed on the Community Building.

Fritz Steiger, long time fair supporter and past Fair Board President passed away. A memorial fund was set up to be used for maintenance and improvements to the Steiger Hotel. A plaque was placed in the Hotel and a red oak tree was planted on the grounds in his honor.

The Fair moved back to using standard 2" x 8" ribbons instead of the sticker ribbons used in the previous year. A tent was put up on the grounds for Concession booth customers. The Air National guard, in conjunction with the Whitman County Health Department, set up an educational display.

Highlight of the fair was the Friday concert by Dan Seals, in the outdoor arena. Well attended, the concert was the first of many major recording artists. "Men in the Making" appeared again on Saturday.

An antique light fixture was placed near the main ticket gates in memory of Brian Aase, former Fair Board President. Hubert Prince was recognized at the appreciation dinner for his many years of service.

Grand Marshal: Della Evens

Fair Queen: Dana Erikson, Lacrosse

Rodeo Queen: Kasey Reibold, Colfax

Rodeo Princess: Rebekah Dyer

1996

Theme: "A Little Bit Country"

Fair Premium Book: Dedicated in memory of Jim Hedlund

The grounds experienced extensive flood damage in February.

A 20' x 12' storage room was built in the was end of the Community Building. The sound system was stolen early in the year and efforts to recover the equipment were futile. Donations from area businesses were solicited for a larger, improved arena sound system for the rodeo and demolition derby.

The Whitman County Red Cross Chapter took over the former Jaycees both serving a pizza menu. A light fixture was placed at the main ground's sidewalk intersection in memory of Jim Hedlund, former Draft Horse Superintendent.

The first annual Senior Citizen Pancake Breakfast was offered due to the generosity of Shedd's Spread Country Crock and business sponsorship. Free to seniors 60 and older, breakfast was prepared by County elected officials and drew over 200 customers.

Entertainment included Andy Reeves winner of the National FFA entertainment competitions, Erin Wise, vocalist from Tekoa, and Chris Driesbach. A 4-H Dog Show was added to the exhibit lineup.

Dr. Randy McGraw was named Volunteer of the Year. Retiring Superintendents Marge Smith and Marge McCully were honored at the Fair Appreciation Dinner with plaques and commemorative park benches.

Updated by-laws for the Palouse Empire Fair Association were voted and approved this year. Changes included the determination of membership and adoption of dues schedule to help raise money to fund improvement projects at the fairgrounds.

Grand Marshal: Marge Smith

Fair Queen: Stacey Lintvedt, Colfax

Rodeo Queen: Annie Kresselt, Potlatch

Rodeo Princesses: Jodi Evens, Lacrosse & Stephanie VanHorn

1997

Theme: "Get Your Kicks on Round 26"

Fair Premium Book: Dedicated in memory of Lewis Organ

Began in 1993, the July demolition derby attracted over 4,000 spectators. The Children's Village Blacksmith Shop was a scene of a popular hand on education demonstration to teach children the relationship between natural resources and the products used in everyday life. Jamie's Rock & Roll Legends show, sponsored by area agricultural businesses, was the main attraction on Thursday night.

The Washington State Fairs Commission required all fairs to have an emergence evacuation plan in place. Copies of the proposed and color maps of the fairgrounds were placed in all of the barns, buildings, and ticket gate areas. Training was provided based on recommendations from the County Fire Districts and Whitman County Health Department.

Retiring Superintendents Janey Lyman and Nancy Cochran were honored with park benches in their names.

Grand Marshall: tom Bryne

Fair Queen: Evie Schell, Pullman

Rodeo Queen: Sarah Russell, Potlatch

1998

Theme: "Bustin' Loose on the Palouse"

The Washington State Fair association held its East Side Area Manager's meeting at the fairgrounds in March with valuable training sessions for Fair Superintendents.

Governor Locke signed a bill which transferred the pari-mutuel funds received by fairs back to the racing tracks in Washington State to help them get on their feet financially. Governor Locke promised discussion early in 1999 legislative session to find a permanent funding source for fairs.

Due to high number of requests for camping sites during the fair, R.V. spots were offered on a first come, first served basis beginning in June. Sign up started at 7:00 p.m. with people waiting in line at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon.

The Gun Club was remodeled as a garment changing area for 4-H and FFA exhibitors and the evacuation plan was updated.

Jerry Harris, Master Hypnosis, was a big draw during the four-day fair. Southbound and Herrick's Pride, Rosalia, performed country western this.

Seven acres of ground were donated to the fair by Carl Ousley to expand the parking and fairgrounds activity areas. The space filled by 7:00 p.m. Saturday night.

Mary Beth Harvey, Jane Lyman, Debbie and Brad Hill, and Eric Appel were named Superintendents of the Year. Charlie Oldenburg was named Volunteer of the Year.

The Palouse Empire Fair Association presented a plan to replace the temporary bleachers structure with a permanent, expanded grandstand. A grant application to the Paul Allen Foundation for funding requires a non-profit 501©(3) corporation to apply. The Fair Foundation was formed to qualify as the tax-exempt agency to insure this grant application, as well as future grants, could be made.

Grand Marshals: Dick & Helen Appel

Fair Queen: Nicole Schneider, Lacrosse

Rodeo Queen: Abby, Kammerzell, Colfax

Rodeo Princess: Jennifer Robinson, Moscow

1999

Theme: "Patience Turns Gold"

The Palouse Empire Fair Foundation Submitted a grant application to the Paul Allen Foundation for \$875,000 to fund a new 3000 seat grandstand for the fairgrounds. The grant request was unsuccessful.

A lengthy legislative session resulted in Washington State fairs receiving a guaranteed \$2 million dollars in funding for three years.

The grounds R.V. part was expanded in June to include an additional 25 dry camping sites for fair exhibitors camping convenience. Another storage room was built on the back of the Community Building stage.

A flag pole, and memorial plaque and time capsule are placed in the center of the fairgrounds due to generosity of anonymous donations. The Clinton Miller family has donated a large bell to be placed next to the flag pole. All will be dedicated at the opening day ceremony September 9.

Patience (the pink cow) is painted gold for the occasion with an official unveiling during the opening ceremony on Thursday of the Fair. Originally sculpted by Doris Ensley Matteson, Kathy Ensley Thompson refurbished Patience for the occasion.

Former fair queens are invited to participate in the Friday royalty program. An open house reception on Saturday honors past directors, superintends, and volunteers. Glint Luce and Felix Entenmann are quest speakers. Everyone is invited to join us in celebrating our 50th birthday by visiting, reminiscing and viewing historical photos on display.

Special Attractions at the fair include a NASCAR Show car Simulator and additional rodeo performance on Friday night. The 50's group the Kingpins, will entertain on Saturday. The popular Talent show is back for a third year with fantastic amateur talent. Jerry Harris, Master Hypnotist, and Rachel Anderson round out the show!

Grand Marshal: Charlie Oldenburg