

1970

A concrete sculpture of Patience, the Pink Cow, was designed and constructed by Doris Ensley, Colfax.

The indoor arena building was finished with donated funds and labor. A workshop was built for Carroll Lewis, grounds keeper, and part time assistant, Richard Pulis.

The usual fair activities were joined by the Old Time Fiddlers, Square Dancers, Idaho Cowboys, and the Harvest Ball.

The first Rodeo Queen contest was held by Leslie Shahan crowned as queen for the coming year.

Fair Queen: Carrie Bushnell, St. John

1971

A new building was erected for Fruits and Vegetables. A lean to was added to the Indoor Arena building. The Horse Racing Association, who scheduled horse racing events two weekends in June each year, were no longer in business. They had been active since 1949. All of the barns, their office building and the race track were left for fair use.

Fair Queen: Pam Pfaff, Farmington

Rodeo Queen: Leslie Shahan, Colfax

Rodeo Princess: Audrey Schlunegar, Colfax

1972

A new entry system of tags was used and numbers were issued to each exhibitor. An information booth was set up and manned by Senior Citizens. This was the first year for the Hospital Guild Sale in the Community Building. Proceeds from the sale went to the Hospital fund for equipment purchases.

The premium book appeared in newspaper format for the second year in a row. The Fair Board made the decision to not allow moving vehicles within the fairgrounds midway area during the fair. In answer to demands for more food booths than the original three, the Carnival was allowed to set up a food stand. A new entry in the Arena show program was a Draft Horse Pulling contest. Dick Pulis, assistant grounds keeper, resigned.

The Grand Parade still had Queens and their courts on floats with the high school bands participating.

Fair Queen: Cathy Miller, Colfax

Rodeo Queen Karen Kopf, Pullman

Rodeo Princess Vicki Vance

1973

Bob Suess was hired as the grounds keeper and manager. A motion was made and carried out to negotiate with the Gun Club members lease terms that were the same as other concessionaries. The leases were tailored to the specific needs of each organization relative to building and restroom Fair use in return for electricity and water. The Premium Book in newspaper form was again used this year.

Draft horses were included in a judging division. Adrian DeVries, owner of KCLX was presented a certificate of appreciation for his involvement as Chairman of the Queen committee for 18 years.

Fair Queen: Debbie Crowe, Oakesdale/Farmington

Rodeo Queen: Debbie George, Lewiston

Rodeo Princess: Ann Kilpatrick, Oakesdale

1974

The new style Premium Book was “back pocket” size. It was also reorganized in most divisions with conformed classes and contests. More old fencing was torn out and a part of the full perimeter fence was built. Float parking and camper hookups were established in the area north of the Gun Club Building. The Flower Show was moved from the Home Economics Building to the Fruits and Vegetable Building. A new stage was built for the grandstand arena shows.

So many pieces of antique machinery were donated to the Fair, the decision was made to have a display in the grandstand arena on opening day of the Fair. Merle Merry was recognized for his faithful work and dedication to the fair, as well as his 18 years of service as sound technician for the fair.

Fair Queen: Susan Largent, Colfax
Rodeo Queen: Tressa Schlunegar, Colfax
Rodeo Princess, Julie Hardgrove

1975

As the antique machinery display in 1974 was well organized and interesting to many, a group of farmers headed by Oscar and Fritz Steiger decided to stage an old-time harvest for the fairgoers. The country side was scoured for machinery and parts to get them in running order. The first Palouse Empire Plowing Bee was held at the Oscar Steiger farm in the spring. In the fall, the crop was cut with a push binder. Bundle loaded header boxes were taken to the fair for harvesting on Friday afternoon. A cook shack was set up in the midway and the Cowbelle ladies Organization cooked and served dinner to the crew. A sack sewing contest was also held in the arena.

A committee was formed to accept anything of historical value for the Fair. The idea of building a museum at the fairgrounds was formulated at this time. The Cooperative Extension office moved from the Courthouse to the Public Service Building.

The dispersed Horse Racing Association donated a water truck for fair use. A gift of a new spinet piano came from the Dow Chemical Company. The Colfax Kiwanis Club sponsored the first cowboy breakfast at the Community Building on Sunday morning.

Fair Queen: Robin Wride, Garfield
Rodeo Queen: Ursula Gahler, St. John
Rodeo Princess: Cindy Hannas

1976

The former Racing office and upstairs room was renovated and used for Fair work. Pat Mensinger was appointed part time Secretary, responsible to Fair Manager, Bob Suess, for all pertinent aspects of fair preparation. A main entrance gate was opened on the Endicott highway, with the Sheriff's Posse handling parking in the racetrack infield. The Carnival was moved from the midway area to the west parking lot. This move allowed for more space for commercial exhibitors.

There was a Sunday morning church service in the Grandstand arena, officiated by King Rockhill. Pictures from the State Studio in Pullman were given to the queens for the Fair and Rodeo.

Fair Queen: Lili Enos, Colfax
Rodeo Queen: Shann Evans, Lacrosse
Rodeo Princesses: Heidi Gahler, St. John & Freda Gylling, Colfax

1977

Theme: "People in Progress"

Duane Erikson was appointed as General Advisor of the Fair. The grandstand was under study by an engineer to determine whether or not it could be repaired. The County Highway Department installed a bridge across Rebel Creek at the new east entrance. The traffic exit was changed to the west Endicott cut off road. The final portion of the perimeter fence was finished.

The Plowing Bee with horse drawn antique machinery took place on Carl Ousley land across the Endicott highway cut off. The threshing was done in the grandstand arena later.

Carroll Lewis, ground custodian since 1960, was taken ill and resigned. The position of Fair manager and fairgrounds caretaker were combined and Bob Suess was named Resident Fair Manager.

Fair Queen: Denis Elder, Garfield

Rodeo Queen: Tammy Gaiser, St. John

Rodeo Princess: Tammy Startin

1978

Theme: "Sweet Sixteen"

Resident manager Bob Suess also became the supervisor of the Weed Control crew who assisted him with summer fairgrounds work. This format continued until the late 1980's.

Data processing of the premium payments began at the Fair office.

The Colfax unit for "Emergency Disaster Assistance" was given permission to use the fairgrounds facilities to store needed supplies.

Grand Marshal: Fred McNeilly

Fair Queen: Rondell Hunt, Colfax

Rodeo Queen: Jody Kopf, Pullman

Rodeo Princess: Susan Zuger, Endicott

1979

Theme: "The Land is our Life"

The Old McDonald's small animal display in recent years found a permanent housing in a new building. Located near the entrance gates, it was dedicated in memory of Carroll Lewis, late grounds custodian. Donated funds and labor were invested in the construction of the Old McDonald's Barn.

A drinking fountain donated by the Dusty Farm Bureau Auxiliary earlier was moved to the McDonald building site. A new one donated by the Sheriff's Posse Auxiliary was placed in the center of the main grounds.

The ailing grandstand was given an overhaul including taking out the front concrete wall and some unsafe seating palaces. Sunday morning services moved to the grounds grass infield.

Different contests were those of horse show pitching, Tractor Pull, and dog show. The first "Run to the Fair" (from Hospital Hill on Airport Road) was instigated by Bernie Babbitt. This run later became known as the Wheat Feat Fun Run. Don and Edna Appel were given an appreciation award honoring their dedication to the fair.

A computer system was set up to insure premium checks were awarded at the close of the fair Sunday.

Grand Marshals: Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Miller

Fair Queen: Kellie Heaton, Tekoa
Rodeo Queen: Chris Hilty, Colfax
Rodeo Princesses: Jenell Mellick & Nina Cutler