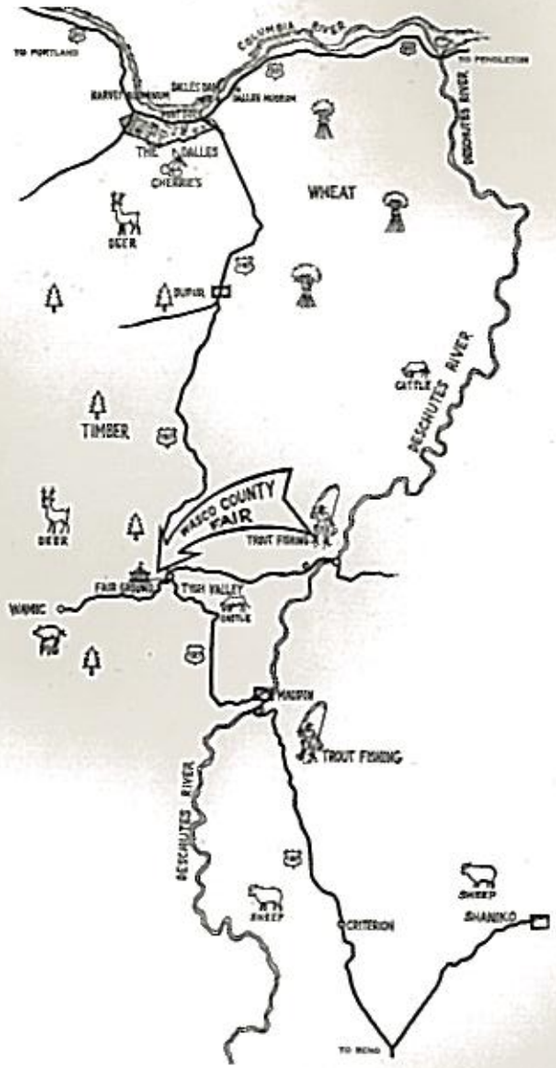
HISTORY OF A COUNTY FAIR

1868-1968



HISTORY OF A COUNTY FAIR

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This book is dedicated to, and in memory of

W. E. HUNT

formerly of Tygh Valley, Oregon, who donated the land that is the present location of the Wasco County Fair, and who gave much of his own time, effort, and money in the early days toward getting the fair started. Mr. Hunt was particularly anxious to have the 4-H and FFA members have a place to exhibit their projects at the fair.

Introduction

With 1968 being the Centennial Year for the Wasco County Fair, there seemed to be a need for a concise record of many significant events that had happened, along with mention of people who had helped make history during that time.

Much, of course, was left out since to write in more detail would have run into volumes. In fact there are so many separate periodicals, books, papers, and documents in various files now about early Oregon and Wasco County pioneers and events, that to duplicate them would have been futile. However, since few can remember a hundred years, or even much less, it was necessary in writing the "History Of A County Fair," to rely on hand-me-down information and the files of the daily and weekly newspapers, and other publications.

Wasco County, indeed, does have an interesting history. We have tried to relate its agriculture and people to events and happenings that led to having fairs.

County Fairs are of long standing here as well as elsewhere, and without doubt have influenced many people in some way, and perhaps some communities as well. We hope because of the profound place that the County Fair and other Fairs have had in our history that they will be with us for a long time to come.

This brief history, condensed in one small volume as it is, we think will serve to commemorate to future generations some knowledge of the trials and tribulations our forefathers experienced to make possible the fair we have today.

Chapter 1

SETTLERS ARRIVE IN OREGON TERRITORY

Immigrants and the Oregon Territory

The Wasco County Fair, celebrating one hundred years of pioneering efforts and accomplishments, has indeed come a long way from its meager beginnings to today's high level of entertainment and achievement.

It was only 125 years ago that Mr. McDuffie, representing the English and Hudsons Bay Company said on the floor of the United States Senate, "To reach the Oregon Territory you would have to tunnel through mountains five or six hundred miles in extent. —Of what use will this be for agricultural purposes? I would not for that purpose give a pinch of snuff for the whole territory." Quite a "pinch of snuff" this territory represents today, of which Wasco County has been, and is, such an important part. The estimated gross agricultural income for Wasco County alone in 1967 was over 13 million dollars, to say nothing of the money income from industry and other sources.

It is true that those who travel the scenic Columbia River highway through Wasco County for the first time are more impressed by the rock cliffs and mountainous terrain than with the agricultural possibilities found here. The hill lands in the early days were considered worthless by the settlers for agricultural purposes, even up to the late 1860's—about a hundred years ago. It took them nearly 20 years to find out that the lands extending back from the river would grow wheat and other crops besides the native bunch grass.

Old Wasco County

Few counties in the United States have a history as interesting as Wasco County. It is still known as the Mother of Counties because from it originated all of the other eastern Oregon counties, as well as parts of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Wasco was the largest county in the United States in 1854, covering 130,000 square miles—extending from the Cascade Range to the Rocky Mountains—an area larger than the British Isles. A gradual reduction in its size began in 1859 when Congress took fully one-third of its territory. The reduction continued from time to time as new counties were added until the last division formed Deschutes County in 1916. This left Wasco County as it is today, the 14th largest county in Oregon. It contains 2,387 square miles, or about 1½ million acres of which 308,800 acres are in the Indian Reservation. Another 208,000 acres are within the

boundaries of the Mt. Hood National Forest. Forest land in Wasco County totals 511,000 acres (private, both white and Indian and national forests) according to a survey made by the U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This is approximately 34 per cent of the county area.

Wasco Indian Tribes

Wasco County is rich in Indian lore and Indians even now are seen most every day on the streets of The Dalles. The former Celilo Falls, 13 miles east of The Dalles, was the natural fishing grounds for several tribes of Indians, some of whom traveled great distances to dipnet salmon. Three thousand or more were known to gather there when the salmon run was on. It was probably natural, therefore, that Indians would play an important part in the growth and development of the Wasco County Fair all through the years.

The name Wasco itself is of Indian origin and dates back by legend to the Indian word Wasq-o, meaning cup or horn basin. A tribe also had the name because of their ability to manufacture rude basins. They were considered by the early voyagers and traders to be the most numerous and the strongest of the bands living on the Columbia. They were, also, the most cunning and intelligent, probably because of experience in fish trading and bartering engaged in with other tribes. But by the late 1840's and early 1850's the Indians had become more warlike and were causing the settlers and prospectors much trouble. During the Indian wars that followed, The Dalles became the principal seat of military operations. But the white settlers gradually dispossessed the Indians of their land, and the tribes of the area were sent off to Warm Springs and other reservations.

New settlers kept arriving and it is said that in the evening hours the bench lands above the river through Wasco County could be seen twinkling with the campfires of those who had won their toilsome way "across the plains" with ox teams from the Missouri River.

No wonder that when the Reverend Ezra Fisher visited The Dalles in November 1854, the year that Wasco County was created, he predicted "It will prove to the great Columbia Valley what St. Louis or Chicago is to the Mississippi. True it is small now but it will soon be the key to hundreds of millions of wealth and millions of souls," he said.

Stock Raising and Farming

When the whites first settled in this region the entire country was covered with a luxurious growth of natural grasses; this fact, of course, suggested to them its adaptibility for stock raising. Wasco County was one vast cattle range with only enough land being cultivated to supply the home demands for flour. From the period of its earlier settlement, about 1853 to 1870, this county was without doubt the big home range of the so-called "cowboy." By 1870 sheep raising had been launched on an extensive scale and The Dalles became the largest primary wool market in the world. This distinction later went to Shaniko after completion of the Columbia Southern Railway to that point in 1901. Wool buyers from Boston and London and other large markets visited there regularly to buy the annual wool clip.

During the year preceeding the building of the railroads a few venturesome cattlemen had driven large bands of beef cattle across the plains and mountains to railroad connections at Cheyenne in order to reach eastern markets. In 1861-62 and 1880-81 there were said to have been heavy losses of stock in the county due to deep snow and insufficient feed.

Wheat Planted

Some time around 1860 "Dutch" Mahn, a settler some four miles east of the present site of Dufur, planted, unknown to himself, a few grains of wheat that had accidentally become matured. This is claimed to be the first wheat grown in the entire Columbia basin.

Gold Discovery

When gold was discovered in eastern Oregon and Idaho in 1861-62 The Dalles became the principal outfitting center for miners. This was the metropolis in which to spend the gold from the mines. The mining rush also helped create a market for meat and livestock products. Before this nothing much had been sold out of Wasco County except gold. The high cost of transportation had hindered such development.

Fruit Production

The first fruit trees planted in The Dalles area about a hundred years ago were mostly apple, and some grape. The Dalles Times-Mountaineer of May 17, 1898, in the Woman's Edition, in an article written by Charlotte F. Roberts, stated that with the exception of the orchards planted at Walla Walla valley, the trees at The Dalles and vicinity were the forerunners of all orchards that were subsequently planted from the Cascades to the Mississippi valley. She said a place two miles west of The Dalles, then owned by George Snipes, was planted to trees in 1854 by Dr. Shaug of the military reservation. John Marden, she states, had eaten apples

from the orchard in 1858. Charles W. Denton who settled on Mill Creek in the fall of 1853, had ordered trees from Brooklyn, N. Y., both apple trees and grape vines, but most of them were dead on arrival. On Three Mile Creek, Green Arnold owned a donation claim, later known as the Whitney place, and in 1857 planted trees from the A. W. Denton nursery. These first orchards, she said, were apple, pear and cherry. It was not certain that peaches would live. Many homes at The Dalles in 1862 were said to have had fruit trees and small fruits in the yard. The first orchards were in the creek bottoms for it was thought "fruit and vegetables will not grow without water." Then in 1872 Robert Cooper came as a pioneer and planted fruit trees on top of the hill. Strangely his peaches bore fruit when others failed.

In Wm. H. McNeal's History of Wasco County he tells of Amiel Schanno who came to The Dalles in 1860 with his brothers and father, and who established the Columbia Brewery at the foot of Brewery Grade. "After he sold the brewery he acquired an orchard on Sunset Hill, back of the T. B. Hospital. In those days prunes, peaches, apricots, and apples were the main crops of fruit. Cherries were in the experimental stage and not much was known about them. After the establishment of the Oregon Agricultural College Mr. Schanno got in touch with the horticulture department, obtained some cherry trees from them, and set out one of the first cherry orchards here."

It was Dr. George E. Sanders, however, father of Arthur and Robert of The Dalles, who was mainly responsible for finding out why so many cherry trees here refused to bear any fruit. In 1910 he got Professor C. R. Gardner of Oregon Agricultural College (Oregon State University) to come to The Dalles with a number of students to study this problem. Their conclusions were that the fruits were sterile from lack of pollenization. The next year the group returned and "brush pollened" the trees by hand. Those brushed bore fruit but the rest of the Annes and Lamberts were sterile.

Chapter 2

FIRST FAIRS ARE HELD

First Fair—1869

So with Wasco County's principal crops and livestock well established in the 1860's holding a fair was probably a natural development. The first real evidence of a Wasco County Fair came from the files of the Times-Mountaineer which lists the premiums and awards at The Dalles Agricultural Fair, held at the fair grounds, near Dalles City September 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1869. It said:

"The following is a list of premiums and awards at The Dalles Agricultural Fair held on the fair grounds, near Dalles City September 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1869. John Irvine, top award for potatoes and apples; Alexander Gray, award for pears and corn; T. M. Ward, white corn; W. N. Wiley, cabbage; James Force, potatoes and peas; Robert Mays, mare, 3 year old and one span of mares; M. Simpson, grapes; Mrs. Josiah Marsh, needlework; John Irvine, 1 mile horse race; Tom Ward, mare, colt and stallion; Morgan Ward, mare and ½ mile race; Monroe Ward, 2 year old mare and 1 mile race; F. A. Smith, horse and 1 mile race; A. D. Bolton, peaches and carrots; W. T. Smith, beets; Almira Campbell, crochet work; Anne Campbell, embroidery work; Richard Brookhouse, horse and 1 mile race; Howard Maupin, mare; James Fare, oats; Robert Mays, express wagon; George Snipes, colt; Jonathan Morrison, horse; R. B. Hood, knitting; Mrs. W. P. Miller, quilting; Mrs. Ollie Lyle, picture; Mrs. S. Leuber, bedspread; Mrs. C. M. Lockwood, preserves; J. H. Phillips, watermelon; J. Breedy, sheep; H. Kerrison, horse."—Times-Mountaineer, November 2, 1869; Oregon Historical Society files.

Oregon State Agricultural Society

In the county archives of Oregon we find that initial efforts to promote the advancement of agriculture in Oregon were made in 1853 and 1854 when agricultural societies were organized at meetings held by farmers in the various counties of the Territory for the purpose of conducting county fairs. By 1859 so many of the counties had thus organized that the next logical step, that of forming a statewide organization composed of delegates from the county organizations, was successfully accomplished, and the Oregon State Agricultural Society was formed. Meanwhile, in 1858 the fruit growers and nurserymen in the territory had formed an oganization of their own, the Oregon Fruit Growers Association.

Race horses in front of grandstand at fair grounds in Chenowith area, 1913.

In 1860 this group, at the invitation of the Oregon State Agricultural Society, became merged with the latter body. Prompted by their apparant unity, in 1860 the farmers introduced a bill to the legislature to provide financial aid to the state and county associations for the purpose of conducting county fairs, but this bill failed to pass. Although the county fair had long been an established institution, it was not until 1911 that the legislature authorized the county courts in the various counties to furnish funds for the support of fairs. A subsequent statute in 1913 authorized the county to establish a fair board, and the first fair board in Wasco County was appointed in 1913.

First Wasco County Fair

It is interesting to note in the historical review entitled "History of Wasco County," which was so well done by Wm. H. McNeal, that Edward F. Sharp writing about fairs states that the first Wasco County Fair had it official start in 1885. "My father," he said (Phillip Sharp) "was much interested in establishing a Wasco County Fair Association." With the help of other The

Dalles business men they were able to conduct a successful fair for several years. In 1890 the fair in The Dalles became known as the Second District Fair. The Second District Fair grew and prospered and continued for some 29 or 30 years. For eight years of that time, from 1913-1921 Wasco County had at least two different fairs, the Southern Wasco County Fair at Tygh Valley and the Second District Fair at The Dalles. The Second District at first included Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam, Crook, Morrow and Umatilla counties, but later only Hood River and Wasco.

Hood River was more closely allied to Wasco County and The Dalles at that time, and we learned from The Dalles Chronicle of September, 1893, that the first carload of fruit ever shipped from Hood River left on September 23, 1893. The carload bore the legend, "I'm full of prunes, from Hood River, Ore., What's the matter with you?"

Going back to Ed Sharp's report he stated "the fair was held then (1885-1895) at 12th and Bluff streets in The Dalles." That would be in the area known today as East of Kelly Ave. between 12th and 14th Streets. There was a half-mile track for horse racing, and the gradual slope up to 14th street made a natural location for the grandstand. There was also said to have been a pavilion, exhibition building, and stables there. A. S. McAllister (owner of The Dalles Chronicle and The Dalles steam laundry) was the first President of the fair. Sharp said his father was Vice President and J. O. Mack was Secretary. Later, he said, Mack became President and I (Ed Sharp) was Secretary. "The cost of erecting buildings left little for premiums." Awards were often framed because of the excellent art work done on them and hung in homes to show prizes won on exhibits. Mr. Sharp was known for his artistic abilities. Vic Peterson, secretary of the Wasco County Fair for the past 15 years, would probably admit to having had problems at times but they could seem minor to those of Ed. Sharp according to Sharp's own words. "Many an awkward position I was in when ladies brought me their hand made articles to be classified and some of their unmentionables gave me the quivers. President Mack finally secured the service of the Lang Sisters, Anna and Elizabeth, to handle that department of the fair much to our relief."

The major interest in fairs in the early years centered around the races. A reporter for the weekly Chronicle in 1893 stated "while it is yet several days before the time of the opening of the fair there are a large number of horsemen with their racers on the grounds. The track is in excellent condition and the rains have laid down the dust all over the grounds. This morning there were horses continually being exercised on the track. The trotting entries have not arrived there as yet, but there was a trotter on the grounds, and all the running stables were occupied. The pavilion is in order for the reception of exhibits and the sheds are ready for the fat stock."

A sales pitch about the fair in the editorial columns of The Chronicle that year stated the fair would help raise land and property values by attracting attention to Wasco County advantages. It said that fruit produced in the county was peerless, and there was room for a hundred times more population here, since not one-one hundreth part of the soil available for fruit raising was being utilized, and fortunes were being made by those engaged in the business. What county, it said, can excel Wasco in bunch grass, and for that matter wild flowers and bees as well.

For several years most of the fruit and vegetables for the fair were exhibited downtown at several places, and on 3rd street. The merchants preferred to have the exhibits near their places of business. During the war of 1898 there was no fair for a year or two just as there were no fairs during the first and second world wars.

Railroads and Roads

In order to orient ourselves better to the times of which this part of the report refers, we should mention that it was in 1869 that the first railroad was completed across the United States, and in 1883 the rails of the Union Pacific, which passes The Dalles met the eastern portion of the tracks at Missoula, Montana.

The success of fairs during the early years was more remarkable considering the condition of the county roads and the relatively slow mode of transportation at that time. We read in the publication entitled Dufur—Past and Present, dated 1891 that "Everything possible has been done to secure assistance from the state and county toward putting a road where the old "winding slide" goes down Tygh hill. The grade drops 3.62 feet to the rod,* and it is probably a waste of ink to remark that unless the commissioner's court of this county shows more symptoms of willingness to assist the farmers in making a passable road between Dufur and Tygh, the court will certainly be retired to private life so far as southern Wasco County is concerned." Even today, going down the modern gradual grade from the top of Tygh Ridge, which may be taken at full speed now, one may see three cuts in the side hill where the previous "winding slide" descended to Tygh Valley.

Kelly Avenue Location

By 1895 the city of The Dalles had begun building up and the Kelly Avenue location was no longer found suitable for the fair. It was then moved to the land where the Columbia Basin Nursing Home now stands in the Chenowith district. We found in the files of the Weekly Chronicle also that an Antelope Fair was held in 1897 and 1898 sponsored by the Antelope Stockman's Union. The report states that horse races were run on a half-mile track, and liberal premiums were given for exhibits of cattle, horses, sheep, wool, wheat, and other exhibits. Attractive purses were offered for racing and athletic events. The fair was held during the second week of October with E. J. Glison, fair manager, and E. M. Haley, Antelope, fair secretary.

* 22 feet per 100 feet of distance.

Other Early Fairs

Shortly after this time Wasco County participated in the Lewis and Clark Fair held in Portland in 1905. Wasco County, it is said, had a very attractive booth prepared by The Dalles Business Men's Association. C. L. Schmidt, secretary-manager, was in charge with various other business men as assistants. The Wasco County Court had published a special pamphlet for circulation by booth attendants, and in other ways the group told of and portrayed the advantages and good points of living in Wasco County. The County Court and the Wasco County Fair Board assisted in the preparation and cost of the booth.

Chenowith Area Fair

In 1911 extensive improvements were made to the fair location in the Chenowith area. It was then advertised as the 21st Annual Second District Fair. The Dalles Chronicle in its September 29, 1911 issue had this to say: "The Dalles is to have a real fair this year. Instead of the various exhibits and attractions being scattered over the city, everything will be seen at the driving park where the splendid new $4,000.00 exhibit building is waiting to receive the many displays. New stock sheds have also been erected, and for the first time in its history, the Second Eastern Oregon District Agricultural Society will have all of its attractions inside the big fence." The main exhibit building was reported to be 40'x 120' and located at the extreme south side of the grounds. The poultry exhibit was under the grandstand, and west of the grandstand were the new stock sheds. Farmers were invited to bring feed for their teams and camp on the grounds. The fair promised the best vaudeville attractions ever seen in this section of the country. There were also to be horse races every day. Arrangements were made to have local autos bring people to and from the city to the fair for twenty-five cents each way. Secretary Judd S. Fish, manager of The Dalles Hotel, who had spent so much time and effort in making the fair a success, said it had been a splendid fair with premiums totaling $1, 847.00 Only $1,500.00 was available for premium money so prizes were reduced by twenty-five per cent. The Chronicle said the fair was the best ever conducted by the Society.

Then as now people from all over the county were attracted to the fair and persons like Joe Southwell, who was listed as one

of Wasco's staunchest farmers, fairly moved his ranch to the pavilion with his great collection of exhibits. Grains were exhibited by W. J. Davidson of Endersby, fruit of all kinds by L. H. Sandoz of Mill Creek, and a collection of apples, pears, pumpkin and squash by A. D. Bolton of Boyd. There were 24 varieties of apples shown.

Dufur Fair

The year 1911 must have been a good year for fairs as the Louis Bliems of Dufur and Vic Petersons have pictures of a fine apple exhibit and show held in Dufur that year. And an apple show was held in Portland also in November, 1911, with 50 boxes of apples shown under sponsorship of The Dalles Business Men's Association, which won a second prize.

Chapter 3

SOUTHERN WASCO COUNTY DEVELOPS

Southern Wasco County Comes to its Own

It should now be recalled that events enumerated above were shortly before the start of the Southern Wasco County Fair in Tygh Valley in 1913. The railroad had come down along the Deschutes through Maupin by 1909 and the southern part of the county was coming more to its own. The canyon which for ages had been the rendevous of the coyote and rattlesnake had changed into scenes of life and activity. The lonely canyons and desolate hills, which for centuries had only echoed the sounds of the savage war whoop and the howl of the coyotes, would now echo the sound of the iron horse. Huge barricades of earth and rock had been leveled so that man could travel with ease and speed. Sherar's bridge was passing into history, although the present bridge still bears the name. Joseph Sherar spent and made a fortune in the canyon, it was said. Before the advent of the railroad the toll bridge was said to be equal to a gold mine for its owner. And the once famous road house, by its situation near the bridge, was a catchall for all going each way. The road house in the canyon was said to be a large structure resembling a castle, such as one might read of in novels, but this passed into history, as have all the other old stopping places along the historical thoroughfares.

Maupin and Sherar's Bridge

In the County Court proceedings of July 14, 1911, we read that "In the matter of a bridge across the Deschutes at Maupin we have a petition signed by 300 citizens and taxpayers from all parts of the county stating that a bridge is very much needed and desired and would be of public benefit." The report went on to state that construction would soon start.

Maupin itself was then said to be a coming Wasco County City. "It is a town that bids fair to one day being something more than a mere railroad station and trading point." Just when the first permanent settlement was made in Maupin is not known, but it is thought to have been around 1890 when the ferry was established. The settlement was made by E. T. Hinman who took up a 160 acre claim under the Timber Culture Act. He built a house, barn, and sheep corral and he and his son engaged in the sheep business there for a number of years. It is said that he also established quite an irrigation system from a large spring on the place where he raised vegetables and garden products. One of the great attractions about Maupin was its water system, coming

from one of the finest springs to be found anywhere. A water wheel was used to force the water into pipes and then distributed over town. The town was platted in 1910 and then sale of lots began. By 1911 there was a drug store, bank, newspaper, and other enterprises.

Tygh Valley Is Praised For Its Beauty

Tygh Valley, we notice, was recognized for its natural beauty and picturesque landscape long before it was thought of as a place for a county fair. In historical documents it is interesting to find what a writer by the name of Mrs. J. H. Crandlebough had to say about Tygh Valley on May 17, 1898. She said, "Tygh Valley, 35 miles south of The Dalles, is a deep valley about eight miles long and from one to three miles wide through which flows a large stream of clear, cold water. The admirer of nature cannot look unmoved on the valley of Tygh, with its timbered hills and mountains to the west, its high rolling hills with their wave worn appearance on the north, with its majestic cliffs on the south and east, and its level valley lands made more beautiful by cultivation; with Mt. Hood looking coldly down, apparently from the head of the valley like a sentry, guarding all the beauty. All things seem to feel the grandeur."

This was more generous than Ralph Friedman wrote in "Oregon, For The Curious." He said "18 miles south from Dufur is Tygh Valley, a little old-fashioned town, with false fronts on its barber shop, tavern, and cafe. It comes to life once a year, during the county fair." We wonder what he would say after the places mentioned burned to the ground but these now are being rebuilt. Mrs. Crandlebough expressed well what hundreds of visitors to the Wasco County Fair have said, in other ways perhaps, about the beauty of the surroundings at the fair. It was probably this beautiful natural setting that attracted the early promoters of a fair to select Tygh Valley as the place to gather for such an event.

Dalles Business Men Visit Tygh Valley Fair

As has been noted earlier, The Dalles continued to hold what was termed the Wasco County Fair for eight years beyond the start of the Southern Wasco County Fair at Tygh Valley, or until 1921. There appears to have been good rivalry and good sportsmanship between the two groups during that time. The Chronicle in its October 9, 1913 issue stated, "One thousand people of Wasco County attended the Southern Wasco County Fair at Tygh Valley Friday. The Dalles was represented by 19 enthusiastic boosters who were not only to witness the excellent event staged, but also to boost for the County Fair to be held here (The Dalles)

next week. The Tygh Valley people deserve a great deal of credit for the magnificant showing they made, as well as for the excellent and cordial hospitality that was extended to every visitor." The five autos filled with boosters had left The Dalles fairly early in the morning and had not returned until about 6:30 P. M. The men had all been clad in official Rodeo Buckaroo outfits, and due to the long tiresome journey a bit of relaxing seems to have been necessary. They framed up a yell that went, "Here we come, Hell-bent for the fair, Let 'er Went!" There were several verses to "Let 'er Went" but perhaps two or three will suffice here.

LET 'ER WENT

There was a young man in Kent
Packed his grub and his tent;
He hiked to The Dalles
with all of his pals
and shouted with them, Let 'er Went.

A family lived out at Tygh
Little Billie and Sallie, and Si;
Let's go to the fair,
Let 'er Went's in the air,
Will we have a good time? Oh my.

A Dufur young man and his girl
were determined to get in the whirl
So they hooked up the hack
And made a straight track
To the fair,—Let 'er Went, said Pearl.

We have seen rodeo riders with experiences that prompt us to add another verse

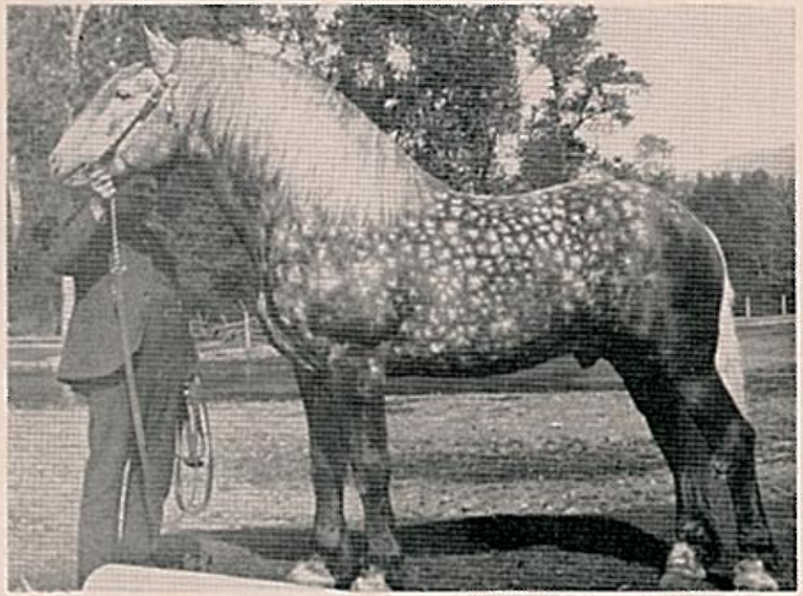
There was a bucking horse rider
Who thought that he had defied her
But she "ruined" his tally
At the fair in Tygh Valley.
"Let 'Er Went," he said, "nobody can ride her."

As the group swooped into the little town of Tygh Valley the air was rent with sharp cowboy yells, and these it was said were punctuated with the doggerel mentioned above. Those who made the trip from the city were: W. H. Wilson, C. L. Pepper, F. M. Sexton, B. P. Bailey, C. J. Stubling, W. E. Walther, Harry Walther, E. M. Williams, R. P. Weeks, C. A. Johnston, Judd S. Fish, Charles Dunmore, Levi Christman, Harry Cue, H. F. Woodcock, J. L. Kelly, Geo. C. Blakeley, and County Judge F. S. Gunning. The group reported that the produce exhibit was one of the best ever seen in the county, and in order that the whole county might see and appreciate it, it was packed and shipped to The Dalles and exhibited at the County Fair there the next week. Likewise in 1914 The Chronicle mentioned that a group of local citizens had braved the elements to attend the Southern Wasco County Fair

at Tygh Valley and were rewarded for the effort and risk taken. They reported that the road to Tygh Valley had been bad, but when they dropped down into the valley the sun had come out and the pretty little village with its red roofed houses had been an inviting picture to the mudspattered and weary travelers. A good crowd had gathered at the fair, contrary to expectations, they said, and a good fair was reported.

Dufur Colt Show

A Colt Show was held at Dufur around 1916 to 1919. Frank Ingalls was said to have been the booster of that show, and it featured draft horses, buggies and buggy teams, and general purpose horses. A report about it in the Wasco County Agricultural Bulletin in July, 1918, stated that the quality of the horses was the feature of the show. Also that it was worth the cost of the show to see three of the finest Belgian Stallions of the Northwest lined up in close competition. Men who had visited all of the stock shows of the Northwest said the Belgian class was the finest to be seen anywhere. The Percheron stallions were said to have been mighty classy also.



Prize winning Purebred Percheron Stallion, owned and held by Isaac (Ike) Driver of Wamic. Shown at fair held near Tygh Creek bridge just north of Brown's Service Station in 1913.

Chapter 4

THE DALLES FAIR BECOMES HISTORY

Last Fair In The Dalles

The last fair held in The Dalles in 1921 was said to have been the most successful of all fairs held there, this statement being contrary to the generally held understanding that The Dalles Fair was not well supported. More than 12,000 people attended, and every previous record of premiums given, entertainment offered, and attendance, of no matter how long standing, was shattered, according to published reports about it. Mrs. T. A. Sammis of The Dalles, it was said, did much to put the show over. Mrs. Sammis remembers the show well to this day for she helped put up many of the exhibits. The late Ted Sammis, her husband, was President of the fair board, and he and others had secured a prize Durham Shorthorn bull which was to be raffled off, with the intention of making money. However, it was found dead in its stall two days before the fair opened, from poisoning that was believed to have been a deliberate act of someone wishing to discredit the fair. Whether the bull died from poisoning or from lonesomeness by being separated from his sweethearts at Prineville, or from other causes was never determined for sure, but Mr. Sammis and others returned to Prineville, traveling night and day, and obtained another bull, the one they had first looked at, from M. R. Biggs, the largest breeder of Shorthorn cattle in the state. The prize bull, named Ledgerwood, was won in the raffle by John S. Fraley, a wheat rancher, who had no use for him. The bull was then auctioned off with Ray Bolton being the highest bidder at $130.00 which was said to have been less money than expected for it, since it had been advertised as a $500.00 prize bull.

Reasons For Closing The Fair

The reason that fairs could no longer be held in The Dalles, according to The Chronicle of those days, was simply that there was no place available to hold one. The former location was being used as a Poor Farm, and the County Court at the time would not turn the facilities back for fair purposes unless the voters expressed a desire that it be done. There was a measure on the county ballot at the November election that fall asking if the facilities then being used as a County Poor Farm should be used again for fair purposes, but the measure failed to carry. The Chronicle in its editorial said "The county fair is an institution, deeply ingrained, and it is unfair to The Dalles, and to the county, that we do not have a place for the Wasco County Fair. The

grounds for several years following this were used to graze the Poor Farm cows. In an issue of the local paper on Oct. 12, 1922 we read that serious injuries had been suffered by Arlie Patrick at the rodeo held at the property west of town used last year for county fair purposes. That little episode brought to a close 29 years of Wasco County Fair activities in The Dalles. However, there were efforts made at reopening the issue during several succeeding years, but nothing apparently came of it.

Fair at Tygh Valley in 1912 *at edge of Tygh showing the Gallon House. Identified by Lela* (*Woodside*) *Driver.*

Chapter 5

HOW TYGH VALLEY FAIR STARTED

History Of Tygh Valley Fair

In 1958 the Fair Board in collaboration with The Chronicle The Dalles reviewed some of the history of the fair at Tygh Valley. The article was written by the late Dorothy Ritchie of Tygh Valley who had taken notes as she interviewed the now departed old friend of the fair, Dee Woodside of Maupin. Dee had recalled to her from memory some of the incidents that had lead to acquiring the grounds, and for having a fair there.

The first evidence of a fair at Tygh Valley was in 1912, he said, and was like a family picnic with a few friends gathered at the old Van Duyn Park, just below the Tygh Creek bridge. Everyone had brought lunches and the day was spent in a joyful mood. Some bucking horses had been brought in by the Haston brothers, off the high ridge, which were used with volunteer riders to provide entertainment. A hat had been passed around to obtain money for prizes and about $40.00 had been collected, $35.00 of which was used for buying a saddle to give as a riding prize. This had been won by Ollie Bothwell, but Dee remembered Bothwell flying off a horse before it had gone far, after which the horse took off and was not recaptured until some time later. Alex McCarthy

Four-horse team parading past grandstand in Tygh Valley at 1935 *fair.*

had won $5.00 for riding a bull. The O. W. R. & N. railroad had given a 15-inch walking plow as a prize, won by Francis Morrow, and also a four-section harrow won by W. T. Norval. Other money from hat passing was given for children's contests, such as foot races. That night a big dance was held upstairs over the blacksmith shop, owned at that time by Dude Mode.

A similar event had been held in 1913, and by 1914 or 1915 French Butler had taken it upon himself to get a group together to consider holding a regular fair. After considering the proposal the group decided with Butler, but felt the "upper 40," owned by Bill McAtee, would be a better location for such an event The "upper 40" was the area that is now the present location of the fairgrounds. This location provided more room, and since the soil was sandy it was a good place to hold races and bucking horse contests. A grandstand was built of simple construction containing a small platform for the judges. It was so temporary they were hoping it would not fall down before the fair was over. The first fairs were one day events with horse races, bucking horses, and kids races. Mrs. Geo. Young, formerly of Maupin, had opened an eating stand.

The next year Mr. Butler and Frank Morrow, father of H. L. Morrow of Wamic, bought the Van Duyn store and then took upon themselves the job of selling subscriptions to buy the fairgrounds from Mr. McAtee. Stock was sold among farmers and merchants in the community, which enabled them to buy the area and it was named the Southern Wasco County Fairgrounds.

Mr. Butler was said to have worked hard to improve the area, building the Dew Drop Inn, a building still standing on the same location and bearing the name. The next year, and for several years after that, the deed to the property was turned from one President and Secretary to another; in the meantime buildings were erected and improvements made. Mr. Morrow became Secretary and while the books were in his possession his house burned, destroying all the records and the stock certificates. Mr. McAtee, in the meantime, had sold the mortgage he held on the property to a broker in The Dalles. All had been going nicely with the fair, but when time came to make more improvements, all the funds were exhausted. At that time the property was considered private and therefore taxes had to be paid on it. When these were not paid the property was foreclosed. The backers of the fair became disgusted and disinterested and so it broke up for a while. Those who had worked so hard to build a fair were, however, unhappy about this turn of events, and by another year called a meeting to determine if something might be done about reopening the fair.

W. E. Hunt Revives Fair

Among those attending the meeting was W. E. (Billy) Hunt, who was very interested in the welfare of children, especially the 4-H Boys and Girls. When he saw that the small group gathered could not arrive at an agreement, rather than see the fair die, he told them he would assume the mortgage and pay the back taxes, if the others would help keep the fair going. Hunt then built part of the present grandstand, more track, and the building that is now used as an office and rodeo registration. He had to do many things by himself at his own expense because of lack of interest and cooperation from others. Woodside said he had seen Hunt pay prize money out of his own pocket to young exhibitors who would not have received any otherwise. This again was evidence of his interest in young people. Mr. Hunt had been heard to say that the world rested on the shoulders of young people like the 4-H members, and since many could not afford to attend college, this was their means of learning. Mr. Hunt at times did the judging himself in order to prevent having to pay outside help.

At a 1937 fair board meeting Mr. Hunt had asked if he might attend and speak. It was suspected that he was going to ask if he might be repaid some of the costs he had assumed during the past years. Instead, he asked if someone in the group would be willing to ask the County Court for assistance. He had only praise for the fair and its supporters, and said that if arrangements could be made with the county he would have a surprise statement to make. Paul Muller of Wamic, and now living in Bend, volunteered to ask the Court if they would assume respon-

Truck load of sheep, calves and boys of Shaniko Club drove 31 miles to take part in Tygh Valley Fair. Date unknown.

sibility for the fair and give it financial assistance. The Court said they would do this if all those holding shares in the property would donate them to the county. This was later accomplished and since that time the fair has been managed by a Fair Board and many other volunteers, under the general supervision of the County Court. Mr. Hunt made known his "surprise statement," that if the county assumed responsibility for the fair, he would donate the land and other property to the county, free of indebtedness, for use as a county Fairgrounds.

Shortly after this Mr. Hunt passed away and there was concern then as to whether his wife and heirs would acknowledge the promise. Mrs. Hunt, however, soon put their fears at ease by stating that she and the heirs intended to carry out Mr. Hunt's wishes: That a deed to the property would be forthcoming, with the stipulation that it remain in the possession of the county as long as the property continued being used as a County Fair, otherwise the property would revert back to the heirs. Mrs. Hunt and her children, in recognition of their kindness, were given a lifetime pass to the fair. A large stone was engraved at the entrance gate with an inscription plaque, naming the area Hunt Memorial Park as a living memorial.

Chapter 6

4-H AND OTHER EVENTS

4-H And The Fair

Four-H club work has probably contributed more to the success of most fairs in the state than any one activity, the Wasco County Fair being no exception to this. Extension work got its start in Oregon at the Oregon Agricultural College in Corvallis, as it was then called in 1911. This was three years previous to the passage of the Smith Lever Act that established Extension work on a national scale as a Departmental branch of the United States Department of Agriculture. The first Wasco County, extension agent was Arthur R. Chase, who began his work here on Jan. 24, 1916, and the work continued without interruption since that time.

There were many enterprising farm families, however, who had encouraged and assisted farm boys and girls to own and exhibit livestock at the county fair, previous to the start of extension work in 1916, but getting pig, sheep, and calf members organized into clubs was the result of county agent effort. Chase said in his first annual report that Wasco County was the first county in Oregon to have a calf club. At the Tygh Valley Fair in 1919 there had been four calves shown by four members, who had completed the project. Other members were organized into sheep and hog clubs, he said. Sheep club members living close to the sheep ranges were the only ones able to get lambs. Due to high prices as a result of the war, orphan lambs that had previously been knocked in the head, were valued at $4.00 and $5.00 a piece, and members could not take the risk of them not living at such high prices. Nine lambs were exhibited at Tygh Valley that year. Chase made a significant statement by saying that the place of sheep, calf, and pig clubs had now been firmly established in the county. His prediction was that there would be a large enrollment and more exhibitors at the Wasco County Fair next year.

Early 4-H Winnings

As we have noted 4-H clubs started in the county, as they did state-wide, with livestock clubs. These were also known as boys projects, or clubs, as girls had not yet then ventured into livestock activities. Girls started 4-H club work in Canning Clubs about 1917. Former records show that nine members competed that year in four different clubs. The Hoover's Happy Hustling Helpers were the county and state first place winners, competing

at the State Fair against nine other teams. The same group of girls competed in interstate competition at Spokane in 1918 with teams from six different states, there again winning first place. The names of the girls were: Exie Morgan, Dora Johnson, and Esther Watson. The canning clubs were closely allied to the war effort at that time, and the so-called Uncle Sam's Canning Girls, representing Wasco County at the State Fair, were said to have made a big hit. The first canning clubs in Wasco County were in Mosier, Wapinitia, Shaniko, and The Dalles. By 1929 girls were competing in Home Making, Cooking, and Sewing projects. Health clubs for both boys and girls were introduced in 1931, Home Beautification in 1933, and since then many other projects such as Camp Cookery, Bachelor Sewing, Home Improvement, Gardening, Horticulture, Entomology, Hobbies, Beekeeping, Forestry, Flowers, Dog Obedience, Saddle Horse, Electricity, Archery, Wildlife-Conservation, Woodworking, Child Care, Knitting, Leather Craft, Geology, Photography, Gun Safety, Aviation, Outdoorsman, besides all the regular livestock, baking, sewing, demonstration, and judging contests. All of the afore mentioned projects have been and are shown at the Wasco County Fair.

No one is more familiar with all of these developments than Mrs. P. J. Kirsch of Maupin, who has served as an adult 4-H leader for the past 44 years. Mrs. Kirsch began her 4-H leadership work in 1924 and has served continuously since then. In 1962 she was selected as "Oregon Mother of the Year".

School Participation

The schools of the county from the earliest years of fair history took an important part in these activities, and many of the organized groups were both school clubs as well as 4-H clubs. For instance, in 1918 we read that the teacher and pupils of the Shaniko school had come to the Tygh Valley Fair in a body and had contributed much to the 4-H Clubs' exhibit there and to 4-H club enthusiasm. Fifteen of the 16 pupils who had started club work had finished and therefore the school was presented with an Achievement Diploma. This is typical of hundreds of such combined project activities that could be mentioned about schools of the county in their participation in 4-H club work during the past 50 years. In Extension Agent C. W. Daigh's annual report for 1929 we read that prior to 1925 the county agents had not devoted much time to boy's and girl's club work because there were other important things to do, and because of the travel expense involved. However, in 1924, he said, the Boy's and Girl's Club Committee of the County Economic Conference had recommended that the county agent supervise livestock clubs, and that the county superintendent of schools supervise all other clubs. This would tend to indicate how the county school superintendent and the

schools made a lasting contribution to club project work and to exhibits at the county fair during past years.

Daigh mentioned also in his report for 1926 that the only fair held in Wasco County that year was the Southern Wasco County Fair at Tygh Valley. He said he had attended two fair board meetings, gave assistance in formulating policies, and in securing judges. He said approximately 20 samples of grain were handled at the fair for farmers who were unable to attend. Activities at the fair were limited largely to the supervision of Boy's and Girl's Livestock Clubs. He further stated that no Wasco County Fair had been held in The Dalles in recent years because the then present members of the county court felt that Wasco County's agricultural production could better be advertised by placing county exhibits at the State Fair and at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. The county appropriation for the two events, he said, had been $1,000 for a number of years.

Exhibits At The P.I. and the State Fair

At the Pacific International, Wasco County fruit growers and grain growers won more premium money than growers from any other county in the state. Their premium money totaled $500. $325 of this was for fruit and $175 for grain. Alex Sandoz of Mill Creek had the sweepstakes box of apples. At the State Fair, Wasco County took half of the 12 prizes offered for Eastern Oregon wheat varieties. Mel Sigman of Dufur, according to Daigh, was the biggest winner, winning first on Hard Federation and first on Federation. All prizes in the Turkey Red Hybrid 128 classes were won by Wasco County growers. Ed DeGroot and W. R. Adams of Antelope won first and second respectively, on their Turkey Red entries. Dewey Bros. of Mt. Hood Flat, and C. A. Knowles of the Kingsley District, won first and second respectively, in the Hybrid 128 class.

The State Board of Agriculture had met in 1883 to discuss the advisability of abandoning the State Fair, but Portland business men objected, and the State Fair was continued annually without interruption.

As the number of exhibitors increased at the County Fair, the need for funds to pay the premiums increased, and there was urgent need for more buildings to house the exhibits. Until 1946 the 4-H members were housing their animals in make-shift pens without cover. The open class textiles and land products were exhibited under the grandstand. While the County Court had contributed varying amounts to the fair each year, $600.00 being earmarked for 4-H club purposes, there were insufficient funds during the 30s and 40s to make improvements to buildings and grounds. In fact, at times the premiums due even had to be prorated for the exhibitors.

Chapter 7

RACING FUND ASSISTANCE

It was about this time, however, that the state of Oregon saved the day for county fairs. In 1933 word spread that a bill to legalize pari-mutual racing was being introduced in the legislature with provision that some of the revenues might be apportioned to county fairs, and to other similar events.

The man responsible for dreaming up such a suggestion was Murray Kemp, who had come to Oregon as a poor boy via North Dakota, Canada, and Florida some 34 years earlier. He had toted bags and furnished room service at Miami hotels, but since this was not very lucrative employment, he sought to do other things during his off hours. He obtained a pass from a friend to see his first dog race, and this intrigued him very much. He met O. P. Smith, a promoter from the mid-west who was the inventor of the mechanical rabbit. After a brief interview with Smith, Kemp was hired at $25.00 a week to help keep books, handle gate receipts, and even at times to act as Smith's chauffeur and baby sitter for the track tycoon's two children. The association blossomed into a firm friendship before Smith died in 1926. Kemp then teamed up with other associates who had worked with Smith and the operation shifted to California. Kemp became a key factor in the success of the old Belmont and Bay Shore tracks. The Oregon bill passed the legislature, with the late Governor Julius L. Meier's endorsement, only on the provision that a portion of the funds be appropriated to county fairs. The Multnomah athletic club was ready for leasing and Jimmy Richardson, the manager, leased it to Kemp's crowd. Kemp kept dog racing alive, jamming the Multnomah Stadium with crowds for many years to see his pooches perform. It was said that Portland progressed by going to the dogs. But not only did Portland progress, so did all the county fairs as well. The new bill had provided that after certain sums were paid to the Racing Commission for expenses, and other sums paid annually to various county treasurers, and certain other sums paid for special fairs, shows, and associations, the remainder of the gross receipts from wagering, together with net receipts from other sources, would then be paid to the several counties in equal parts for the benefit of county fairs, or established special or regional agricultural shows. The Junior Livestock Show held at The Dalles annually, and sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Grower's League, is one of the recipients of this fund. The Wasco County Fair in the years since the law was enacted has received from $10,000 to $25,000 annually to help cover its costs of building improvement and operation.

Chapter 8

FAIR IMPROVEMENTS

Fairground Improvements

One of the first of the newer buildings to be erected at the fair, after the racing funds became available, was the 4-H dormitory, completed in 1946 along with two livestock exhibit buildings. These and similar buildings built since are all of similar design 40' x 90'. An open class exhibit building was completed in 1947 along with two more barns for livestock. Additional bleachers near the grandstand and an off the grounds enclosed beer stand were built in 1948. By 1949 the fair board had found it necessary to add two more livestock exhibit buildings. These buildings are now all occupied each year during the fair, with additional wings and pens having to be provided for poultry, rabbits, and sheep. One of the exhibit buildings started in 1948 with only a floor and side walls, was added to and partially rebuilt in 1961, and a bleacher and covered livestock judging arena were added in 1963 for the convenience and pleasure of showmen and spectators alike. The present plan has some 15 different types of buildings on 40 acres of land. The inventory valuation of buildings and grounds is listed at near $160,000 plus an additional $12,000 for equipment.

The Wasco Electric Cooperative installed the entire lighting system in 1948 which provided a real convenience to fair visitors, and to the public during the rest of the year. An irrigation system was installed in 1965 to make possible irrigating the entire area, much of which is in lawn, by pumping from the irrigation ditch. This was also to lay claim to, and to use, an old appropriated water right on Badger Creek. A deep well was drilled in 1958 that furnishes water for domestic use.

During the past few years more and more visitors use the camping facilities available, and while these are spacious and adequate, they are approaching capacity use during the time of the fair in August each year. The rest of the grounds and facilities are in constant use the year around for such events as the annual beef barbecue sponsored by the Wasco County Livestock Association; horse shows, baseball games, picnics, meetings, and for tourists and campers. The annual expenditures for labor, premiums, rodeo, maintenance, and other costs now exceeds $35,000.00 annually. About 15,000 people go through the gates of the fair annually.

While speaking of the entrance gate, incidents do happen according to ticket sales chairman Lenore Walters of Wamic. She states that a lady driving a car approached to buy her ticket

New pens and improvements of poultry building built by 4-H Club leaders and members. September 11, 1931.

View of grandstand and crowd at 1935 *Tygh Valley Fair.*

Parking area at the 1935 *fair.*

Aerial view of present Tygh Valley Fair grounds, showing exhibition buildings, grandstand, arena and race track, Indian village and parking area. Photo by Elite Studio 1966.

at the gate, and as she reached for her purse a cigarette she was smoking fell into her loose fitting blouse. She jumped out of the car screaming, so one of the men selling tickets stepped up on a bench and put his hand deep down into the lady's bosom to retrieve the hot cigarette. At that moment the Wasco County Sheriff is said to have driven up. He quickly looked the situation over and then, according to the tale, had asked if he might be next in line. Harold Sexton, it may be recalled by old fair visitors, was for many years the Grand Marshall of the parade, riding his faithful old steed called Rex. Harold's memory is as good as ever, but to get him to admit now that the incident ever happened might require some arm twisting.

Fair Becomes More Departmentalized

The County Fair has become more departmentalized now than it used to be with more than 50 different individuals responsible for certain portions of the five day event. Some of the more recent departments that have been added include, for instance, the 4-H and FFA livestock auction in 1948; Commercial displays, 1950; queen contest, 1951; Boy Scouts, 1952; FFA, 1956; Buckaroo or Ranchman's Breakfast, 1957; Photography, 1960; and Logging demonstration, 1967.

Programs At Fair

During the many years of the fair's existance, certain patterns, however, have remained unchanged, as for instance naming the opening day on Thursday, Kids Day and Family Day at the fair. Friday as 4-H and FFA Day; Saturday as Pioneer Day; and Sunday as The Dalles, and Sherman County Day. At one time The Dalles had a Lady's Day at the fair, but this went out of style long ago,—about the time that Mr. Jenkins corset factory went out of style—just at the time when it was said that his product was reaching to distant points too, but ladies at that time, we are told, flocked to his booth to see what was new in the unopened cases.

The rodeo from early years of fair history, has continued to be one of the big attractions for many fair visitors. Rodeos are now held Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Indians, now as previously, add much to the excitement of the fair with colorful attire, Indian display of hand made articles and artifacts, the little Indian village with its tepees, the Indian war dances in front of the grandstand on Friday evenings, and the other grandstand attraction of naming an Indian Princess.

The Mid-Columbia Riding Clubs put on an intricate and precision display of riding ability and dexterity each Saturday morning; and not to be over-looked is the large carnival that makes up the mid-way area of the fair grounds. While the mid-way with its merry-go-round, ferris wheel, and side shows might not have an intense appeal to older people, it never fails to attract the attention of all the youngsters present.

The backbone of the fair now, as in years gone by, is however agricultural in nature with both youth and adults exhibiting livestock, crops, and many other products and articles. Various clubs and farm organizations, particularly Granges, show and compete for prize winning booths. The 4-H activities and FFA also continue to attract many parents and others who came to see the Boys and Girls compete in many different types of contests and demonstrations, and with their exhibits. There is a style review, and contests in judging, sewing, baking, meal preparation, tractor operation, dog obedience, herdsmanship, showmanship, and perhaps others.

Indian Rodeo

The continued interest and good attendance at the county fair is believed to be at least partially responsible for the good attendance also at the Indian Rodeo held near by earlier in the year. New bleachers were added there in 1968 for the convenience of visitors watching the rodeo events, which partially accomodated the 14,000 people estimated to have been present. With attendance increasing each year the management is finding need for still more and larger accommodations to handle the crowd.

Chapter 9

WHY PEOPLE ATTEND

Many Attractions Help Attendance

What is it, one might ask, that has enabled an institution such as the Wasco County Fair, to grow to its present size and stature. There are many underlying reasons perhaps for the continued success of this significant annual county event, but one reason which must not be over-looked is that of the caliber and quality of the people who have been most responsible for its continued existence.

Officers and committee chairmen alone, however, would not be able to have a fair succeed without a desire on the part of many people for wanting to go to the fair. In part, it has probably become a habit, such as going to town on Saturday night used to be, and still is, in some communities. But more than that, the County Fair is a display of the county's agriculture, and to some extent its industry and commerce as well. It is a place for fellowship and fun. And it is an educational experience, especially for youth who take part and compete in many areas of activity. As we have heard said, "Fairs are for Everybody," and certainly there are few people indeed, in Wasco County and the area around, who have not at some time in their life felt inspired, educated, entertained, refreshed, or perhaps just plain tired by attending the County Fair.

Chapter 10

THOSE WHO HAVE ASSISTED

Early Individuals Who Helped

It would seem unfair, perhaps, to single out individuals among a group that has worked so unselfishly for the mutual cause, but we can hardly refrain from mentioning old work horses like Vic Peterson, The Dalles, who is the present Fair Board Secretary, and who has had that position for the past 15 years; William Hulse, Dufur, who has served on the Board for 16 years, first as Secretary, then as Vice President, and for 13 years the Fair Boards President; and Ken Webb, Tygh Valley, who has served as either President or Vice President for the past 14 years. Kenneth Grossmiller who served seven years on the fair board and has announced the rodeo and other events that take place in front of the grandstand for the past 20 years. Mrs. Vern Hanna, Audrey, as she is better known by her many friends, has the distinction of being the only lady member of the Fair Board, and she served two years as Secretary in 1949 and 1950, and one year as President in 1951. She, among other things, had a number of trees and shrubs planted on the ground in order to enhance the appearance. The policy of planting trees and shrubs to beautify the grounds has been a regular procedure every year since. She also initiated a policy of having religious service in the grandstand on Sundays. Alice and Paul Muller worked at the fair in different capacities for many years and Lloyd Woodside has been in charge of the Indian affairs with Paul for many years.

The Fair Board Officers direct and manage the fair and serve without pay, and have the administrative responsibility of putting a fair together each year. The various Fair Boards and the committee chairmen are, and have been, dedicated people to a cause and service for which the public is greatly indebted.

Fair Board Officers

Some of those who served the fair as President, or in other important ways, in years past include, W. H. McAtee, French Butler, W. E. Hunt, Dee Woodside, Dr. Lawrence Stovall, W. H. Statts, Judge G. G. Schultz, J. E. Kennedy, K. L. Hauser, W. C. Hanna, F. M. Sexton, Judge Kirk, Percy Driver, W. G. Johnson, Joe Dodd, Floyd Kelly, and there are no doubt others.

Those who have served on the Fair Board since 1947 are the following: 1947: Ken Grossmiller, The Dalles; Clarence Gardner, Dufur; Art Muller, The Dalles. 1948: Ken Grossmiller, Clarence Gardner, Art Muller. 1949: Art Muller, Ken Grossmiller, Audrey Hanna, Dufur. 1950: Ken Grossmiller, James A. Hunt, Dufur; Audrey Hanna. 1951: Audrey Hanna, Ken Grossmiller, James A. Hunt. 1952: Ken Grossmiller, James A. Hunt, Howard Corner, Maupin. 1953, Ken Grossmiller, Howard Corner, Wm. Hulse, Dufur. 1954: Howard Corner, Wm. Hulse, Vic Peterson, The Dalles. 1955 to date: Wm. Hulse, Ken Webb, Vic Peterson.

SO WE SAY:

"Good Luck to the Wasco County Fair
for the next 100 years."

We hope someone will compile a
history of the fair for the
next century.

THE OPTIMIST PRINTERS, THE DALLES, OREGON