

Interviewee: Dale Murphy
Vice President,
Clark County Fair Association

Interviewers: Carrie Clark
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I: What was the price of entrance to the fair and so forth?

D: Starting last eight years the CCF has went to a free fee so there is no admission to get in. There is a two-dollar fee to park your car on ground; prior to that we changed to one dollar per entry per person, under twelve free. Admission to the grandstands, we have different prices for different events the more popular the event the higher the price. They're still cheap compared to Six Flags per season.

I: How was the fair different "back then" from what it has become today?

D: There is not a lot of difference agriculture fair it is built around agriculture. We still have all of our animals that we show, and they pay premiums for. And that's what the fair was started for was for agriculture reasons. It's really an agricultural reasons. It's really an agricultural probably fair. The only changes have been some of the entertainment in front of the grandstands. We've had "barnyard scrambles", and demolition derby's.

I: How much bigger has the agricultural part of the CCF gotten over the years?

D: Since I've been of the board for twenty-two years, for example last year we had a record number of sheep that was entered for the sheep-show. There was 560 head of sheep. That seems like quite a number of sheep to have for local county fair.

I: What kind of games/activities were there?

D: The barnyard scramble was mainly for younger kids. For instance if they caught a pig they kept the pig and so forth. A lot of the kids that caught the animals showed them in the 4-H show.

I: Does the barnyard scramble still exist?

D: No. The competitions with Martinsville made us have to drop out.

I: How long does the fair usually last?

D: Usually Sunday to Saturday. This year is an exception; we will start on Saturday and end on Saturday for 1998.

I: When did the pageants first start?

D: The first queen pageant was 35 years ago. We were very fortunate one year; we had a local county fair queen that was about 20 years ago.

I: Do you have anything to do with the circus or anything that's been here before?

D: No. That was put on by the chamber to have in the circus of course the fair had to approve to have insurance on the ground. The chamber was the one who put the circus on.

I: How have the horse races changed?

D: They've gotten faster. Since we've been the first fair in the circuit for the horse for the last five years. The number of the horses that we have had entered has been up. It's not uncommon

for us to have 100 horses show up for one night's race. Where we've got 25- 30 horses to run on race.

I: Has the fourth of July ever been tied in with the fair?

D: Yes. The fair used to be during the fourth of July, but we found out that it didn't work. A lot of families go together on the fourth of July and it didn't really hurt the fair.

I: How long have you had the derby?

D: 15 years and that is a good draw for a crowd.

I: Have there ever been parades during the fair?

D: There was a parade to symbolize the 100th anniversary of the C.C.F. We had several entries for that and it went over well.

I: Is there anything that you would like to add about the fair that we didn't ask you about?

D: Yes. I mentioned the fact that we had our 100th anniversary. Two years ago so that means the C.C.F. has been around for 102 years. Started downtown Marshall, they moved to the parking lot of the high school. They finally bought some ground where the ground sits at now, and then it expanded from there.

I: Was it like the fall festival?

D: Yeah. There were no animals downtown or at the high school. But when we built the barns and the grandstands it really expanded the fair.

I: Were there ever many rides at the fair?

D: All the years I've been associated with the fair we've had a carnival except for one year. And the carnival backed out on us and didn't show. We always had a carnival; you got to have a carnival if you're going to have a fair.

I: How was the fair first started? How was the fair all brought together? Who first started it?

D: I can't tell you who first started, but some old names around that worked on the fair. Clayton Rouds and Roy Matthews. These two were very instrumental. Charlie Bush was very instrumental in getting the fair started in the early years.

I: Do you think it will ever get bigger than it is?

D: One year happened to have our local girl. She happened to be a Marshall girl who won the state queen one year.

I: Do you remember what her name was?

D: Sandy Louth, won this past year. Our contestant from Clark County finished 12th. She was in the top 12; there were 87 girls, she did very well.

I: Through your eyes, how has the fair changed overall, rides, and animals?

D: Well the animals are getting to be more of them. The rides are bigger, safer rides. Entertainment wise horse races we got more horses to watch and faster horses.

I: Those are interesting to watch.

D: The entertainment we try to put in front of the grandstands is an on-going thing that changes form year to year, but we try to get good entertainment out there for people to come out and watch.

I think that's about it. We want to thank you for letting us interview you. Hopefully by the middle of next year, we'll see our site on the Internet.

Very Good!

Thank You.