

Holt County Fair History Reaches Back 75 Years

This is the 75th year since the beginning of what is now known as the Holt County Fair.

It originated in 1886 when the people of Chambers village and vicinity organized what was called the Harvest Home Festival, a fore-runner of our present Holt County Agricultural Society, Inc.

Several changes of names were made during the years, starting with the Harvest Home Festival, then the South Fork Fair, later the South Fork Fair association, the South Fork Fair Holt County Agricultural society and finally, the Holt County Agricultural Society, Inc.

A Holt County Fair was held at O'Neill for a number of years but was discontinued following the fair in 1933. From 1934 to the present time, the County Fair was officially held at Chambers where a fair has been held every year except one since 1886.

The first fair, the Harvest Home Festival, was held in Mr. Wry's pasture where the Chambers Methodist church now stands. The Festival was held on this site each fall until the year 1892 when the name was changed to the South Fork Fair. This too, was held on the same ground.

There were no buildings and in order to form stalls for livestock, posts were set and poles were wired to them. A few rounds with a mowing machine outlined the race track.

A severe drought burned the crops in 1894, destroying agricultural products which might have been displayed. It was necessary to cancel the fair that year but this was the only year that a fair has not been held at Chambers since 1886.

On October 16, 1899, a new organization was formed at Chambers and certain articles of association were then adopted. The organization then became known as the South Fork Fair association. According to the records there were more than 20 people of the Village of Chambers and vicinity who met and voted to organize the Association. The following names were recorded as a committee to form a new constitution: L. G. Lambert, William Lell, Elias Dorothy, J. D. Grimes, W. B. Cooper and W. S. Grimes.

Articles of incorporation were filed by the South Fork Fair association in 1907 and were approved by the State Board of Agricultural February 8, 1907. Twenty acres were purchased by the Association June 8, 1907 from Lee and Emogene Baker, legally described as N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 19-26-12 in Holt county. On March 22, 1928 additional land amounting to one and one-eighth acre was purchased from J. N. Wyant.

This land still forms the site of the Holt County Fair and the property still belongs to the Holt County Agricultural society.

A special meeting was called by Secretary J. W. Holden April 18, 1914 to adopt a constitution that would make the association an unquestionable legal agricultural society. H. U. Hubbard was president at this time, and W. S. Grimes was secretary. The constitution draft, prepared by Attorney J. A. Douglas, bore the name The South Fork Holt County Agricultural society, and was signed by 54 members.

Signers were as follows: J. W. Holden, F. E. Lienhart, H. J. Porter, C. W. Stowell, W. D. Cooper, J. H. Newhouse, L. R. Wintermote, J. H. Grimes, J. H. Hertel, H. R. Holcomb, E. E. Hanna, A. P. Noble, W. B. Cooper, Jesse Frary, H. W. Hubbard, R. H. Lienhart, Carl Lambert, E. F. Porter.

C. E. Farrier, W. O. Jarman, H. U. Hubbard, W. B. Earl, E. E. Perrin, Joseph Klein, W. J. Doherty, J. A. Jarman, E. V. Sage-

ser, E. H. White, J. N. Wyant, William Lell, T. E. Alderson, M. L. Wintermote, W. R. Bell, John Bogert, C. J. Barnum, George Anderson, W. S. Grimes, Fred Kiltz, W. L. Holcomb.

J. E. Doherty, Ed Harris, John Sheedy, F. Adams, H. F. Dyke, B. G. Hanna, Wood Jarman, I. E. Grimes, F. G. Calhoun, Clark Hough, D. B. Perkins, R. J. Starr, Raymond Atwood, T. J. Osborn and C. M. Smith.

A new constitution was drafted September 29, 1923 bearing the same name. The following were signers: H. R. Holcomb, G. H.

Calhoun, Louis Neilson, H. F. Dyke, Clair Grimes, J. W. Walter, R. K. Platt, J. H. Hertel, S. E. Dexter, H. C. Cooper, T. J. Osborn, Edward Adams.

L. F. Gleed, R. H. Lienhart, W. A. Smith, W. A. Alderson, W. S. Cooper, George Rowse, T. E. Alderson, G. H. Grimes, F. H. White, Harry Ressel, J. W. Gill M. D., T. E. Newhouse, H. M. Lee, John Kellar and E. A. White.

"South Fork" was dropped from the name of the society April 8, 1933 when amendments to the constitution were approved by the State Board of Agriculture.

Drafting these amendments were President T. E. Alderson, Secretary Clair Grimes, E. R. Carpenter, H. C. Cooper, Harry Ressel, J. W. Ressel, J. W. Walter, E.A. Farrier, G. H. Grimes, Lloyd Gleed, Otto Greenstreet, Henry Wood, K. M. Adams, H. R. Holcomb and W. O. Jarman. The draft was drawn up November 6, 1937.

On July 18, 1959, a meeting was called by the secretary, J. H. Gibson, and presided over by President Lloyd Gleed. Present were

Vice President Vern Sageser, Treasurer Steve Shavlik, Henry Wood, George Rowse, C. V. Robertson and Ray Beed. Absen were T. E. Alderson and Ray Hoffman. A motion was approved that articles of incorporation of the Holt County Agricultural Society to be known as the Holt County Agricultural Society, Inc., be filed with the secretary of state. On July 31, 1959, this motion became a fact. Thirty-three shares of stock were sold in this Corporation at \$10 per share.

Harry R. Smith Motor & Impls.

JOHN DEERE

IHC MOTOR TRUCKS — FARMHAND

SALES and SERVICE

O'NEILL, NEBR.

PHONE 562

O'NEILL PHOTO CO.

Phone 1 — O'Neill, Nebr.

For the BEST —

- PHOTOGRAPHS
- COLOR PROCESSING
- KODAK FINISHING
- COMPLETE LINES OF AMATEUR CAMERAS, FILMS, ETC.



Welcome to the Holt County Fair

- DELAVAL Cream Separators
- DELAVAL Milking Machines
- HARDWARE of all kinds
- MINNESOTA PAINTS
- AIR MOTOR Windmills
- ZENITH Radio and TV

APPLIANCE REPAIRS — RADIO AND TV SERVICE

SHAVLIK HDW.

Phone IV 2-2131

Chambers, Nebr.



EWING

COMPLETE LINE OF APPLIANCES AND TV

PAINTS AND BATTERIES

We Buy — We Sell — We Trade

Phone 76-W — EWING
Residence Phone 76-J

ALEX THRAMEER



LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTION LOANS

Farmer Owned and Controlled
DEPENDABLE CREDIT AT
REASONABLE RATES

O'Neill Production Credit Assn.

Member Intermediate Credit Bank System
Capital and Surplus in Excess of \$360,000

"BEST WISHES TO THE 1961 FAIR"

DRINK

- Dr. Pepper
- Nesbit Orange
- Squirt
- Cheer-Up
- Howell's Root Beer

Plus All the Wonderful MERRI FLAVORS!

MERRI DR. PEPPER BOTTLING CO.

O'Neill — Phone 276-W

WE HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY THE FAIR

WE KNOW YOU WILL ENJOY MERRI BEVERAGES

24 Hour Cafe

FOOD AT ITS FINEST
AND YOUR MONEY BUYS

MORE

Wilma Johnson