

### Oil Mat 'Shortens' Distance to Fair

#### Highways 281, 95 Get Improvements

Holt county fairgoers heading for Chambers by way of O'Neill will have the benefit of a hard-surface road virtually to the door mat.

Work was begun last year on a four-mile stretch on U.S. highway 281 and on a five-mile stretch from the junction of 281 and state highway 95 on westward into Chambers. The snow began to fly last fall before the project could be completed.

But this year it's a different story. As soon as the frost was out of the ground, the men and machines dug into the unfinished business.

The new oil mat on 281 begins at a point 14 miles south of O'Neill and extends to the Chambers junction. The new right-of-way is situated immediately to the east of the former road which has been graveled.

Engineers had difficulty "holding the grade" during wind storms and washing rains. But the new road, built to federal specifications, is a picturesque stretch.

The new right-of-way on 95 from the Chambers junction westward is situated immediately

north of the former road and makes a compensatory jog at the east edge of town. The highway forms the main street of Chambers and provides the first hard-surfaced street in the town's history. The oil mat stretch comes to an end at the west outskirts of Chambers.

The town cooperated with the state in widening several blocks of main street and in the construction of curbs and gutters.

A year ago a new grading, surfacing and graveling was done on highway 95 for 3½ miles west of Chambers.

The oil mat work on 281 and 95, in effect, "shortens" the distance for Holt countyans headed for the fair through the O'Neill gateway.

#### Earliest Holt Fairs Held in O'Neill—

The earliest Holt county fairs were held in O'Neill on a site in the extreme northeast section of the city.

There is still evidence of the old race track. Horse races were fair features in those days. The old fair grounds in O'Neill now is owned by F. J. Kubitschek of O'Neill.

For a number of years there

was no fair. Finally, the association was reorganized at Chambers and merged with what had always been known as the Southern Holt County Fair of Chambers.

In recent years extensive remodeling and repairing has been done to the buildings and the grounds.

#### Steady Improvement Helps Fair—

A well-planned improvement program that has been carried out over a period of years helps to make the Holt County Fair and Rodeo the success that it is today.

Each year a certain amount of money is set aside for maintenance and improvements.

Several years ago extensive building was conducted.

There are about 74 million horses in the world, a decline of 22 percent since the start of World War II.

Several European countries report that the number of storks has been sharply reduced despite rigid protection for the birds.

Gypsum has been used as a plaster since ancient times.

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