

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 05-17-1949)

COMMITTEE MEETS PLANNED FOR SOWEGA FAIR IN FALL

Committee Chairmen and members of the executive committee of the Southwest Georgia Fair will meet at Radium Springs tomorrow night to plan for the 1949 fair, Chairman Ralph Allison announced today.

Mr. Allison said a number of matters concerning the fair will be discussed and he urged a full attendance. This year's fair will be the second annual event of it's kind here.

Officials who attend the meeting were asked by Mr. Allison to bring new ideas or suggestions into discussion at the meeting. The session will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be a dinner meeting.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 06-15-1949)

SOWEGA FAIR PLANS BIGGER EVENT IN '49

Officials of the Southwest Georgia Fair today announced that this year's gala event, slated to be bigger and better in every way, would be held at Albany Airport Oct. 31-Nov. 5.

The fair will be greatly expanded with more items of every type exhibited and approximately a 50 per cent increase in cash for prizes and premiums. Chairman Ralph Allison and E. E. Moncrief, chairman of the premium list and book committee, advised.

The officials who disclosed that the handsome new premium books had been completed. Persons desiring the books are invited to obtain them at the Chamber of Commerce or to write for them.

As outstanding highlight of this year's fair, in the planning stage now, will come as a distinct pleasure and surprise to Southwest Georgians, Mr. Allison disclosed, following a meeting of fair and Albany business officials yesterday.

Better housing facilities also are included in this year's fair plans, with arrangements being made to take care of Negro exhibits. A school day will be held, and a variety of colorful and special events, including an old-fashioned country horse race, a model airplane contest, Scout activities and many others.

Those in the seven-county area participating in the fair; Dougherty, Terrell, Lee, Worth, Calhoun, Baker, and Mitchell were urged today to enter their exhibits as soon as possible by contacting county agents and home demonstration agents.

The midway attraction this year, said by the officials to be the best ever booked for the city, will be the Johnny J. Jones Exposition, which includes two enormous railroad trains loaded with 50 great attractions. There will be shows, rides, free acts, fun, thrills and frolic for persons of all ages. Special reduced prices will be in effect on children's day with a matinee to be held each day of the fair.

Chairman Allison and other officials described the 1948 fair, held at Albany Airport, as will be this year's as an unprecedented success. It was the first fair of such scope held here in many years.

The Negro Dougherty County Agent, J. C. Sanders, will handle entries for Negroes desiring to exhibit.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 08-04-1949)

'QUEEN FOR A DAY' COMING FOR FAIR

One of the nation's outstanding radio shows, the Mutual Broadcasting System's "Queen For A Day," will be brought to Albany as a feature of the Southwest Georgia Fair this fall, Chairman Ralph Allison announced today.

"The show will bring people here from everywhere, particularly in the Albany and Southwest Georgia area," the chairman said in making the announcement. Fair Association officials met at Radium Springs last night.

"Queen For A Day" will be presented at the fairgrounds at Albany Airport November 2. The program, as is customary in all the broadcasts, will be carried on a nation-wide hookup. A huge tent to accommodate 6,000 or more persons will be erected and the program will be broadcast from a stage.

Some lucky Albany or Southwest Georgia girl or woman will be selected as "queen", with all of the national prizes to be presented to her along with a shower of local presents. The Queen and her court will be entertained lavishly.

The Fair Association ordered 6,000 tickets printed for the show, Albany merchants to purchase the tickets for 25 cents each. The tickets then will be presented to customers of individual merchants, whether or not they make purchases at the stores, and admission to the show will be by ticket only. The admission price to the fairgrounds on this day, but only before the show and while it is in progress, will be \$1.

The regular admission prices to the fair this year will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

The "Queen For A Day" program will cost the association \$3,000 for the one performance.

"We desire to give fair patrons the best in entertainment," said Mr. Allison and Frank Faulk, an official of the Albany Merchants Association. Mr. Faulk explained that all merchants, regardless of whether they are Merchants Association members, may purchase the tickets to give customers.

Herald Station WALB, a Mutual station, will work with the show at the fairgrounds. Once the show has started no additional persons will be admitted, a rule of the program.

The \$1 admission charge to the fairgrounds before the show starts, Mr. Allison emphasized, will be the only charge for "Queen For A Day." The tickets to be given away by the merchants here, he reiterated, "will be full admission except for the gate charge.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 08-07-1949)

'MOST COLORFUL' FAIR EVER HELD SLATED HERE OCT. 31-NOV. 5

Southwest Georgia Fair Officials this week will roll up their sleeves and “really get down to business” in shaping events for what Chairman Ralph Allison said Saturday promises to be “the greatest, most colorful fair ever held in this section.”

One of the major steps in the plans, the bringing of the Mutual Broadcasting System's nationally known “Queen For A Day” show here for one day of the fair, was completed last week. The show will appear on Wednesday, November 2, the third day of the weeklong fair.

Meanwhile, display space by commercial firms rapidly was being chalked in on maps of the fairgrounds at the Chamber of Commerce. Space is still obtainable, officials reported Saturday.

Thousands of persons, young and old alike are expected to swarm here during the Oct. 31-Nov. 5 period, coming from throughout Southwest Georgia. Entries in the fair however are limited to Terrell, Lee, Worth, Dougherty, Calhoun, Baker and Mitchell counties.

Among the attractions of the fair will be the large Johnny J. Jones exposition, composing the midway, an old-fashioned country horse race, home events for women exhibitors, a school day for children, county displays, livestock shows, poultry show, Scout exhibits and events, a model airplane contest, and Girl's and Boy's club exhibits and competition.

Chairman Allison said detailed information would be announced in the near future.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-04-1949)

LARGE SINGING CONVENTION WILL BE PART OF FAIR HERE

Plans for the mammoth Southwest Georgia Fair to be held here Oct. 31-Nov. 5 were progressing today and Marvin Lorig, chairman of the Special Events Committee, made announcement that a singing convention will be part of the program.

The noted leader of singing conventions, R. Loy McCormick of Blakely, has been engaged to lead the “sing” here Nov. 1 at which time some of the outstanding quartets of the nation will perform.

Mr. McCormick for two consecutive years engaged to lead singing performances at the Southeastern Fair in Atlanta, including a performance this year. He emcees the programs.

His singing performances are said to draw more spectators than any other events at fairs. Mr. Lorig said today, Mr. McCormick has participated in numerous fairs and conventions in southern states.

“Plenty of room and seats will be provided for the special events,” Mr. Lorig said. He added that among the other special events being planned are wrestling matches, billing outstanding wrestlers.

Arrangements are being made to broadcast the fair's special events. The Johnny J. Jones Exposition will operate on the midway, bringing a star-studded roster of rides, shows and acts.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-16-1949)

1949 ALBANY PLANS COMPLETED...EXTRA EVENTS ARE OUTLINED

Southwest Georgia Fair officials said Saturday that the mammoth fair slated to open here Oct. 31 would be "bigger and better than last year's." It will last through Nov. 5.

Ralph Allison, Chairman and Marvin Lorig, Chairman of the Special Events Committee, announced new features including wrestling matches on Wednesday and Saturday nights, a large singing convention Tuesday, and "school day" Saturday.

"We have up-to-the-minute, interesting shows, exhibits and special events for the thousands who will attend," Chairman Allison said. "It will be a fair every member of the family will enjoy," he added.

The nationally famous Johnny J. Jones Exposition, with its gigantic midway, will be part of the fair, showing adjacent to the fair hangars and tents at the airport. The show boasts 50 great attractions, including many new rides.

Other notable events of the fair will be an old-fashioned country horse race, with entries from throughout the area and with no professionals eligible; a model airplane contest which will include the flying of "jet" airplanes; the showing of some of the finest livestock and poultry in the Southeast; a women's division and many other attractions.

The fair gates will open daily at 10 a.m. Admission prices will be 25 cents for children. All school children will be admitted free on "school day", Saturday of the fair.

Aided by county agents and home demonstration agents in Southwest Georgia, dozens of 4-H Club boys and girls will vie for prizes with their exhibits. There will be a home demonstration exhibit and a homegrown hams section. Scouting events will take place at the fair, with Scouts of the area showing their skills. Negroes will have exhibits in a special section.

Cities Transit, Inc. of Albany, operators of city buses will furnish adequate transportation to the fair, running special buses from the downtown section to the airport.

The 1948 fair, the first of its type held here in recent history, was declared "an outstanding success" by the Fair Association, with the officials stating Saturday that they expected this year's event to be bigger and better in every respect.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce officials said, aided tirelessly in setting up plans for the fair.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-26-1949)

WRESTLING SHOWS ON FAIR PROGRAM

Outstanding wrestling matches, featuring some of the south's roughest canvas men, will be held at the Southwest Georgia Fair Wednesday and Saturday nights of next week, Special Events Chairman Marvin Lorig announced today.

Wednesday night's matches with four heavyweights performing will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the main special events tent at the fairgrounds at Albany Airport.

The card Wednesday night consists of Don McIntryre of Atlanta, 227 pounds, versus Irish Jack Kelley of Chicago, 232 pounds. A one-hour limit and two out of three falls apply to this match. The second part of the program bills Bob Shipp of Texas at 225 pounds, versus Timy Oxford of Augusta, at 222 pounds. The rules are two out of three falls and an hour limit.

The card for Saturday night's bouts will be announced later this week, Chairman Lorig said.

Mr. Lorig said "these boys coming here mean business and fairgoers will witness some genuine rough-'em up wrestling.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-26-1949)

FAIR'S EVENTS TIME REVEALED

The Southwest Georgia Fair Association today announced a schedule of special events to be held at the fair during the week of Oct. 31-Nov. 5.

The Southern Singing Convention will be held Tuesday from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m. and from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. featuring two outstanding musical groups, the Harmonizers Quartet and the Statesmen Quartet. Other choral groups will also perform.

Wrestling matches will be held Wednesday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m. The first card, featuring noted heavyweights, is announced on today's sports pages.

A large talent contest will be conducted in connection with the appearance of Colorado Don Hill and his Rhythm Rockers Friday from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m., only amateurs can participate, and are urged to telephone Colorado Don at 1854-J to register for participation. First and second prizewinners will be featured on a radio station here with the Rhythm Rockers. Age limit is from five to 100 years, officials said.

The Albany State College Chorus will perform Monday from 7:30 until 9 p.m. Fairgoers were invited to clip this schedule as a reminder of the times of the special events.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-29-1949)

HOST OF CITIZENS PLANNED BIG FAIR

A host of Albany and Southwest Georgia citizens actively aided in the preparations for the Southwest Georgia Fair which opens here Monday.

The local citizens aided in addition to county agents, home demonstration agents, Chambers of Commerce and other individuals and organizations in the Albany area covering Terrell, Lee, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, and Worth counties.

The fair committees were:

Ralph Allison, Director;

Executive and Finance; Charles M. Jones, Chairman, Wallace Crouch, Lyman Hart, Whitfield Gunnels, Hudson Malone, Mallory Lippitt, C. Q. Wright, and A. E. Moncrief.

Publicity; Don Kimsey, Chairman, Lyman Hart, and George Leeger.

Midway and Carnival; Whitfield Gunnels, Chairman, C. Whiting, Meyer Rosenberg, Walter Brown, and George Farkas.

Concession; Hudson Malone, Chairman, Wallace Crouch, and Lyman Hart.

Tickets; Hal Wightman, Chairman.

Athletics; Rodney Blalock, Chairman, Harold McNabb, Archie Taylor, Bob Berry, Raymond Gunnels, Bubber Neal, and H. D. Spence.

Horse Racing; Jim Moore, Chairman, Dooley Culbertson and Inman Owens, Sr.

Girls Club & Home Demonstration Activities; Mrs. Fannie Mae Griner, Mrs. Sue Crews of Camilla, Miss Frankye Bland of Leesburg, Miss Elizabeth Zellner of Dawson, Miss Marie Hall of Newton, and Miss Annie Newton of Morgan.

Poultry; Dr. David Wolfe, Chairman, G. B. Howell and Frank Bennett.

Commercial Exhibits and Displays; Hamp Clark, Chairman, Bea McKinsey, Bill McAfee, and Leland Ferrell.

Special Features; Marvin Lorig, Chairman, Milton George, and H. L. Tallman.

Building; Allen Davis, Chairman, C. R. Hodges, Charles Heinernan, Jr., Ed Hirsch, and E. E. Clark.

Grounds; Rock Howard, Chairman, Harry Lutz, Mallory Lippitt, Pat Feingold, Earl Cline, R. Q. Wise, R. F. Bethea, and Roy Barnes.

Premium Book; A. E. Moncrief, Chairman, Mrs. Fannie Mae Griner, Jeff Davis, Rodney Blalock, W. M. Story, Inman Owens, Sr., Dooley Culbertson, Hudson Malone, Mrs. J. H. Milward, L. M. Nelson, Miss Frankye Bland, and W. D. Drennon.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-29-1949)

SOWEGA FAIR OPENS MONDAY AT AIRPORT

It's here! The 1949 Southwest Georgia Fair, biggest event of its type in Albany's history will open at 10 a.m. Monday at Albany Airport.

Director Ralph Allison said Saturday, "We're all set. We expect the biggest crowds in fair history here. The events, exhibits...everything in fact, is bigger and better than in 1948. It's a show the entire family will enjoy."

Plenty of parking spaces have been made available at the fairgrounds and thousands of seats have been set up in a large tent where the special events will take place.

The Johnny J. Jones Exposition with its many rides, shows, and thrills will occupy the midway and was to start setting up equipment Saturday night and Sunday.

Some of the fair's special events include a Southeastern Singing Convention, an Albany High School Glee Club concert, a special musical performance and amateur show, wrestling matches and appearance of the Albany State College Chorus. The days and times of the shows are announced in section C in today's edition.

Next Saturday will be school day, during which students will be admitted to the grounds free, with special prices in effect on the midway.

Boy Scouts of Chehaw Council have a program. Model Airplanes will be flown and displayed each night of the fair. A special Southwest Georgia Wildlife and Fish Exhibit have been set up in a hangar.

City buses will operate on a special schedule to and from the fairgrounds. They will discharge fairgoers at the fair gate.

Outstanding livestock and poultry of Georgia will be on display as will Women's handiwork, home-cured meats, and dozens of projects of 4-H and FFA Club Boys and Girls.

An old-Fashioned country horse race will be held next Saturday at 5 p.m. The Scouting events will be launched at 1 p.m. the same day.

The gates will open each day at 10 a.m. Admission prices will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

Thousands of ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded exhibitors in the various events. The agricultural display is reported to be the best ever seen in this section of the state.

Industry of the Albany area also will take an important spot in the exhibits. The exhibits will occupy a special section. The Dougherty County Safety Council will have a special booth.

Eats, drinks...everything fairgoers love will be available in abundance.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-31-1949)

NATURE SMILES...CLEARING SKIES GREET FAIR HERE

Waffles and wildcats...poultry and pulchritude...hogs and hootchie-cootchie. The second annual Southwest Georgia Fair, officially opened at 10 a.m. today at Albany Airport, has these features and more. And Director Ralph Allison of the Fair Association predicted the exhibits and events would draw record crowds.

Even the weatherman was co-operating. After a week of cloudy skies and just enough rain to settle the dust produced by a protracted drought, he called for clearing skies and cooler weather...perfect for Albany's major outdoor event of fall.

With the Johnny J. Jones Exposition filling the midway with spills, chills, thrills and jills, sectional agriculture and industrial endeavors combined to present exhibits designed to provoke "oohs" and "ahhhs" from an expected 20,000 visitors.

Special events galore have been lined up by the Fair Association to give the extravaganza an added flip. These include a Southeastern Singing Convention, concerts by the Albany High School Glee Club and Albany State College Chorus, amateur shows, wrestling matches, model plane flights, country horse racing and many others.

The ASC Chorus takes the spotlight from 7:30 to 9 o'clock tonight. Far-sighted officials have provided acres of parking space and arranged special municipal bus schedules for motorists and pedestrians.

A major accent of the fair will be that on youth. 4-H Club and FFA members will strut their stuff in the agricultural exhibits, and "city slickers" in Boy Scout uniforms will participate in special events.

Judges will award dozens of blue ribbons in agricultural divisions including jellies and heavyweight beeves.

Gates open daily at 10 a.m. and nominal admissions of 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children will prevail.

Director James L. Elkins of the Albany State College Chorus announced the following program for the choral group's special concert at 7:30:

"Joy in That Land", "Leaning on The Lord", "Sit Down", "Deep River", "Amen, O What A Beautiful City", "We Shall Walk", "Soon I Will Be Done", Sextet from "Lucia", "America", "Sweet Lil' Jesus Boy", "Hear The Lambs A'Crying", "Old Man River", and Brahms' "Lullaby".

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 11-01-1949)

FAIR GETS IN HIGH GEAR

The Southwest Georgia Fair at Albany Airport, which opened its gates Monday was expected to get into full gear this afternoon and tonight following rainy weather last night, which cut into the attendance.

Fair officials said the "nippish" weather added genuine atmosphere to the gala event, which has as some of its outstanding attractions samples of fine agricultural harvest now being collected in the area.

Drawing enthusiastic attention in the exhibit hangar last night was the wildlife display, featuring animals and fish of the Albany area. There were wildcats, owls, quail, a fawn, reptiles and other specimens.

The Johnny J. Jones Exposition is operating on the midway. Hundreds of fine steers, cows, heifer, hogs, hens, roosters, bantams, chicks, turkeys and other livestock are on exhibit under tents and in the exhibit hangar.

The Dougherty Safety Council booth features a wrecked automobile and pictures of accidents and victims.

Another unusual aspect of the fair includes a phonograph in one business booth, which plays while submerged in water. Television equipment and numerous other new business and household equipment is on display.

The Georgia State Factory for the Blind at Bainbridge has a booth featuring mops, brooms and mattresses manufactured by the blind students. The items, made unusually well, are for sale.

The PTA's of Albany this year as last year are operating a food booth, another outstanding feature of the fair.

Tonight's special event of the fair is the Southern Singing Convention, which will take place in the special events tent. A large number of music lovers are expected to be present.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 11-02-1949)

'KIDS DAY' PLANS ARE COMPLETED AT ALBANY FAIR

"Kids Day" will be a gala occasion Saturday at the Southwest Georgia Fair now in progress at Albany Airport.

The Fair Association reminded today that all children up to 16 years of age would be admitted to the grounds free and Louis Hoffman, representative of the Johnny J. Jones Exposition, operating on the midway, said all sides and shows between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. would be only nine cents.

Children will be admitted to the grounds free of charge from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Nearly 10,000 tickets have been printed for distribution to children and school students, Mr. Hoffman said.

The Sears-Roebuck store in Albany will distribute some of the tickets and at 6 p.m. Saturday at the fair will give some lucky boys and girls a bicycle, a football and a baseball bat.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 11-06-1949)

SOWEGA FAIR WINDS UP WITH BIG CROWD

Boy Scout Field Day, horse race and "kids day" brought to a close a week of exhibiting and fun with prizes for all at the 1949 Southwest Georgia Fair Saturday.

An estimated 10,000 Southwest Georgia kids flocked, through the gates free Saturday afternoon to take advantage of the reduced rates for rides and shows.

The cry of the hawkers on the midway was weaker as the showmen began to turn their thoughts to packing up and getting the show on the road to make their next engagement.

Albanians who have assisted with the crowds and run the various concessions, which brought their organizations rewards, were weary from lack of rest but happy over receipts.

Ralph Allison, fair director, said although the cold weather cut the crowd anticipated at the fair, it was "wonderful" and everyone is happy over its success."

The Saturday crowd of kids who came from Americus, Dawson, Blakely, Sylvester, Camilla and other Southwest Georgia cities to see the exhibits ran up and down the midway in an exciting atmosphere, looking for the next sight to hold them spellbound. A little girl who was lost ran in circles until someone took her in hand and assured her that daddy would show up. He did, just as bewildered as she was.

Mr. Allison rated the wildlife exhibit as the most popular in the big hangar. Mr. Allison gave Sam Jones of Providence Plantation in West Dougherty County and Chief Ranger J. H. Harrell of the Flint River District Georgia Game and Fish Commission with Carl Smith of the City Park Department, high praise for the work done in preparing the exhibit.

Mr. Allison rated the Georgia State Factory for the Blind Exhibit as the second in popularity.

In the horse race, Easton Strickland of Route 1, Moultrie, riding "Harmony Joe" was the winner, H. M. Young, Route 1, Moultrie, on "Fade away" came in second, C. D. Renew of Dougherty County was third and Phillips Terrell, Negro, of Albany was fourth.