

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-06-1953)

PARADE HERE NEXT MONDAY WILL LAUNCH SOWEGA FAIR

The largest and most colorful parade ever to wind through the streets of Albany will kick off the Southwest Georgia Fair next Monday afternoon, Ralph Allison, General Manager of the fair said today.

The Southwest Georgia Fair will take place Oct. 12-17 at the Albany Airport fairgrounds, and entries already are pouring into fair headquarters at the Shrine Temple, Mr. Allison said.

In describing the giant parade, he said that it would commence at 4 p.m. Monday in the 1000 block of Oglethorpe Ave. led by the Legion of Honor of Hasan Temple. Also in the first unit will be a car of the Chamber of Commerce followed by the Albany High School Band.

Gem City Shows' tremendous male elephant will follow the band, after which will come a large truck with banners describing the \$2,000 in prizes to be given away by local merchants during the fair.

Trucks carrying the prizes will follow. They will represent Dixon Hardware Company, Ferrell Wight Company, Albany Coal Company, the Advance Refrigeration Service and Burt Johnston Hardware Company.

Nineteen wagons pulled by tractors supplied by the truck and tractor implement dealers of Albany will contain the Gem City Shows animals, such as lions, tigers, a hippopotamus, black and white bears, white and spotted deer, all kinds and sizes of monkeys, together with the Gem City Shows' full complement of animals.

Floats will be entered by these clubs and business: The American Legion Post 30 40&8 Voiture, Albany Boating Club, Clark Thread Company, Southeastern Liquid Fertilizer Company, Veterinary Supply Company, Dobbs-Adams Tire Company, Veterans of Foreign Wars, P. O. Cone Motor Company, Brown-Nash Motor Company, Johnson Trailer Sales, Albany Marine Corps Depot of Supplies, Colonial Dairies, CIO United Packinghouse Workers of America, the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Albany Life Underwriters Association.

Mr. Allison said that bands participating in the parade, in addition to the Albany High School Band, would include the Monroe High School Band, the Albany Junior High School Band, and possibly bands from Moultrie and Camilla. He said that a color guard of the Turner Air Force Base Air Police Squadron also would parade.

The planning manager said that any other club or business may enter a float in the parade by telephoning him at 641.

The mile and a half long parade will proceed from Oglethorpe Ave. to the downtown business section by way of Jefferson Street and Broad and Pine Avenues. It will end on Slappey Drive, via Broad Ave.

He added that members of bands marching in the parade would be granted free admission to the fair immediately after the parade, courtesy of Gem City Shows.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-12-1953)

LOCAL FAIR FEATURES PARADE HERE AT 4 P.M.

A mile-and-a-half long parade, unequaled in splendor here before, will officially start the weeklong Southwest Georgia Fair today at 4 p.m. The gates opened this morning.

Thousands of Albanians are expected to crowd the parade's route on Oglethorpe Avenue, zigzagging through the downtown business section, including Broad Avenue, and back out to Slappey Drive.

The parade will kick off the gigantic, weeklong Southwest Georgia Fair at the Albany Airport fairgrounds. It will be headed by the Legion of Honor of Hasan Temple, followed by a long column of cars, floats, bands, and an elephant and wagons carrying the full complement of the Gem City Shows' wild animals.

In the parade will be the Turner Air Force Base Color Guard, the Albany High School and Junior High School Bands, the Monroe High School Band, and bands from Camilla and Moultrie High Schools.

Among the business and civic groups which have entered floats are the Chamber of Commerce, 4-H Club, FHA Club, the 40&8 Voiture of Post 30 American Legion, Key's Trailer Sales, Clark Thread Company, Albany Boating Club, Southeastern Liquid Fertilizer Company, Veterinary Supply Company, Dobbs-Adams Tire Company, Veterans of Foreign Wars, P.O. Cone Motors, Brown Nash Company, Johnson Trailer Sales, Albany Marine Corps Depot of Supplies, Albany Civitan Club, Colonial Dairies, CIO United Packinghouse Workers, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Albany Life Underwriters Association.

The fairgrounds yesterday were a beehive of activity with participants from as "far away as Alabama, setting up exhibits, and with men and boys rapidly unloading livestock from trucks and putting them in the tent pens that have been set up.

Women crowded the hangar, installing displays of food preserves and canning, needlework, art and hobby work.

Members of the 4-H, Future Homemakers and Future Farmers Clubs busied themselves setting up club displays, and a fine selection of poultry already, occupied coops in the north end of the hangar.

Hasan Temple is sponsoring the fair and Shriner Ralph Allison, General Manager of the event, said yesterday that the shrine expects this year's attendance to far surpass that of last year. The number of entries already is above previous years, he said.

The first purebred cattle show ever to be held at the Southwest Georgia Fair is slated during the week, with the grand champion owner to be awarded a gold trophy and \$50. The champion in the 4-H and FFA division will be awarded a \$50 cash prize. Also, the winner in the adult division will be given a trophy and \$50.

The "Gem City Shows" midway will feature more than 50 shows, rides and fun booths, including a minstrel show, rodeo, radio, hillbilly and western stars, a motor drome and a tremendous wild animal show.

Children's Days are Tuesday and Saturday, at which times school children will be admitted for 10 cents and can ride for 14 cents until 6 p.m.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-13-1953)

SOWEGA FAIR EXPECTED TO BRING NEW AIRPORT ATTENDANCE MARK

The annual Southwest Georgia Fair got into full swing yesterday as a mile and a half long parade drew an estimated 25,000 Albanians to the sidewalks. There were more than 1,300 paid admissions on the first day of the fair yesterday and that number was expected to be tripled today.

This morning, the Albany Airport fairgrounds already were crowded with hundreds of school children brought here in school buses from a number of neighboring counties. There were given special rates on the Gem City Shows' rides and it was announced that another children's day will be held Saturday, with school students gaining admission for 10 cents.

Entered in the cattle, hog and poultry competitions are 75 cattle, 150 hogs and a record 329 fowl. Mrs. L. R. Mathis, chairman of the women's division of the fair, said that more than 300 exhibits have been entered and are on display in the fair's hangar headquarters.

Mrs. Mathis said that 4-H Club, Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America entries include canning, clothing, embroidery, china painting and workshop crafts, corn, peanuts, cane syrup, cotton and cover crop demonstrations.

Judging on the livestock and poultry began today and prizes were to be awarded this afternoon. Record premiums were to be paid and several 14-carat gold trophies were to be awarded.

The lengthy midway of Gem City Shows, reported to be one of the largest traveling mobile carnival units in the country, includes wild animals, freak shows, an exclusive section of rides especially for youngsters and 14 "major" rides. There are 13 shows and a number of prize booths and displays, some sponsored by local civic groups.

The fair will last through Saturday and is sponsored by the Hasan Shrine Temple here. Early attendance estimates indicate that all previous fair and carnival attendance records will be broken, said Shriner Ralph Allison, General Manager of the fair.

The Midway and hangar sections of the fair will be open from 10 a.m. daily until the crowds diminish at night.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-15-1953)

FAIR MANAGER ALLISON SAYS ATTENDANCE FIGURE SOARS

A total of 3,420 paid admissions were reported last night at the Southwest Georgia Fair at Albany Airport.

Ralph Allison, General Manager of the fair, said this was the largest attendance for a weekday in the history of the fair here.

Tuesday night more than 2,000 paid admissions were recorded. Mr. Allison said, "It is the finest show and finest exhibits in the history of the local fair."

Saturday all youngsters of school age will be admitted to the fairgrounds for 10 cents. Each will be given free rides commencing at 10 a.m.

Tonight at 7 p.m. Herald carriers will be admitted to the grounds free and will be given rides.

Mr. Allison said that a highlight of the program is a show presented each day at 10 p.m. This show features an acrobat called, "Sky King" who performs various antics atop a 150-foot pole.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-16-1953)

'CHILDREN'S DAY' SLATED FOR SOWEGA FAIR SATURDAY

A crowd of 2,995 persons thronged the grounds at the Southwest Georgia Fair at Albany Airport last night for the "largest Thursday night attendance in local fair history," Ralph Allison, fair association manager, said today.

A major attraction at the fair is the numerous exhibits. The exhibits, termed by fair officials as counties, individuals, and business firms presented the "best we've ever had,"

Last night Gem City Shows treated approximately 75 Herald carriers to free rides. The carriers, both Negroes and whites, "rode every available ride," Herald circulation manager, Jack Chambers said. Also accompanying the carriers was assistant circulation manager A. J. Nobles.

At 10 p.m. each night a free act is highlighted. During this act, an acrobat climbs atop a 150-foot pole and performs various antics while the pole is swinging. The acrobat is called "Sky King."

Throughout this week fair association officials have reported record-breaking crowds. Tomorrow all youngsters of school age will be treated with special prices on the grounds. The gate price will be lowered to 10 cents and rides will be set at 14 cents.