

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 09-11-1956)

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA FAIR SLATED HERE OCT. 15-20

Premium listings for the 10th annual renewal of the Southwest Georgia Fair, Oct. 15-20 are now in the mails. Approximately 3,000 copies will be sent to county agents and schools.

Now one of the most popular events on the fall calendar, the fair embraces an 18-county area and includes exhibits from the fields of livestock, agriculture, industry and the arts. More than \$4,000 in prizes will be awarded in various categories in these fields.

The fair site will be the same as last year, on Lowe Road, south of the ballpark and in front of the Dougherty county agents office. Fair hours will be from 10 a.m. to midnight daily.

Sponsored for the second year by the Albany Exchange Club, the fair is under the management of D. S. Hautman.

A carnival with all the usual attractions and "some never seen before" will be a featured sidelight of the fair. Marvin Lorig is carnival chairman.

Another special feature will be the crowning of "Miss Southwest Georgia Fair" at 8 p.m. on Oct. 16. Gov. Marvin Griffin will be on hand to crown the queen. Each county participating in the fair will be permitted one entry in the beauty contest. Contestants must be between the ages of 15 and 24.

The Governor will speak at the fair the night of the beauty contest as will Commissioner of Agriculture Phil Campbell.

Monday, the first day of the fair will be a special day for Negro children of Dougherty and surrounding counties. They will be released from school earlier than usual on that day. Similar arrangements have been made for white children of the same area for Oct. 17.

Herman Talmadge will speak at the fair at 4 p.m. on Oct. 17. An impressive list of other special events is planned for the remaining days of the fair, which officials confidently expect will be "the finest ever."

Counties taking part in the fair will be Sumter, Randolph, Terrell, Lee, Turner, Clay, Worth, Tift, Dougherty, Calhoun, Early, Baker, Mitchell, Colquitt, Decatur, Grady, Miller and Seminole.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-04-1956)

EXCHANGE FAIR WILL SELECT HIGH SCHOOL BEAUTY QUEEN

"Miss Southwest Georgia" will be crowned at the Exchange Club Fair on Tuesday night, Oct. 16, by H. L. Wingate, President of the Georgia Farm Bureau.

To date, 23 entries have been received from beauties in the communities in the Southwest Georgia area. This is the first beauty contest ever held by the Fair Association and officials said there has been an over whelming response shown throughout the area. The winning contestant will receive the "Miss Southwest Georgia" crown, together with

a \$100 cash prize. Second place winner will receive \$75 cash and the third-place winner \$50.

The event will be free to all patrons of the fair. Contestants and communities represented are:

Lola Jean Kimbrel, Miller County High, Colquitt; Martha Aycok, Shellman High School, Shellman; Hilda Rehberg, Cairo High School, Cairo; Phyllis Jennings, Plains High School, Plains; Jo Ann Rutland, Omega High School, Omega; Sadie Mae Holt, Calhoun High School, Morgan; Carol Lewis, Norman Park High School, Norman Park; Marie Wheeler, Whigham High School, Whigham; Lois McElvy, Attapulugus High School, Attapulugus; Doris Woodruff, Sycamore High School, Sycamore; Dianne Hay, Baker County High School, Newton (she's from Leary); Barbara Tucker, Lee County High, Leesburg; Geraldine Booth, Sumner High School, Sumner; Clarice Ward, Tifton High School, Tifton; Faye Houston, Jakin High School, Jakin; Rosa Mae West, Damascus High School, Damascus; Joye Collier, Terrell High School, Dawson; Toby Shirley, Albany High School, Albany; Dorothy Ann Parker, Seminole High School, Donalsonville; Diane Duke, Edison High School, Edison; Sandra Brown, Sylvester High School, Sylvester; Jeanette Hatcher, Arlington High School, Arlington; Rosalyn Ray, Doerun High School, Doerun.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-07-1956)

TALMADGE, CAMPBELL, WINGATE TO TAKE PART IN SOUTHWEST GEORGIA FAIR HERE

An outstanding Southwest Georgia Fair is shaping up for Albany and a wide 18-county area, including speeches by Georgia Senator-Nominee, Herman Talmadge, Georgia Agriculture commissioner Phil Campbell and Georgia Farm Bureau President H. L. Wingate, it was announced Saturday by D. S. Hautman, Fair Association President, and Charlie Foster, President of the sponsoring Exchange club.

Talmadge will speak at 4 p.m. on Oct. 17, Mr. Campbell at 10 a.m. on Oct. 16, and Mr. Wingate at 8 p.m. on Oct. 16. The fair will open Monday Oct. 15, and will last through Saturday of that week.

H. T. McCall, Exchange Club member and in charge of the speaking roster, said Mr. Wingate will crown a high school beauty queen of the area, to be selected from among the schools entering contestants. He added that a large number of state officials, farm leaders and well-known Georgians of this section have been invited to visit the fair and hear the speakers.

Members of the Exchange Club have been working tirelessly to present the most outstanding fair ever seen in Albany, officials declared Saturday. The fair this year in addition to the imposing speaker list, will feature outstanding livestock and poultry exhibits, in addition to the various industrial, agricultural and club booths.

Special events, in addition to the beauty contest, will include an antique automobile event in which numerous vintage vehicles will bring a remembrance of old times to many fair-goers.

There'll be fun and frolic for all, from junior to grandmother, the fair officials stated. Candy apples, popcorn, hot dogs and all the other treats will be featured. Gem City Shows will occupy the colorful midway, offering rides, shows and many other attractions for thousands of visitors.

Monday will be a special day for Negro children of Dougherty and surrounding counties. Wednesday will be the special school day for white school children.

Fair Manager, Mr. Hautman said department directors at the fair include Dan Brooks, Livestock; L. E. Cannon, Poultry; Tip Pope, Fairgrounds; Marvin Lorig, Carnival; Phillip Wiggins, Publicity; R. S. Hutchinson, Ticket Sales; George Reynolds, Community Exhibits; J. D. Reeves, Merchant Exhibits; W. C. Layton, Commercial exhibits; James Pierce, Association Secretary-Treasurer; Hudson Arthur, Premium Book; Ed Reeves, Beauty Contest; and Paul Carson, Parking.

County and home demonstration agents throughout the area will help in the FFA, 4-H and other exhibits of art, agriculture, canning, clothing and related displays. More than \$4,000 in cash prizes in addition to ribbons will be awarded in the exhibits.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-08-1956)

BIG COLORFUL MIDWAY SET FOR SOUTHWEST GEORGIA FAIR

D. S. Hautman, manager of the Exchange sponsored Southwest Georgia Fair, which opens here next Monday, said today that the midway of the colorful 18-county fair will be the largest ever noted here, with Gem City Shows arriving later this week with more than 50 special highway vans containing 40 midway attractions.

George Harr, general agent for the shows, said only high class entertainment will be offered, including such attractions as the fattest man alive, a 1,000 pound specimen who will walk and talk for fair-goers.

The show will have a number of outstanding animals for display in addition to a large array of rides and sideshows. A special feature for teen-agers will be a rock n' roll show, with the latest music on top for the young set.

Exchange Club members will be busy this week setting up tents, exhibits and other facilities for the area fair. It is the 10th annual fair here and will feature outstanding livestock and agricultural exhibits from a large area, in addition to industrial displays, youth organizations displays, home demonstration displays and many others.

The fair will open next Monday and will last through Saturday. During the week U. S. Senate Nominee Herman Talmadge will speak, as will Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Phil Campbell. H. L. Wingate, Georgia Farm Bureau President, on Tuesday at 8 o'clock will crown a high school girl of the area as "Miss Southwest Georgia Fair." Mr. Talmadge speaks at 4 p.m. Wednesday. Mr. Campbell will speak at 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-10-1956)

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA FAIR SHOW FOR ANCIENT AUTOMOBILE SET EXCHANGE MEMBERS IN TV PROGRAM

Interest is mounting in the Ancient Automobile Show, which will be part of this year's Southwest Georgia Fair opening at the Lowe Road Fairgrounds next Monday, Cy Divine, Chairman of the Exchange Club Auto Show Committee, said today.

Mr. Divine cranked up his 1915 Model "T" Ford yesterday and drove through the city to give citizens a preview of what they can expect at the fair. Mayor Bill McAfee posed for photos with the ancient automobile, which is in perfect condition, and even hand-cranked the motor.

Chairman Divine said a special tent will house the antique automobiles at the fair, and that the automobile owners, themselves will judge the vehicles. A number of trophies and prizes will be awarded.

Already the auto show has 10 entries, including Mr. Divine's model-T and the 1899 model Schacht, owned by P. A. Keenan Sr. of Albany. Other entries include a 1922 model Essex, an early model Hupmobile and several ancient Fords.

Many of the old model car owners are members of the Antique Auto Club of America. They take regular rides in their old cars and keep them in a perfect state of preservation.

Meanwhile, D. S. Hautman, Fair Manager, said all indications point to the most outstanding fair ever held here.

In a public service television program over WALB-TV last night, Exchange Club members outlined various features of the fair. Mr. Hautman and Exchange President Charlie Foster displayed the crown for "Miss Southwest Georgia Fair," who will be selected from among high school entries of the area, and a number of trophies for FFA and 4-H cattle, hogs, poultry and other exhibits.

Marvin Lorig, Carnival Chairman, told of the Gem City Show attractions for the midway, including many new rides and sideshow exhibits. George Reynolds explained the setup on Community Exhibits and various Exchange members told of other preparations for the fair, including a Red Cross First Aid Station and a fire truck for use in case of emergencies.

The fair workers will present another television program, through courtesy of WALB-TV, this Friday.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-14-1956)

WEEK-LONG FAIR SET FOR OPENING MONDAY

The Southwest Georgia Fair, sponsored by the Exchange Club, opens here Monday morning and will last through Saturday.

D. S. Hautman, manager, reported Saturday that all is ready for the 18-county event, and he added that the exhibits, special events and midway are the best in years.

Admission price is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. White school children will be admitted free on Wednesday and will enjoy 10-cent rides and shows on the midway. The same will be true for Negro children Monday.

Exchange Club members were busy Saturday putting on the finishing touches, which included rolling up their sleeves and painting the ticket booth at the entrance. The fairgrounds are located on Lowe Road off Newton Road and in the vicinity of the Cardinal Baseball Park.

Fair officials reminded that U.S. Senate Nominee Herman Talmadge would speak at the fair at 4 p.m. Wednesday. Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Phil Campbell will speak at 10 a.m. Tuesday. Also on Tuesday, Georgia Farm Bureau President will crown "Miss Southwest Georgia Fair," to be selected from area High School Beauty entries in the fair's beauty contest.

The special events at the fair are free, the officials reminded, including a dog show Thursday at 8 p.m., an Antique Auto Show exhibit and other attractions.

More than \$4,000 in prizes, loving cups, ribbons and other awards will be presented during the fair. Some of this section's best livestock, poultry, canned goods, homemaking items, agricultural and industrial products will be on display. FFA, 4-H, FHA and other youth organizations will play a leading role in the exhibits.

Department directors at the fair include, Dan Brooks, Livestock; L. E. Cannon, Poultry; Tip Pope, Grounds; Marvin Lorig, Carnival; Phillip Wiggins, Publicity; R. S. Hutchinson, Ticket Sales; George Reynolds, Community Exhibits; J. D. Reeves, Inside Merchant Exhibits; W. C. Layton, Commercial Outside Exhibits; James Pierce, Secretary and Treasurer; Hudson Arthur, Premium Book; D. S. Hautman, Manager; Ed Reeves, Beauty Contest; and Paul Carson, Parking.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-15-1956)

FAIR OPENS HERE; OFFICIALS NOTE MANY SPECIAL EVENTS

The 18-county Southwest Georgia Fair opened here this morning. Exchange Club Officials, sponsor of the weeklong event were braced for large crowds of visitors. "We are delighted at the fair weather," they said.

Today is Negro School Children day at the fair. Wednesday will be School Day for White Children.

Phil Campbell, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture speaks Tuesday at 10 a.m. Also on Tuesday, the fair's beauty contest will be held. H.L. Wingate, Georgia Farm Bureau President, will crown the queen at 6 p.m.

Wednesday's special event at the fair, all of which are free, is an address by U.S. Senate-Nominee Herman Talmadge. The Address is scheduled for 4 p.m. State and local dignitaries have been invited to be present.

Last-minute touches were being put on the fair's attractions this morning, including the outstanding agricultural and livestock exhibits. Gem City Shows was busy on the midway, completing the erection of tents and preparing the rides.

D. S. Hautman, manager of the fair invited persons from throughout the area to visit Albany and this year's fair, which is the 10th annual event here. Charlie Foster, Exchange President, said an outstanding fair is anticipated.

Following is a complete list of beauty contest entries and the schools they represent:

Lola Jean Kimbrel, Miller County High, Colquitt; Martha Aycock, Shellman High School, Shellman; Hilda Rehberg, Cairo High School, Cairo; Phyllis Jennings, Plains High School, Plains; Jo Ann Rutland, Omega High School, Omega; Sadie Mae Holt, Calhoun High School, Morgan; Carol Lewis, Norman Park High School, Norman Park; Marie Wheeler, Whigham High School, Whigham; Lois McElvy, Attapulcus High School, Attapulcus; Doris Woodruff, Sycamore High School, Sycamore; Dianne Hay, Baker County High School, Newton (she's from Leary); Barbara Tucker, Lee County High, Leesburg; Geraldine Booth, Sumner High School, Sumner; Clarice Ward, Tifton High School, Tifton; Faye Houston, Jakin High School, Jakin; Rosa Mae West, Damascus High School, Damascus; Joye Collier, Terrell High School, Dawson; Toby Shirley, Albany High School, Albany; Dorothy Ann Parker, Seminole High School, Donalsonville; Diane Duke, Edison High School, Edison; Sandra Brown, Sylvester High School, Sylvester; Jeanette Hatcher, Arlington High School, Arlington; Rosalyn Ray, Doerun High School, Doerun.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-17-1956)

BEAUTY QUEEN IS CHOSEN AT SW FAIR

Pretty, blonde and 17-year old Miss Toby Shirley, Albany High School student, was all smiles at the Southwest Georgia Fair last night as Georgia Farm Bureau President H. L. Wingate crowned her "Miss Southwest Georgia Fair."

A large crowd turned out for the beauty contest, which also saw Miss Joye Collier of Terrell High School, Dawson, selected as second-place winner and Miss Barbara Tucker of Lee County High School, Leesburg, picked as the third-place winner. "They're all beautiful, commented Mr. Wingate as he looked over the crop of beauties from 18 counties.

Judges were H. B. Brimberry of Albany, Robert Lee of Leesburg and Mrs. Cecil Dunn of Moultrie. Cash prizes were awarded the winners.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senate-nominee Herman Talmadge arrived at Albany Airport this morning preparatory to delivering an address at the fair at 4 p.m. He was greeted by a delegation of local officials, State officials and outstanding citizens from throughout a wide area were invited to attend the fair and hear the former Governor's talk.

H. T. McCall, Chairman of the Exchange Club's speaker committee, said a large crowd is expected to be on hand for the afternoon's festivity. Mr. Talmadge, prior to speaking, was to be shown the outstanding agricultural and livestock exhibits at the fair.

D. S. Hautman, fair manager, said turnout for the fair has been most gratifying. He said the midway is better this year; featuring many new rides and shows, and that the area exhibits are outstanding. Citizens were invited to inspect the Antique Auto Show exhibit and other attractions. The fair will last through Saturday.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 10-28-1956)

MOVE UNDER WAY IN ALBANY FOR PERMANENT FAIRGROUND

County Commissioner C. M. Pippin Saturday threw his efforts behind the building of permanent fairground buildings here and at the same time said he hoped the caliber of carnivals here could be improved.

Mr. Pippin said he would "do all he could" toward erecting buildings to take the place of tents in which most exhibits have been displayed.

He called it "terrible" that displays including community projects, home craft and farm exhibits should be covered with dust, as was noted at the fair here.

The commissioner said he would feel like working harder if he knew the carnival shows were going to be cleaned up.

D. S. Hautman Jr., President of the Exchange Club Fair Association, which operates the fair, gave assurance on that score.

"We plan to have nothing beyond family games next year in a carnival, leaving out the flat joints," Mr. Hautman said. The flat joints, which Mr. Pippin particularly criticized, along with girl shows, were stands offering prizes for lucky "tosses" and the like.

The fair association, of course, will negotiate for a carnival with midway rides for next year, said officials.

Mr. Pippin cited the benefit of a fair as an important influence on a community and said it should be an attraction that draws crowds from all over South Georgia.

He said he would like to see local clubs operating all the concession and booths, "each with its profits earmarked for local good."

Mr. Hautman said that the fair association is setting up long-range programs toward a permanent fairground. "The first step though," he said, "is to get the property."

Next in line, he said, are "sanitary improvements, then "at least some concrete walkways."

"We estimate we spent \$7,000 to \$10,000 dead expense putting up and taking down equipment last year," Mr. Hautman said. This expense would be eliminated with construction of permanent buildings, he added.

The fair this year drew between 40,000 and 50,000 persons, Mr. Hautman said, "and rain on Saturday, the last day, cut the crowd down 6,000 or 7,000.

The attendance this year showed a growth from about 35,000 in 1955, he said, the first year, the Exchange Club sponsored it.

Mr. Hautman said the idea behind the Exchange Club operation is to build a permanent fairground-playground for year around use, "a place people could take children every week-end."

A permanent merry-go-round, horse ring, midget car racing, harness horse racing and a grandstand are all part of the project, he declared. Other civic clubs put on such things as the Optimist Horse Show and the Chamber of Commerce Fat Cattle Show, which could use a fairground, Mr. Hautman outlined. Sears' pig chain show is another program that needs a fairground, he said.

(Taken from The Albany Herald, dated, 11-19-1956)

COUNTY WILL GIVE EXCHANGE CLUB SITE FOR ANNUAL FAIR

County Commissioners agreed today to donate 34 acres of land to the Albany Exchange Club for building a permanent fairgrounds and recreation spot.

All that was left pending were final details of the site boundaries and retention clauses giving the county final authority on any transfer of the land the Exchange Club might want to make in future years. The site chosen is one on Lowe Road, bounded by South Slappey Drive and Newton Road.

Several Exchange Club members attended the session with the commissioners. H. T. McCall and D. S. Hautman, officers of the Fair Association, which the Exchange Club operates, revealed that the club would build a steel exhibition building by next fair time.

The structure will be 200 by 100 feet and large enough to contain basketball games, the club members said.

The Exchange Club has expressed a plan to build a Community Center on the fairgrounds, thus utilizing the property year-round for such things as horse shows, races and other events. The grounds will be offered for use to other civic clubs at a nominal cost.