

WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR HISTORY

The Washington County Fair Boosters have embarked on compiling and printing A history and photo journal of the Fair's first 150 years. The project is expected to be published by July 1, 2010 and is hoped to accurately illustrate the times, places and faces of this county premier event as it has evolved though out the county.

Memorabilia, Stories, photos, etc. are welcomed.

Please contact Inez Griffels by email at fairhistory@gmail.com or send to:

PO Box 1487, North Plains, OR 97133

Name Entertainment Draws Large Crowds

The idea of Big-name entertainment began in 1987, an experiment to boost the County Fair annual attendance, lead by Fair Manager, Cal Wade. Country Star, Lee Greenwood was invited to appear as a marketing tool. Fair organizers questioned whether the event could break even.

Four years later, 1990, the fair attendance was near capacity and the event operated well in the black. "The gamble paid off," Cal Wade said.

At that time most fairs were charging \$5.00 for adults. Washington County held their price at \$4.00. The 1990 Washington County Fair hailed as a big success with more that 114,000 fairgoers in attendance.

Wade praised the fair management staff for doing a really good job. He also praised volunteer groups that helped to run the fair. "The volunteers are the heart of the fair. We couldn't do it without them," Wade said.

The Officer Alive organization provided police officers and officers' family members to man the gates and take tickets. The Civil Air Patrol's young cadets managed the parking area.

The only problem that year was seating space at the arena events.

1991 brought 118,000 + for the six day fair. Paid attendance income of \$280,642. Adult tickets were \$6.00. Entrance fee included all events.

By: Inez Griffels – February - 2010

Sources: The News-Times and Hillsboro Argus