

HISTORY OF THE FAULKNER COUNTY FAIR

On March 19, 1909 the first Faulkner County Fair Association was formed by The Conway Board of Trade under the leadership of its President, Jo Frauenthal and its Secretary, G. L. Bahner. The Fair Association Board of Directors consisted of the following: H. B. Ingram (President), Stonewall Anderson (Vice President), L. C. Holman (Secretary), B. L. Harton (Treasurer), Jo Frauenthal, S. G. Smith, and William J. Grummer. L. C. Perry was appointed the first Fair Manager, but moved from Conway in July 1909. Frank Farris was appointed to succeed him. The first Faulkner County Fair was held on October 4th through October 7th, 1909 on property owned by Judge Sam Frauenthal, which was bounded on the south by Oak Street, on the west by Harkrider Street, on the north by Mill Street and on the east by Ingram. Governor Donaghey opened the first Faulkner County Fair at 11:30 am. on October 4th, 1909. The first Faulkner County Fair was a success, however in the years to follow the fair began losing money. In August of 1915 the Faulkner County Fair decided it was in the best interest not to continue with a fair. Other than some county farm club fairs, there was not another Faulkner County Fair until 1938.

Under the leadership of the Young Businessmen's Association, Faulkner County Free Fair was held in a building at the northwest corner of Locust Street and Oak Street. The president of the YBMA was R. A. McNutt and the Fair Chairman was Robert W. Mosley. Others on the fair committee were Theo Ashcraft (Treasurer), E. D. Bell, Dr. O. D. Smith, S. D. Mitchell, Eugene Hankins and Mrs. Dora Stubblefield. The first fair in 1938 was such a success that it was decided to have a county fair the next year. From 1939 through 1942, the county fair was held on S. T. Smith's property at the northwest corner of Van Ronkle Street and Markham Street. In 1945 the County Fair was held at the Conway Airport property.

In 1946 the YMBA purchased property on Robins Street from Father Anthony Lachowsky and the Faulkner County Fair was held on this property through 2009. 2010 was the start of a new era for the Faulkner County Fair. From its new location off Hwy. 64 to the luxury of new facilities, the Faulkner County Fair is sure to be a success for many years to come.

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