

GRANDVIEW HARVEST FESTIVAL – YAKIMA VALLEY JUNIOR FAIR AND TEAM PULL -- HISTORY

We know that the Harvest Festival started in 1928, and was held downtown, in September. We don't have a newspaper issue from that year, but we do have a record of 1930, which saw the third annual Harvest Festival. Fred Marshall served as chairman that year. In early September, he stated that although the Fair had been handicapped the previous year somewhat because of failure to get the Iowa building, "this year the management of that building has given us permission to use it and the exhibits will not be so badly scattered."

Each room of the Iowa was reportedly filled with home economics exhibits.

* Howard Jackson was chairman of the team pulling event, which took place on Saturday afternoon. He had been chairman since its inception in 1928, and would go on to serve for over 50 years.

TEAM PULL – From the 1930 newspaper we have some quotes – "Over 3,500 cheered George Higgins, Grandview rancher, when he successfully pulled 5,500 pounds the required 15 feet and won first in the heavy-team pulling class here Saturday afternoon. Higgins, driving a team of blacks weighing 3,675, also made an attempt to break last year's record, but failed to move the 6,100 pounds the required 10 feet.

* "Driving a team weighing 3,560, Otto Trice won second over Otto Ragsdale, winner of last year's event., when he moved the load just half an inch further than Ragsdale did.

* "In the light team class, Clarence Ragsdale, driving a team weighing 2,970, broke last year's record for light teams when he moved the 5,000 pounds 15 feet to win first money in the light class, and was awarded \$15 extra for breaking the record established by the same team last year. Frank Lyall, with his team of blacks weighing 2,960, took second place, and Nat White, driving a team weighing 2,950, took third.

* "Ben Fisher, driving a team of registered Percherons, brother and sister 4 and 5 years old, was given a cheering hand when his team pulled 5,000 pounds the required distance and he announced he would withdraw and not pull the young team on any heavier load."

* There were two pavement street dances, one Friday evening and one Saturday evening. There was also a dog derby, a concert by the Grandview Juvenile Band, and the miniature golf course was in operation.

We have a real treat with us – there is a DVD of several years of Harvest Festivals, shot by Art Warner who used to own and operate the Colonial Theatre. These old film reels were put on VHS tape when Dave Charvet was Chamber president, a few years ago! Thank heavens he found a copy, and has graciously put them on DVD's, which will be available for those interested.

The 1937 Harvest Festival – the 10th annual – was held Sept. 10 and 11

* There was a big new addition – that's the year they added 4-H club exhibits – something they hadn't done before. They had 4-H judging contest, showmanship

and an agricultural demonstration contest. Keith Jones was in charge of the 4-H division. Interestingly enough, there also was no Washington State Fair in Yakima that year.

* Fred Olmstead Sr. was general chairman, who is my husband's grandfather. Howard Jackson was again head of the team pull. There were 10 teams in the heavyweight division, and eight in the lightweight class. By the way, lightweight meant the team's combined weight was under 3,000 pounds. The teams were weighed in at the White River Lumber Company scales at the corner of Third and Division, and then would head – sometimes led by a band -- to the athletic park for the pull (that's where the college is today).

* It turned out that my father-in-law, Don Olmstead Sr., as a young man of 19, won the heavyweight team pull that year, and I have a picture of him at the team pull, which is on display at the back of the room. His horses were not a matched team, but were 15 and 12 years old. They pulled 6,000 pounds 3 feet, 11 inches. A. R. Work took second, and George Higgins, third. Ike Herrett of Toppenish won in the light weight division. His 2,840-pound team hauled a 5000-pound load 9 feet, 3 inches. Frank Lyall took second, and Parker Hamilton, third.

* Earle Tinius was parade chairman, and had a dilemma – with the addition of 4-H, all the horse entries, and 17 merchants planning to enter floats or decorated car, plus the decorated bicycles, they were worried about sufficient room to maneuver the parade. With 150 entries, it was the biggest and most colorful parade ever held in Grandview. It formed at the athletic field, then went east on one side of the highway to Avenue B, south on B to Second, east on Second Street to Division, south on Division to Fourth, east on Fourth to Cedar, north on Cedar to Second, and West on Second Street to Avenue B and disbanded.

The Cle Elum Drum and Bugle Corps led the parade, and the newly-formed Grandview band made its first appearance in a Harvest Festival parade, led by William Waters. The Woman's Club float took first; Grandview Investment, second. The Old National Bank took first for decorated cars, and Haskins Variety took second. Winners in the bicycle division were Rona Jan Mitchell, Patsy Cobby, Phyllis Webster, Margaret Trice, Robert Beardsley and Louis Gehrts.

Howard Jackson, Otto Trice, Ben Fisher and Harold Wilkins were in charge of the horse section of the parade which had more than 200 head of livestock.

* A. M. Garrison was in charge of concessions, and secured the "classy" Douglas Greater Shows carnival for two days.

* Mrs. Beardsley, wife of the school superintendent, was in charge of the Home Economics division, and E. W. Rawlings was in charge of the flower show. They were both held downtown in the Eccleston building. The fruit exhibits were judged by Walter Clore of the Prosser Experiment Station – does that name sound familiar? H. P. Singleton, supt. of the Station, judged the grains and vegetables.

1938 Harvest Festival was again held in September

* Grandpa Fred Olmstead was general chairman again, and his committee members were Frank Ames and Ray Duncan. Once again, display booths were built in the center of Division Street, and the store fronts decorated with flags and

bunting. Judging took place Friday afternoon, and by Friday evening, free gifts were distributed downtown. That was followed by a band concert and a pavement dance.

* Otto Trice was chairman for the Horse Show, and was assisted by R. B. Fisher, W. S. Harris, George Fisher and Hubert Duncan.

* Tully Brown was parade chairman, and the Cle Clum Drum and Bugle Corps came to the parade again, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. But there was also some unusual music – the Vancouver, B. C. bagpipe band also made an appearance, and played for the crowd on Saturday night. The Yakima High School, Sunnyside High School and Prosser bands also marched. The Festival had the largest crowd ever assembled, and it was estimated some 12,000 people viewed the parade. The parade was estimated to be a mile and a half long. According to the paper, “Patrolmen Roberts and Pomeroy on their motorcycles cleared the way, and helped keep the anxious crowd in line”.

* The 4-H division really grew – from 16 livestock pens built in 1937, by 1938 they needed 32 – a great improvement, but it required a lot of extra effort by those community volunteers. Keith Jones was superintendent. John Schooley was superintendent for fruit, and Emery Morse for vegetables and grains.

* There were 15 teams entered in the “highlight of the Harvest Festival program” -- the team pull. H.E. Wilkins and his team won the pull “in front of a record-breaking crowd”, after his team pulled the 5,500 pound sled. Donald Olmstead took second, and Otto Ragsdale third. In the lightweight division, John Heffron and his team took first, Frank Lyall, second, and F. B. Bryant, third.

1939 Harvest Festival (12th annual) -- opened Sept. 8, 1939

* E. R. Browder was general chairman, and his committee included Fred Olmstead, Frank Ames and Ray Duncan. Dr. C. E. King in charge of the carnival and publicity; and finance chairman was Tennis Johnson, whom I recognized in this video – it’s his ears! Tullius Brown of the Grandview Herald was parade chairman, and A.K. Warner, who shot the videos, was in charge of the booths and concessions.

* The Higgins Carnival and Combined Circus was secured, and they showed up with 52 trucks of equipment and ring horses

* Keith Jones was superintendent of 4-H and the Smith –Hughes Clubs displays, which that year had 150 head of cattle, horses and colts; and 150 head of hogs and sheep. The livestock exhibits were at the old John Dower Lumber yard

* On Friday night magnificent fireworks display put on by Shell Oil Company; plus a pavement dance and the carnival

* Some of the display winners included F. A. Norton who took first in the special fruit display; Upland Wineries, second, and George Parker, third

* At the Saturday morning parade, the bands included the Yakima High School, Sunnyside High School, Vancouver B.C. Scottish Pipe Band, and the Cle Elum-Roslyn Drum and Bugle Corps – the Yakima Band led the 4-H club division of parade

* A very special guest was Governor Clarence D. Martin who was in town to view the parade, along with Congressman Knute Hill and A. M. Garrison of

Grandview, who was the State Director of Public Utilities. Attorney J. Arnold Cobley announced the parade from viewing stand. It followed the same route as years before.

* Otto Trice, horse show chairman – horse show follows parade on Saturday

* Howard Jackson, team pull chairman – 12th year as chairman

18 teams entered – We read that sleeping sickness had taken a serious toll on horses in the district, but some horse owners had gone elsewhere and purchased horses to compete in the pull; there were heavy class teams from Bickleton, Grandview, Mabton, Whitstran, North Prosser and Belma; light weight teams from Sunnyside, Grandview, Toppenish, Green Valley and Mabton.

* Donald Olmstead took first in the heavyweight division, pulling 6500 pounds a distance of 8 ft. 5 in.; George Fisher first in the lightweight, pulling 5,000 pounds the full 15 ft.

1940 Harvest Festival – Sept. 6 and 7, 1940 – E. R. Browder was chairman

*Largest crowd ever – with reportedly “more people in town on Friday afternoon and night than had even been present on previous opening day”

* The highlight of Saturday morning was the 17-block long parade – bands included Yakima High School, Prosser High School and Pasco Junior Drum and Bugle Corps. The Lions Club helped parade chairman F. D. Gano. In the community group division in floats, the Grandview Woman’s Club took first; Lower Yakima Valley Wool Growers auxiliary, second, and Grandview Junior High School, third. In the commercial division, the Old National Bank took first; Pacific Power & Light, second, and Safeway stores third. For bicycles, Dale Sloan and Dorothy Pratt took first.

Following the parade, there was a diaper pinning contest. Governor Clarence D. Martin was starter and judge. V. L. Knight won the \$2.50 first prize.

* They had a pavement dance downtown both Friday and Saturday nights

*B.O. Vance was chairman for the vegetable division Don Fisher chairman for grains and forage crops

* The team pull also drew the largest crowd ever. Mabton rancher George Fisher took first in the heavyweight division with a team of Percherons weighing 3,270 pounds, and they moved 5,500 pounds 4 feet, 6 inches. Donald Olmstead took second, and Carl Ray took third. There were 11 entries in the lightweight division, and Floyd Clark took first with a team weighing 2090 pounds, that pulled a load of 5,000 pounds 6 feet. Howard Jackson was second and Art Work took third.

* Grandview’s F.F.A. stock judging team took first place. Team members were Fred Higgins, George Norton and Bob Allen, with Clemence Carlson and Floyd Clark as alternates.

1941 Harvest Festival Sept. 5 and 6 – E. R. Browder was chairman again

To quote the Grandview Herald, “Visitors to the Grandview Harvest Festival will be thrilled with the show put on by the Cossack Motorcycle drill team of Seattle. Thirteen motorcycle maniacs risk their necks just for the fun of it! They will

appear in two performances under the lights, Friday and Saturday nights, no admission charged.”

*According to 14-year team pull chairman Howard Jackson, “We must admit that the use of tractors has cut down in a measure to the number of teams to enter the contest. But there are yet a lot of horses in the country and those fellows using teams are interested in the big feature of the local festival.” They had six teams in the heavyweight and lightweight divisions. Harold Wilkins of Grandview took first in the heavyweights, pulling 5,500 pounds 10 feet six inches. His team weighed 3,400 pounds. In the lightweight division Floyd Clark’s 2800-pound team pulled 5,000 pounds five feet one inch. A new event, the saddle horse pulling contest, was won by Norman Fisher, whose horse dragged 700 pounds a distance of 10 feet.

* Governor Arthur B. Langlie was the main speaker for the Friday night Festival opening, right after the band concert. He was followed by the Cossack motorcycle group, fireworks and street dance and Ziegler carnival. “Conservative estimates showed 5,000 people attended”.

* Downtown, the home economics exhibits were housed in the Eccleston building at Second and Division formerly occupied by the West Dependable grocery; junior 4-H home economics in the Dayton building on Second Street; flower show housed in the building recently vacated by the Ehmer Clothing Company; 4-H and F.F.A. livestock were on lots south of the old Grandview Hotel on Division; fruits, vegetables and grains were on booths erected on Division; Wm. Paulson was superintendent for the fruit division; Lee Booth for grapes; Don Fisher for grains, and B. O. Vance for the vegetables. Myrtle Smith was in charge of the flower show.

* Frank Gano was parade chairman; the bands included Wapato drum and bugle corps, Grandview High School (with 50 members), Sunnyside High and Prosser High. Horse show immediately followed the parade, chaired by Otto Ragsdale. Best decorated car was won by the Horner Service Shop; second, the Elizabeth Shop; third, Yakima Dairymen’s Association. For organizations, the Grange took first, Lower Valley Wool Growers second, and Veterans of Foreign Wars third. In the costume division, Betty and Alice Hays took the \$5 first prize; Douglass Krous and Carol Young, second, and Lila Cline and Mary Jean Burns third.

We have some past issues of the Grandview Herald and some photos and old premium books in the back of the room for you to look and enjoy. We just that you handle some of these older items very carefully. One of the most interesting things to me was just the businesses listed in the old premium books. Plus, they celebrated Grandview’s golden anniversary, which they called “50 years of progress” in 1956 – which was 50 years after the founding of the town, not when it was incorporated. Thanks for watching, and enjoy visiting and reminiscing!!