

Ephrata Fair Scheduled Sept. 24-28th

This year marks the 56th annual Ephrata Street Fair starting Tuesday, September 24th and will continue through Saturday, September 28th, which has enjoyed the reputation as the leading event of its kind in Northern Lancaster County.

One of the big events on the program of Pennsylvania's oldest and biggest street fair will be the annual parade on Wednesday, September 25th, starting at 7 o'clock. Rain late is the following evening at the same time. The parade will have from 30 to 35 musical units, floats, Mrs. Fire Chief and Miss Lancaster County contestants and other parade features. An estimated 65,000 viewers line the three mile parade route.

A carnival spirit will prevail throughout the five-day event along the midway stretching for several blocks with rides, eating stands and free entertainment at the bandstands several evenings during fair week.

Visitors to the fair will find many interesting displays of products from farms, orchards and gardens - flowers, fruit, home baked and canned goods, crafts, art, needlework and models shown in store windows and exhibit tent.

One of the points of major interest at the Ephrata Fair is "Tent City" where outstanding displays of poultry, cattle, sheep, baby beef,

tobacco, grain seed and forage are displayed.

It is there that contests are programmed which draw several thousand persons. There will be a pig chase and a cow milking contest in which prominent local citizens participate and is a lot of fun. There will be tractor driving and garden tractor pulling contests. A carcass lamb auction and a swine sale is slated and those visiting this section of the fair will find many displays and exhibits of absorbing interest.

The judging of baby beef, cattle, sheep and swine held at various times is of considerable interest to fair goers and schedules of these events will be found in the premium book which is available in downtown stores and at fair headquarters. The local fair was founded on agriculture and the poultry show, one of the best in the east, has been in existence even longer than the fair itself.

On Thursday afternoon, thousands of school children jam the rides area of the midway, known as "Kiddies Day", when a special reduced rate is offered to them, to enjoy the chills and thrills of the ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds and others dear to the hearts of kiddies.

The Mrs. Lancaster County Fire Chief contest is scheduled for Thursday night with women members

of the county fire company auxiliaries vieing for the crown.

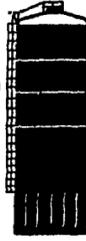
On Saturday afternoon starting at 2 o'clock, one of the fair's major attractions—the Baby Parade—is held. Thousands line the parade route to see the fancy costumes of the tots and the elaborate floats in which many of them ride.

On Saturday night starting at 8 P.M. the annual Miss Lancaster County Scholarship Pageant is held in the auditorium of Ephrata High School. Produced by the local Jaycees it is considered one of the finest preliminaries to the Miss Pennsylvania Pageant held in the state. Evelyn Ay Sempier, who was selected the winner at the first contest held here later, became Miss America of 1954. The pageant is the final event on the program and annually attracts a sell-out crowd from all sections of Lancaster County.

The fair was inaugurated in 1919, as a homecoming for returned veterans of World War I.

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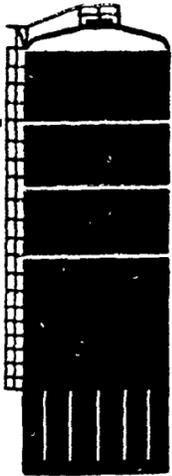
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