



Fair Happenings

Kempton Country Fair

From top country talent to tractor pull — to the Miss Kempton Fair Scholarship Pageant and countless exhibits — to the Midway and off-road four by four auto races, the Kempton Country Fair remains tops for family fun and thrills.

Opening Friday at 5 p.m., June 16, this weekend event celebrates its 41st anniversary, closing on Sunday, June 18.

And this year, a very special treat is in store on Saturday evening when Jett Williams, the daughter of Hank Williams, appears in two live performances at 7:15 and 10:15 p.m. along with The Drifting Cowboys. Making her professional debut at a memorial program honoring her father in 1989, she met two of the original "Cowboys" that set her career in motion. Her unique style and their unforgettable blend make for listening pleasure.

But that's just a sample of what's in store in Kempton.

The Blue Mountain Gang with their familiar mix of country and bluegrass open the entertainment on Friday evening in two performances, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A favorite with Kempton audiences, they're known as crowd pleasers.

Featured at the 8:15 and 10:15 p.m. slot, Darryl and Don Ellis, who are recognized for their rich, soulful voices, are a dynamite twosome. Just in their mid-20s, these country hunks who are compared to the Everly Brothers, will sing their own songs as well as other favorites.

Show time on Saturday begins at 3 p.m. with Andrew Roblin. A singer, a yodeler, even a guy who shouts whoopee, he'll play a guitar, jew harp, mandolin and hammered dulcimer. He'll also be on stage at 5 p.m.

San Antonio Rose will make a first time appearance at Kempton with her 6 and 9:15 p.m. programs on Saturday.

Sunday's musical offerings start at 5 and 7 p.m. when The

Country Rhythm Band swings into gear. Playing with gusto, they've returned to delight fair crowds with their familiar refrains.

Once again Tommy Schafer and the Blue Mountain Ramblers will take over the evening and present songs old and new that have made them local favorites. They'll be on the covered stage at 6:15 and at 8:15 p.m.

But this is just the beginning of the many events at the Kempton Country Fair. This year, celebrating the 32nd annual event, tractor pulls are scheduled for Friday evening at 6 p.m. Farm stock tractor pulls in three classes, single wheel 4x4 sanctioned stock pickups, a non-sanctioned local 4x4 class from Lehigh, Berks, and Schuylkill counties, and two modified stock sanctioned classes will be held. A rain date, June 18 at 4 p.m. has been scheduled.

It's a real happening when the fair opens on Saturday at 11 a.m. It's Children's Day and from 1 until 4 p.m., children 14 years old and under will be able to ride the amusements at reduced rates. A bicycle is top prize at a special at 4 p.m. drawing.

Mountain Madness Off Road races take off on Saturday at 12 noon in a series of Figure 8 maneuvers and enthusiasts will continue to enjoy the drag races beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday evening. Both are E.C.4W.D.A. sanctioned.

The Miss Kempton Fair Scholarship Pageant takes place on Sunday at noon with a series of programs starting with a production number and continuing with a talent demonstration, an evening gown presentation, on stage interviews and finally, the crowning of Es Lieblichst Maedel, the fairest

one.

Although the fair opens at 11 a.m. on Sunday, a very new and special Bicycle Race has been scheduled. Starting at 9 a.m., the WEEU Cycle series is a 16-mile competition and everyone is welcome to participate from 8 to 88. Age group awards and random prizes will be offered.

Sunday, noon, the four-wheel drivers will be on the course again in a series of obstacle races. Again the Mountain Madness Off Road Races are E.C.4W.D.A. sanctioned.

Sunday also features a Children's Pedal Tractor Pull for kids 5 to 10 years old. Beginning at 1 p.m., there's a teeter-totter, a balance on seesaws, in which youngsters can participate.

For all the events, fairgoers are invited to bring chairs or blankets for both the under-cover stage programs and the pulls and races.

And there's so much more to see and do.

More than 100 exhibitors display their wares — from arts and crafts such as dolls and pins and hair clips and handmade aprons and dresses to hot tubs and building supplies. There are all sorts of goodies — meats, baked goods, homemade candies. There are antiques and a flea market, dried flowers and landscaping hints. There are autos and trucks, tractors and farm equipment — a complete array for everyone to enjoy.

When hunger pangs strike — and the fresh country air promises a healthy appetite, the food concessions abound. From soup and chili, hot dogs, steak and meatball sandwiches to tacos, pizza and ice cream, there is plenty from which to choose.

Of course, there's the midway with rides, bingo and games to add to the excitement. Gate prizes are offered each evening with a grand prize on Sunday.

For those who like a bit of history, an adjunct to the Kempton Fair grounds is the W.K. & S. Railroad, where for a small charge, a traveller can find an hour's respite in a short run through some of the

most scenic countryside imaginable.

All in all, the Fair offers full family fare and in a setting that defies description: rolling hills, grassy knolls, trees and a quiet respite.

The Kempton Country Fair is manned by volunteers with all proceeds returned to the Kempton Community Center, the site of the Fair. Admission to the Fair is \$4 a person on Friday and Saturday, with children 6 to 12 admitted at half-price and those under six admitted free. Admission on Sunday

is \$4 a carload. Parking is controlled and free. All entertainment goes on rain or shine.

Kempton is located north of I-78 from either the Lenhartsville Interchange on Rt. 143 or from Rt. 737. It also can be reached from 309 north on Rt. 143. Kempton is approximately 30 miles west of Allentown and 35 miles from Reading.

Information concerning the Fair is available by calling The Kempton Community Center (610) 756-6030 and during the Fair, (610) 756-6444.

Forum Recognizes Operation Green Stripe

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Operation Green Stripe, a program that encourages farmers to plant grassy buffers to protect streams, has been cited by a national pollution prevention forum as one of 25 exemplary water quality projects.

The program, sponsored by Monsanto Co. in cooperation with FFA and several seed companies, was selected as a demonstration project by the National Forum on Nonpoint Source Pollution. The Forum, convened in 1994 and 1995 by The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society, recently issued a first-of-its-kind national report recommending ways to reduce nonpoint water pollution.

Nonpoint pollution, unlike pollution from factories or sewage treatment plants, occurs when rain water picks up contaminants on

farm land, urban construction sites, parking lots or anywhere water flows across a surface into a stream.

The recommend solutions, including programs like Operation Green Stripe, emphasize voluntary initiatives, education and economic incentives.

Through Operation Green Stripe, participating FFA chapters in several states recruit farmers to establish grassy buffer strips along streams on their farms. Participating seed companies donate free grass seed to the farmers, and Monsanto provides the FFA chapters with \$100 for each stripe planted, up to five per chapter. The money is used to fund chapter educational activities. This year, about 375 FFA chapters in sensitive watersheds have been chosen to participate.

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