



Opinion

Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped

How many ways can we say "thank you?" Following the Cheyenne County Fair, there are so many people who need a pat on the back or a big "thank you" or just, "we couldn't do it without you!" They are volunteers from those putting out garden vegetables, to organizing the style revue, to grilling hamburgers late into the night, to those taking tickets at events, to those running rides and games in the carnival — the list goes on and on.

The county fair doesn't just magically come together a week before. There are the fair board and Amusement Authority members who work throughout the year, making plans and repairing equipment and buildings.

The fair board thought they had events planned for each night of the fair but, unfortunately, Thursday night's entertainment fell through. But, it worked out and there was a great little kid's tractor pull. The roping was to begin at 7 p.m. but the truck hauling the roping steers had a flat tire. It all worked out thanks to some patient ropers and the grandstand crowd.

Each night, there was work to be done in the arena. The area had to be worked for the horse show Wednesday morning and again for the roping. Thursday, an area had to be prepared for the kids tractor pull. Friday morning, there was a crew using the county's road and bridge equipment making the hills and water pit for the Tuff Trucks, only to turn around the next day to get those humps out and the arena ready for the demolition derby. One of the fair board members said they didn't even get a chance to walk through the carnival area.

The Amusement Authority had painted and repaired equipment through the hot summer temperatures. Everything was inspected and ready to go — they thought. However, on Wednesday evening, the Ferris wheel, one of the most popular rides on the grounds, had a malfunction. Authority members, some of them mechanics, worked Thursday and had it ready to go that evening. One of the volunteers who has operated the Ferris wheel for several years, said it was working better than it had last year.

The year before, the carousel quit. After raising enough money, the ride was repaired and children and adults were able to enjoy riding it.

Amusement Authority members are generally on the grounds from before 7 p.m. until closing. Again, it is for no pay except the smiles on children's faces and the fact that for four long nights, they are a "carny."

On Saturday night, some say, this is my last year but after resting up, they are back to planning for next year.

Unfortunately, there are people who criticize but generally, they offer no suggestions on how to make it better nor do they volunteer to run a ride or serve on the Amusement Authority board or the fair board.

However, there are many who appreciate what is done to pull off a county fair complete with a carnival. Next time you see a fair board member or an Amusement Authority member, tell them how much you enjoyed the fair and maybe even go so far as to offer your help for next year. —Karen Krien



The Gardener

By Kay Melia



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Most of the county fairs are over now, although a couple of them are just getting started, and there even may be one or two next week. I sincerely hope that you took the opportunity to attend or exhibit at your very own county fair!

County fairs have unceremoniously become the major summer social event of nearly every county in our great nation. Fairs began as celebratory functions honoring farmers for their contributions to the food chain of America.

Now, in addition to that important community function, the county fair has become a meeting place for farmers and city folk alike. We not only honor those who provide the foodstuffs for our dinner table, but we also sit down somewhere on the fairgrounds and visit with friends and neighbors we may not have seen for awhile. It is a time to take note of the efforts of those who are considered the producers of ag products in the county, and also to see the homemade food, clothing, gardening exhibits, crafts, and 4-H project results, created by people we know.

The great fun and merriment of county fairs does not happen by accident. There surely is no other event in our respective counties that require so many

hours of effort by volunteers. We all know who they are, don't we? They are Joe and Charley, Doris and Fran, Steve and Jack, Nadine and Janet, or in other words, you and me. If all the volunteers who help put on the county fair were paid minimum wage for their effort, the county would be broke. The effort is truly an American story.

I have a tendency to give a lot of the credit for a successful county fair to a group of people known as the county fair board. Do you know who the members of your fair board are? Probably not, because about the only time you see their names in print, is in the fair book, and not everyone has access to a fair book unless you are an exhibitor.

I would love to see this paper print the names of their fair board following this column, so that everyone would know who the people are that ramrod the work it takes to have a fair. And now that just about every county fair has its own home-owned carnival, it takes even more volunteers who find themselves involved on our behalf.

No county fair would exist without those who place the results of their hard work on view for all of us to see. 4-Hers and adults alike bring in their live-

stock for us to see. And then there is home constructed clothing, gardening exhibits, rockery and woodworking projects, poultry, and food preservation items. Friendly competition among friends and neighbors helps create the excitement of every county fair.

I was 7 when I first exhibited at the county fair, and I haven't missed too many since then, which was about 75 years ago. I hope you enjoyed the fair in your county. You were probably involved in more ways than just attending.

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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During election years American politics launch a good deal of symbolism. Images are used by the candidates and the separate parties to send messages to voters.

Ever wonder how the Democrats became donkeys and the Republicans the elephant?

Around the time of the Civil War a popular source for news was Harper's Weekly out of New York City. Both through printed stories and pictures made from wood engravings, readers were able to follow the major events that were shaping this country.

In addition to battle field and national happenings, the medium of political cartoons was beginning. The man who would become

known as the "Father of American Caricature" was employed at Harper's Weekly at this time.

Thomas Nast was a German immigrant, born in Landau on Sept. 27, 1840 and arriving at the age of six. Although he was a failure as a student, never learning to read or write, he became an exceptional artist.

While at Harper's he did not create the mule, but his Democratic cartoons beginning in 1870 did popularize the symbol. He would later give the GOP their pachyderm in 1874.

Beside these enduring images, Nast provided the holiday prints of Santa Claus that most of us associate today with St. Nick.

His cartoons were so powerful that when he chose to take on the political machine of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall, which controlled New York City at the time, corruption charges brought about their fall.

Tweed realized that most of the voters were illiterate like Nash. "My constituents can't read. But, damn it, they can see the pictures," Tweed declared.

So whether you lean towards an elephant or a donkey, now you can thank Thomas Nast for your symbol.

Hangin' With Marge

Grannie Camp is Over

By Margaret Bucholtz



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I am sure that some of you are wondering what Grannie Camp is all about. For the next few weeks that will be what most of my stories will be covering.

About 5 years ago I decided it would be easier to have as many of the grandchildren that could come for a week than having one

at a time all summer. I planned a camping party in the middle of Kansas so we all have to share the miles, but still we could be together and then Kurt and I would bring home the children that wanted to come.

The first year I had three of our grandchildren and it was a fun-filled week of driving the tractor mowers, having BB gun target practice along with swimming, picnics and anything else that happened to come along.

The next year there were four here and everything went smooth, but by the next year one of the older ones started playing football and was really getting to an age that it was not too fun. When I told Tucker that Cooper wasn't coming he looked at me and said, "Well Grannie, it doesn't look like

you will be having many for camp this year."

However the camp went on and this year there were five grandchildren here all the time besides Lexi that came for one night and great-grandson, Carson that spent an afternoon with all of us.

I am not sure if it was just a lot of bodies, the hot weather or the fact that I am getting older but I was busier than a one-armed paper hanger.

Now it is over and the house will be cleaned sometime and both Kurt and I will enjoy the quiet, but in a few months I will be planning next year's Grannie Camp because there is nothing like the joy and laughter of children.

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GOD SAYS
 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
 who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that
 backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth
 evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up
 reproach against his neighbour.
 Psalms 15:1, 4

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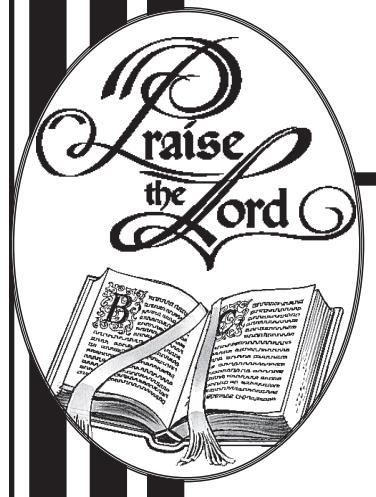
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