

# Horses main attraction of early county fairs

The county fairs of the 1940s had several different varieties of exhibits, but it seems the horse show and the trotting races were the main attractions. The fairgrounds were sit up at the Crayne Field, which used to be where the livestock barns are just outside of Marion. Ross Crayne was the man responsible for the building of the harness race track that was once located there. From the archives of The Crittenden Press, here are some highlights.

## Aug. 15, 1947 – Crittenden County Fair Scheduled

Crittenden County will again have a county fair this year, and the Ellis Ordway Post 111 of the American Legion will sponsor the event. The fair is scheduled for three days, Sept. 17, 18, and 19. Arrangements have been made to have the fair at Crayne Field, one and one-half miles north of Marion, on U.S. 60 where the track of the Crittenden County Trotting Association is located.

In connection with the fair will be held a horse show, which will be featured each of the three nights, and trotting races will be held during the fair under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Trotting Association. The races will be of registered stock and races will be official races run under the Trotting Association rules and regulations.

Various exhibits in livestock, poultry, flowers, seed corn and school exhibits will be scheduled. The livestock and exhibits will be under waterproof tents, and horses will be stabled in the new barn at the trotting track.

Carson Davidson, acting publicity director for the Legion, stated that there would be concessions and rides at the fair. Efforts are being made to obtain a grandstand for the horse show and the races, and box seats are being sold, with 100 on sale.

Free bus transportation has been arranged to carry patrons to the fairgrounds. The bus will leave from the courthouse and will shuttle

back and forth throughout the day.

## Judges for Exhibits

Exhibitors planning to show animals in various livestock departments should contact the department heads as soon as possible. Following are in charge of departments:

- Beef Cattle – James E. Carter, and Bruce Wheeler.
- Dairy Cattle – R. C. Nichols, and S. D. Loyd
- Hogs – R. U. Terry, and W. E. Arflack
- Sheep – Oral Weldon and Joe Dean
- Poultry – E. G. Taylor and Wallis Morris
- Hybrid Seed Corn – George F. Patmor
- Flowers – Mrs. George Winn and Mrs. Hollis Franklin
- Rural School Exhibits – Raymond Thurman

The rural school exhibits will be divided into two classes with one-teacher schools competing against one-room schools, and schools with two or more teachers competing against other schools with same qualifications.

## Aug. 29, 1947 – American Legion reports events

The American Legion reports that plans and preparations for the Crittenden County Fair are well underway. Premiums and amount of prize money had been decided, with a total of \$4,450 being offered.

The harness races will be a new feature in Crittenden County, since there have never been such in this county, and will be worth seeing as 75 to 100 horses of first quality are expected to participate in the races. Six harness races begin at 1:30 in the afternoon.

One running race will be held daily, and entries in these will be of local farm horses the first two days, and of local mules on the third day. All farm boys are urged to enter their horses and mules in these races.

The horse show will be scheduled at eight o'clock

each night of the fair and well be held in front of the grandstand under lights. It is expected that this event will be the biggest horse show ever in the county.

A carnival is expected to be on the grounds each night of the fair, and contracts have been made for food and drink concessions.

## Sept. 26, 1947 – Closing comments

The Crittenden County Fair which represented a lot of hard work for a lot of folks and for the Ellis B. Ordway Post of the American Legion in particular, was good and enjoyable. We liked the races and the horse shows and the school exhibits.

The Livestock Show was good but not good enough. Next year, let's have an increased premium list in this particular department of the fair. More and better livestock for Crittenden will really help the county. The quality of the purebred livestock exhibited was fine, another indication that Crittenden County is making progress in that direction,

The flower show was much under par, due in large measure, to the recent dry weather. And next year there possibly should be a special department for the women with fine handwork and for those interested in antiques a special classification for old quilts, old dishes, etc.,

## Highlights of the 1949 County Fair

The Crittenden County Fair four-day and night program has been completed. Workers are busy erecting tents, building stalls, pens and taking care of all last minute preparations for the biggest Crittenden County Fair ever held in Marion. It will start on schedule Tuesday morning 9 o'clock July 19 with the judging of livestock. All livestock exhibitors are hereby notified that their



Harness racing was a large attraction at the 1949 Crittenden County Fair held at Crayne Field.

entries in all livestock rigs must be on the ground not later than Monday, July 18 the day before the fair.

Tuesday afternoon at 1 o'clock, the harness races start. There will be six races, three heats each, is 24 Class Trot and 18 Class pace for \$1,000 each.

Judy Peebles and her electric organ will be on the grounds the entire week and furnish the music for the races each afternoon and also the night programs.

Tuesday night at 8 o'clock we have arranged a very special program – singing by the Marion Quartette, Gospel Singers, Lynn Orr Jr. Quartette. Music by Ray Wilson's Band, about 2 1/2 hours of entertainment that we all like so well.

Wednesday morning will be the flower judging and judging of home-makers exhibits.

More horse racing in the afternoon at 1 o'clock will be two \$1,000 races for the 18 Class Trotters, 3 heats, and 2 heats for 2 year-old Pacers.

Wednesday night, 8 o'clock the first night of our horse show, we will call in eight different rings of show horses for your entertainment. We expect the largest

number of show horses this year ever to be in Marion.

Thursday's racing starts at 1 o'clock with 24 Class Pacers and 2-year old Trotting Colts going a total of 5 heats for \$2,000. We also plan on having our mule races on this day.

Thursday night is championship night for show horses. You can't afford to miss this night as this is when the champions in all classes are selected.

Friday racing program includes three heat free for all Pace; three heat free for all Trot; and possibly some over night events for horses that have not raced.

Friday night will close the fair with the biggest event of the week – the Team Pulling Contest at 8 o'clock in front of the Grand Stand. All team

owners who expect to enter this contest will have their teams at Maxwell's scales at 5 o'clock Friday afternoon and all be weighed at the same time.

Plenty of good food and cold drinks, so come early and spend the day. Free bus service to and from the Fairgrounds every hour from the court house.

Fun to read about the events and activities of long ago. A really anticipated community event since there weren't as many other activities going on back then.

*(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com.)*

## LEGAL NOTICE

The Crittenden County Treasurer's Settlement for FY 2024-2025 is available for inspection at the Crittenden County Judge-Executive's office during normal business hours. The financial settlement is, according to Kentucky Statue, available for public viewing in hard copy format at the Judge's office in lieu of publishing the entire document in the newspaper. For more information, contact the County Judge-Executive's office at (270) 965-5251.

## Child Find for Children with Disabilities in Need of Special Education Services

The Crittenden County School District has an ongoing "Child Find" system, which is designed to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing in a home, facility, or residence within its geographical boundaries, age three (3) to twenty-one (21) years, who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education.

The Crittenden County School District will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education services at no cost to the parents of the child. Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are urged to help the Crittenden County School District find any child who may have a disability and need Special Education services. The District needs to know the name and age, or date of birth of the child; the name, address, and phone number of the parent or guardian; the possible disability; and other information to determine if Special Education is needed.

Letters and phone calls are some of the ways the Crittenden County School District collects the information needed. The information the school District collects will be used to contact the parents of the child and find out if the child needs to be evaluated or referred for Special Education services.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the Crittenden County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education services, please call (270) 965-3525 or send the information to:

George Cavanah, Director of Special Education  
Crittenden County Schools  
601 West Elm St  
Marion, KY 42064

"Child Find" activities are on-going throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Crittenden County School District will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education. Any information the District collects through "Child Find" is maintained confidentially.

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