



Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid

ACCESSION No: HRHS-170

COLLECTION TITLE: Rockingham County Fair Collection

DATES: 1980 - 2012

SIZE: 11 folders (3 are OV)

DONOR: The Rockingham County Fair Association
David A. Jackson (Fair books for 1965, 1966 & 1970)

PROCESSED: Processed October 29, 2015 by K. Craun and L. Carr

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

The first Rockingham County Fair was held at the Linville Ball Park, August 31 - September 3, 1949. Many smaller fairs were held before 1949 at Ed's Park at Rawley Springs, and in Harrisonburg on the Whitesel-Sit lot and at the present location of Memorial Stadium. From 1950-1951, the fair was four days long, from 1952-1963, five days long, and since 1964, the fair has run for six days.

The fair has been held at the present site on US Rt. 11 since 1980. The fairgrounds account for 111 acres of land, a 21,000-square-foot exhibit hall for display of local creative arts, homemaking skills and commercial exhibits. In addition, the grounds include a barn complex with a capacity of 1,100 head of hogs, sheep, beef cattle, dairy cattle and goats, a building for horticulture, flowers and farm crop displays, a building for poultry/rabbit exhibits, and food booths run by local civic clubs. There is also a grandstand, which seats 4,000 people, plus another 2,500 at ground level. The barn complex is approximately 85,000 square feet of space under roof. There is parking on the grounds for over 7,000 cars.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

- Folder 1: Fair brochures from 1982 to 1999
- Folder 2: Fair brochures from 2000 to 2012
- Folder 3: Fair books, 1922, 1924, 1965
- Folder 4: Fair books, 1966, 1970, 1998
- Folder 5: Food and business brochures, 1984 to 1995
- Folder 6: Food and business brochures, 1996 to 2006
- Folder 7: Fair passes, 1980 to 1996
- Folder 8: Fair passes, 1997 to 2011
- OV Folders:

Folder 9:

Posters for Tractor Pulls, 1999, 2006-2009

Poster for National Lawnmower Racing, 2009

Two Posters for Rodeo, 1998

Poster for Lilliana's Performing Leopards, 1994

Poster for Jars of Clay concert, 2000

Poster for Charlie Belknap's Hollywood Stunt Show, 2008

Poster for Fair with General Information, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003,

Rockingham County Fair placemat, 1975

Folder 10:

Schedule of Events, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2010

Posters for Motorcross, 2003 – 2009

Posters for Tractor Pull, 2002, 2004

Posters for Food and Business Fair, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996-2004, 2006

Posters for Demolition Derby, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2011

Folder 11:

Daily News Record inserts about the fair, 1992 to 2011