

Information Sheet

R **Ozark Empire Fair.**
809 **Booklets, 1947-1971.**
 One folder.

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These are two programs (1947 and 1951) and three “premium lists” (1964, 1969, and 1971) for the annual Ozark Empire Fair, held at Springfield in Greene County, Missouri, on 9-15 August 1947, 11-17 August 1951, 13-19 August 1964, 7-13 August 1969, and 11-18 August 1971.

The Ozark Empire Fair (formerly called the Ozark Empire District Fair) is a large regional fair featuring livestock, agricultural, and horticultural exhibitions, carnival rides and games, automobile and horse racing, and musical entertainment. In 1947 the week-long “11th annual” festival offered a “thrill show” by the All-American Thrill Drivers, a “Summer Follies Revue,” and, on closing night, a “horse show and fireworks.” There were agricultural competitions in such areas as floriculture, poultry and pigeons, livestock, and pie baking. Victory Exposition Shows provided the carnival rides and midway attractions.

In 1947 H. Frank Fellows served as president of the Fair Board, assisted by Vice-President Dr. W. A. Delzell and Treasurer Tom Watkins. Board members were prominent local citizens, including Louis W. Reps, F. X. Heer, Charles F. O'Reilly, Lester E. Cox, Ralph D. Foster, Jasper Everett, T. W. Duvall, Lawrence Rush, W. P. Keltner, and Sumner H. Gurley. The Secretary-Manager of the fair was G. B. Boyd.

The “official program” for 1947 includes a roster of administrators and directors on Page 3, a schedule of events on Page 5, and a few photographs from previous fairs. For the most part it consists of advertisements for local and area businesses.

The eight-page “souvenir program” for 1951 is much smaller, includes no advertising, and basically provides just a schedule of events for each day. In addition to the usual agricultural and horticultural exhibits and contests, feature acts at the grandstand included the Wonder Brothers Circus, the Aut Swenson Thrillcade of stunt driving, and both horse and automobile racing.

The 192-page “premium list” for 1964, the 208-page “premium list” for 1969, and the 212-page “premium list” for 1971 include detailed rules and regulations for the various competitive divisions, a map of the fairgrounds, and many advertisements for area businesses. In 1964 the President was Louis R. Burwell, the Vice-President was Stanley F. Roush, the Treasurer was T. W. Watkins, and the Secretary-Manager was G. B. Boyd. Board members included W. A. Delzell, W. P. Keltner, Dorsey B. Heer, Keith G. Wells, Ralph D. Foster, Louis W. Reps, Floyd W. Jones, John T. Gateley, Frank W. G. Wheeler, and W. R. Winn. Special activities included a carnival midway, fireworks, a rodeo, automobile racing, an automobile daredevil show, and a bait-casting tournament. In 1969 the President was Louis R. Burwell, supported by Vice President Stanley F. Roush, Treasurer T. F. Watkins, and Secretary-Manager Lewis Miller. Directors included Louis W. Reps, Ralph D. Foster, J. E. Dameron, Keith G. Wells, Harry Lightfoot, Frank W. G. Wheeler, and Charles E. Hallam. Entertainment included stock-car racing, a rodeo, diving mules, a “Fairest of the Fair” contest, and singers Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton. In 1971 the President was Louis R. Burwell, assisted by Vice President Stanley F.

Roush, Treasurer T. W. Watkins, and General Manager Lewis Miller. Entertainers included Hank Williams, Jr., Tommy Cash, Jerry Reed, Anita Bryant, Porter Waggoner, and Dolly Parton.

<i>r888</i>	<i>26 August 2002</i>	<i>Steve Muckala</i>	<i>Purchase</i>
<i>r1091</i>	<i>16 December 2004</i>	<i>Jeff Haskins</i>	<i>Purchase</i>
<i>r1246</i>	<i>20 March 2006</i>	<i>Teresa Poole</i>	<i>Purchase</i>
<i>r1250</i>	<i>13 April 2006</i>	<i>Ozarks Area Books</i>	<i>Purchase</i>
<i>r1369</i>	<i>30 November 2007</i>	<i>Ozarks Area Books</i>	<i>Purchase</i>

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