

Fair Chairman Stresses Importance Of County Fair At Commr's. Ct. Meet

Northrup Reiterates Invitation To County To Participate In Fair

Dr. L. T. Baron, president of the Colorado County Fair Association; Whyman Penick, a Fair committee chairman; and Northrup, Co-General Chairman of the 1981 Fair, met with the Colorado County Commissioners' Court Monday to report on the activities proposed for the 1981 Fair to be held Sept. 10-12 in Columbus and to solicit the partnership of Colorado County in "any reasonable and mutually acceptable program whereby the interest of all can be fulfilled."

Northrup was spokesman for the group and he pointed out that it is evident that last year's attendance of over 16,000 people will be surpassed significantly this year.

Northrup told the court that "it is interesting to note that to the best of my knowledge, the Home Economics Department and Fine Arts Department, which logged some 1,300 entries in 1980, is the largest in the State, including possibly the State Fair of Texas." He added that judges have commented that the overall quality of the exhibits has surpassed any that they had seen elsewhere.

Northrup stressed that the Livestock Show will be enhanced this year and plans are being made to use local talent in many new and innovative entertainment features.

He stressed the fact that because of the proximity to Houston, San Antonio and Austin and the relationship

with IH-10 that attendance could and should rise significantly.

The County's Fair Northrup added, "we have gone to great lengths in the past two years to stress the fact that our Fair is the Colorado County Fair. Due to the benefit of location and facilities, Columbus does enjoy the advantage of being the home base. However, Eagle Lake, Weimar, Frelsburg and Garwood - virtually every community in this area - benefits economically by supplying the raw materials and supplies necessary to our exhibitors and committees."

He pointed to the fact that the Colorado County Fair is truly a "grass-roots Fair." He went on to say that the Fair Association is once again not asking the Commissioners' Court for anything except for support and encouragement.

He did comment on aid being given to many other Fair Associations over the state by county governments and said that contacts on the state association level have indicated that "fairs are an important part of a county's educational function and more often than not, occupy county or other public lands and benefit from significant public improvements."

County Judge Lester J. Cranek at that point reiterated his previous statement in regard to allocating county funds in support of a county fair, noting that a ruling by the state's attorney general office for Cooke County was that the county, as a permissive body, cannot contribute tax funds to a county fair.

Judge Cranek said that the attorney general has ruled that there are no statutes on the books which authorize contributions of

county funds in support of a fair association.

Northrup said that he has found that virtually every county fair association in the state has some kind of an arrangement for financial support or use of public lands.

Judge Cranek agreed that some counties do support fairs and will probably continue to do so until some question on the legality of such action is raised.

In concluding Northrup said, "again I would stress that our Fair Association is not asking the county for any financial support... this year. We would submit to you, however, our real concern for the lack of county parks and recreational facilities and the growing need for same."

He continued, "we would also submit to you a standing offer to participate with given to many other Fair Associations over the state by county governments and said that contacts on the state association level have indicated that "fairs are an important part of a county's educational function and more often than not, occupy county or other public lands and benefit from significant public improvements."

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Rice Cheerleaders Win Spirit Stick At Camp

The Rice High School Varsity Cheerleaders attended a cheerleaders camp at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, from August 3-7.

During their week at camp spirit sticks were awarded to the squads showing the most enthusiasm. The Rice Varsity girls won the spirit stick four days and brought it home on Friday. They were picked out of 92 schools to perform their cheer from home for the entire camp.

Other honors they received from evaluations throughout the week were five superior ribbons and two excellent ribbons. The cheerleaders are as excited about the upcoming season as they are and will come out and support the mighty Raiders.

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