

Preparation ends; fair opens Monday

By TOM FRAZIER
Gazette staff writer

The 1980 Ross County Fair is just two days away but preparation for the 36th annual celebration began within a matter of days following last year's fair.

"I don't think people realize the work that goes into the fair," said Neil Smith, director of advertising for the Ross County Agricultural Society (Fair Board), sponsor of the fair. "The Fair Board meets 12 months a year, at least that much, not counting special meetings."

Smith said there have been no major changes in the fair itself, however, there will be some special events not seen at previous exhibitions. There will be a new face, or more accurately, a new painted face at this year's fair. Oskar the Clown, who has performed for the past several seasons at Sea World in Aurora, will be at the fair all six days with magic tricks and free balloons.

Also new are a body building exhibition, a four-wheel drive mud run, the recently completed Commercial Building and a new area for livestock

photography.

The fair starts Monday morning at 8:30 with a kick-off breakfast at the grandstand. The Adelphi Band will be honored with a plaque during the breakfast for its 100th anniversary. The band has performed at all 35 fairs sponsored by the Fair Board, but its involvement started long before 1944. The first fair was held 146 years ago and the Adelphi Band has performed at the fair many times since its inception.

Grandstand entertainment will run Sunday through Saturday. Sunday features the Junior Fair Queen Pageant to be held at 7:30 p.m. On Monday the Gospel Music Show with Wendy Brywell and the Sunlighters will perform at 7:30 p.m. The horse show starts at 6 in the evening. The Bong Show, featuring amateur talent from around the area, begins at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Harness racing will be held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 3 p.m. A total of 11 races will be run, featuring the Garrett S. Claypool Memorial on Wednesday.

The demolition derby will get underway Thursday night at 8. Friday's grandstand entertainment begins at 10 a.m. with the baton twirling contest. Ernest Tubb and his Country Troubadours perform Friday evening at 7 and again at 10. Also performing with Tubb will be singer Rita Rose, comedian Elmer Fudpucker and Ross County's own Jerry Salley and his Country Ramblers Band.

The four-wheel drive mud run will be held in the grandstand infield Saturday morning at 10 and another demolition derby is scheduled for 8

p.m. Saturday.

Other grandstand entertainment includes daily performances by area high school bands, rock music groups, country and bluegrass music, square dancing, a banjo and fiddlers contest, Alfie's chicken eating contest, in addition to the old fashioned dress contest, a tobacco spitters contest and the body building exhibition.

From noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, the midway will feature special amusement ride prices where unlimited rides will be allowed for a single \$3 ticket.

The judging schedule for livestock and produce is as follows:

Junior fair ponies on Monday and Tuesday at 9 a.m.; junior fair beef cattle on Thursday at 9 a.m.; open class beef cattle on Thursday at 2 p.m.; junior fair dairy cattle on Monday at 9 a.m.; open class dairy cattle on Monday at 2 p.m.

Junior fair swine on Tuesday at 9 a.m.; open class swine on Tuesday at 2 p.m.; junior fair sheep on Wednesday at 9 a.m.; open class sheep on Wednesday at 2 p.m.; poultry judging begins Monday at 9 a.m.; rabbit judging Wednesday at 9 a.m.; junior fair rabbits on Monday at noon; grain, vegetables, honey, hay and tobacco judging on Monday at 5:30 p.m.; grange exhibit judging on Wednesday at 9 a.m.; home arts, special arts, baked goods, old dishes and fine arts judging on Sunday at 6 p.m.; flower show judging on Monday and Thurs-



Workers prepare the grandstand at the Ross County Fairgrounds for Monday's opening day of the 36th annual fair. The fair will run through Saturday, August 9 and will feature grandstand entertainment every day.

(Gazette photo)

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City youth drowns in creek

What began as a summer afternoon swim ended in the drowning of a 15-year-old Chillicothe youth Friday.

Brian F. Spurlock, of 44 Ewing St., drowned after attempting to wade through some rapids in North Fork Creek near Maple Grove Road with his brothers and sisters. Spurlock disappeared in the creek's mud and sand and attempts to rescue him failed. His body was recovered about 6 p.m. by area rescue units and Ross

County Sheriff's deputies.

Spurlock was swimming with his brothers Mark Ross, 21, of 414 Bellview Ave., and Rodney Spurlock, 14, of 44 Ewing St., and his sister, Nancy M. Spurlock, 18, of 414 Bellview Ave.

Spurlock was the son of Melva E. Ross, 39, of 44 Ewing St. and Jack L. Spurlock, 40, of 127 Reservation Circle.

Spurlock's body was taken to the Ross County Medical Center Hospital.

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