



# THE VOICE



## Remembering the fair

Whenever I drive down I-70 in the summer time my eyes are always drawn to the billboards advertising the Missouri State Fair. Those signs remind me of some of the very **BEST** days of my youth. I was fortunate to not only attend the fair, but to be a part of the fair from 1956 to 1963. One of my 4-H projects was Clothing and I was just good enough to have several of my garments make it to the state fair.

But my real love was 4-H Show Day when I got to show my Shorthorn cattle. Growing up in Grain Valley, with Sni-A-Bar as my heritage, it was only natural that my parents enrolled my brother and I in 4-H as soon as we were old enough. (10 years-old by January 1). In 1954 and 55, I was the little sister and my brother got to have all of the fun! But in 1956 I joined the Lone Jack 4-H Club. There was no club in Grain Valley at that time. It was in Lone Jack that I met lifelong friends, Judy Bailey (Angus), Mary Kate Childers (Herefords), Jackie DeWitt (Holsteins) and the Krone girls, Caroline and Susan who had chickens!

We all had a regular summer “show circuit.” First we showed at the Lone Jack Fair, a one day local event in mid-July. Then we went to the Jackson County 4-H Fair, followed by the Jackson County Fair, both at the fairgrounds in Lee’s Summit.

Some years Charlie and I took our calves to Springfield for the Ozark Empire Fair. But, come the end of August, we all took our animals to the State Fair in Sedalia.



### Beginning

August 18, 2021

Our hours will return to  
Wednesday, 10 AM - 4 PM

Or by Appointment



### Grain Valley Historical Society Meeting

September 23, 2021

6:00 PM

Join us for a potluck dinner followed by a program and meeting.



In those days, you arrived at the fair to check-in on Friday night and stayed a week. Charlie, along with our 4-H friends from Jackson County got to “live out of a show box” and sleep on a cot, right in the stall after the cattle were tied out for the night. The stalls were cleaned for the next day, but the aroma never left. Sleeping in a hot, smelly barn in the middle of August...why was I jealous?

One year our parents decided to let us girls stay at the fair overnight. We each paid \$1.50 to spend the night in the Women’s Building. In 1960, there was no AC, only two showers for probably 50 females, and the cots were old and hard...why was I jealous? It is a memory I will never forget, but perhaps not a great memory!

When we went to the fair we never went to the midway. It was for the city kids who only visited the fair. We found our fun in other ways. Once the guys dug a hole in the aisle of the barn, filled it with fresh manure and then covered it with straw. We sat on our show box or a bale of straw and watched the “city kids” with their sandals step in the hole. Another favorite trick was to tie fish line to a billfold and lay it in the middle of the aisle. When someone bent to pick it up, we would reel it in and watch them fall. It was also fun to soap the tracks for the small “train” that circled the fairgrounds and watch it grind to a halt. We weren’t BAD kids, just a bit mischievous.

When show day came, Charlie and I would put on our boots and our Shorthorn shirts (sewn from specially ordered material) that mom made for the occasion. Armed with a brush to keep their perfectly styled hair in place and a show stick to place their legs under their body, we would proudly lead our calves into the arena. My dad took my brother as far away as Enid, Oklahoma and the Houston (Texas) Fat Stock Show to acquire heifers that were both Grand Champions at the Missouri State Fair in 1959 and 1960. Charlie was the oldest and I was never jealous of his success. After all, back home in Grain Valley he did much more work with the cattle than I did.

After he graduated and went to Mizzou, I bought a heifer from Hallwood Farms (Sweet Lassie Feeds) in St. Joseph. In 1963 I showed Hallwood Rose, the Reserved Champion Shorthorn at the Missouri State Fair.

It may be nearly sixty years, but I still remember those years like they were yesterday. See you at the Fair!



**Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

**Enjoy the patio**

**Or come inside and enjoy our**

**Air-conditioned Museum**

**Serving Ice Cream & Desserts**

**5 PM - 8 PM**

**Adults, \$6 Children under 12,**

## Building for Rent

**The Historical Society is available for rent at reasonable rates - -** The half-day rate is \$75 and a full-day rental is only \$100

A great location for birthdays, bridal or baby showers, parties and more!

**For additional information call: (816) 867-5158 or (816) 392-4873**

## Visit our website

[www.grainvalleyhistory.com](http://www.grainvalleyhistory.com)

For information on museum hours, meetings, special events and building rental, check out our website. The website is provided and maintained courtesy of the

## Valley News

*Grain Valley's Community Newspaper*