

Volunteers run

By MARY LOU OLSON

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When it's fair time at Oberlin people put on a lot of different hats. You might see a minister running the Ferris wheel, a farmer adjusting the clutch on the big swings, a merchant selling funnel cakes, a homemaker getting people to try the baseball throw, a county commissioner running errands and a banker taking tickets.

No, the population hasn't taken leave of its senses, rather, they took control of a problem back in the early 1970s and solved it.

From the time that the Decatur County Home-Owned Carnival became a reality, starting in 1973, there was one thing that made all the difference — willing volunteers, and up to this year's fair, that has not changed.

It took several farmers, a county agent, area businessmen and more to get the project off the ground. In the beginning, it was Floyd Lotker, who was president of the Decatur County Amusement Authority, along with other farmers, volunteers in all of the towns in the county and a lot of sweat and tears brought the carnival as we know it now to what everyone enjoys today.

Among others who spent countless volunteer hours during those early years were Wes Gaumer, Lynn Morford, Jake Betts, Archie Hamilton, P.W. "Bus" Page, Ward Sauvage, Harry and Betty Schrammel, County Agent Kent Reinhardt, Don Stapp, Mike Gawith, Stuart Euhus, Merlin Anderson, Jim Gaumer,

Herb Shirley, Don Stapp, John Juenemann, Bill and Ann Ooton, Bill Matchett, Ernest Nichols, Dottie Lotker and her father, Ralph von Riesen, Sauvage Gas Company, high school shop students and advisor, Paul Babcock, Sally Henningson, Koch Oil Co., county commissioners, road and bridge crew, countless 4-H members and families, along with volunteers from all over the county who had a dream and worked hard to make it a reality.

In addition, various clubs, including the Lions, Rotary and many others took on the responsibility of helping with the booths, porkburger and other food stands, operating the rides, selling and taking tickets and so much more.

Volunteers since those early days have continued to make the Decatur County Fair one of the very best.

Dana Marintzer and Vicky Ray have helped in the toy van for years. Among other faithful volunteers have included the Oberlin Lions Club, who operate the merry-go-round; Norcatour community, big swings; Herndon community, octopus; Jennings community, Twist-Over; Ferris Wheel, Rotary Club; the Votapka family, train; the Williby family and Oberlin American Legion, Ric-a-Sha, along with numerous individuals and groups, who assist with the rides, games and numerous other jobs.

The carnival now includes the Merry-Go-Round, Moon Walk, Kiddie Swings, Kiddie Cars, Big Swings, Tilt-a-Whirl, Twist Over, Octopus, Train, Slide and Ferris Wheel.



VOLUNTEER John Juenemann helped out in one of the games during the 2010 Home-Owned Carnival.

Enjoy the Decatur County Fair!

Contact Attorneys

Steve Hirsch and Margaret Mahoney
for all your legal needs.



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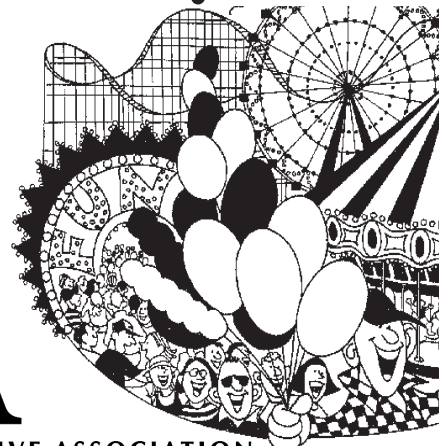
Attorneys at law

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785-475-2296

Congratulations Decatur County 4-H'ers!

ENJOY OUR
COUNTY FAIR



DCA

DECATUR COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



Farmers



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Good Luck 4-H'ers

202 South Penn, Oberlin

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