

1884 LANE COUNTY FAIR 1983



Back in 1912, when this photo was taken, the Round-Up was a big part of the County Fair. These men are standing outside Round-Up Headquarters on Willamette Street.

At the Lane Co. Museum HISTORY OF THE FAIR

The Lane County Museum will be open extra hours during the Lane County Fair this year, and will be featuring an exhibit of historic photos from fairs of the past—some dating back to the early 1900's. These extraordinary photographs, such as those pictured here, provide interesting historic perspective on this yearly event.

The museum is situated right next to the fairgrounds, on West 13th. During the Fair, it will be open from 10 am-10 pm, Thursday-Saturday, and from 10 am-6 pm on Sunday. Stop in on your way in or out of the Fair, and treat yourself and your family to one of Lane County's most precious and interesting resources.

A bit of the history:
Fairs have been held in Lane County since the mid-1800's, with the first State Fair being held in 1860 near Oregon City. In 1884 the first official Lane County Fair was held in Eugene on the corner of 9th and Oak Streets, featuring exhibits of agricultural products, handiwork, baked goods, machinery and manufactured goods in a pavilion newly lighted by electric lamps. A circus, livestock exhibits, horse and bike races, and a nightly concert by the city band were also features of this early 3-day fair.

In 1980, the Lane County Agricultural Society, the early sponsors of the Fair, acquired the present fairgrounds and built a pavilion and grandstands with

the money raised from the sale of stock. The first Fair at the new location was held in 1909 with horse races, carnival attractions, and more exhibits from local granges, schools, and individuals. Gate receipts that year were \$4095.35.

In 1923, the Lane County Agricultural Society sold its fairgrounds holdings to Lane County for \$20,000.

And so it has evolved, over the years, to become a yearly event attracting hundreds of thousands of people from all over the county and state, a showcase for products, services and information from the people of Lane County, and a place to go each summer for entertainment, good food, and fun!



Country singer, songwriter, and recording artist Tammy Wynette performs at the Lane County Fair on Friday, August 19, at 2 pm and 8 pm.

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