

Washington Area Museum Foundation / D.A. Varnado Store Museum

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Open Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM,

Sunday 1:00pm to 4:00 PM,

Other times by Appointment

Newsletter

October - December 2017

**Letter from the President:
Beth Bankston**

At Last! It's time for the FAIR!

Aren't you glad you live in Washington Parish?
Not only is the Fair the Biggest and BEST but it's
ours, and it's FREE!

In theory, a family can spend their whole day being
entertained without spending any money. (Assuming
they bring their own food and drink to the fair.)

You forgot to pack your picnic basket? Have no
worry, the fair has hundreds of eating choices, from
caramel apples to chocolate covered bananas, from
hamburgers and hot dogs to gumbo and chicken,
from pork skins to dippin dots and don't forget the
alligator picante sauce!

After you've stuffed yourself like it was Thanksgiving,
take a walk and enjoy all the things our fair
has to offer. The fair has Old McDonald's Farm
complete with a petting area, dairy cattle, flower
arranging, crop judging, local musicians, professional
entertainers, school musicians and choirs, crafts,
paintings, original photography, lots of pretty girls
(Rodeo queen, Fair Queen, visiting Queens), an
authentic pioneer village (Mile Branch) where you
can watch lye soap making, cane syrup making, corn
meal grinding, visit a blacksmith shop, and enjoy
fresh roasted peanuts or cheese, home-baked bread,
and lemonade from the Bankston store.



The FIRST FAIR was held in a livery stable in 1911.

The first building was the original homemakers
building, destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and
since rebuilt.

The fair has only been canceled a few times since it
started, once during the influenza epidemic in 1918
and from 1942-1944 due to WW2.

Grab yourself a lemonade and cookies from the
Bankston store, find a shady spot to sit and watch the
crowds while you listen to music. Remember so
people have to pay hundreds of dollars for
entertainment that is not half as good as what is right
here in our own back yard.

Note from the Director: Terry Seal

The annual Membership meeting held in
September at the Annex was enjoyed by those in
attendance. However, the number of members
attending was disappointing.

Board President, Beth Bankston was pleased to
welcome special guest Senator Beth Mizell.

Yearly reports were given by officers.

Members rotating off the board and eligible for
reelection were voted in unanimously. The three
openings on the Board were NOT filled.

A special recognition was given to Judy Simmons as
Outstanding Volunteer Host for the year. She
received a gift and award from the museum.



Delicious refreshments were served and all enjoyed
visiting after adjournment. Thanks to the Board for
hosting this event.

EXHIBIT NEWS

Sep - Oct The current exhibit on display is " The
History of the Washington Parish Fair".

It features a complete collection of Fair posters, Many
Fair catalogs dating back to as early as 1934, original
design posters by Joe Greenburg for Fair catalog
covers, displays representing all the various exhibit
areas of the Fair, as well as the parade, stage,
Thomas Carnival, etc.

There is a copy of the article from the Era-Leader
newspaper from 1911 describing the first fair and
many photos and documents from early Fairs.
Thanks to **Bonnie Dier** for the DVD showing photos,
catalog covers and newspaper articles in
chronological order from 1911 to 2016. This is playing
continuously during the exhibit.

