

BALLOON ACENSION

1904-1924 Balloon acension was attraction at the fairs. The audiences enjoyed the giant balloon carrying the aeronaut looked like speck in sky, dropping to the earth the parachute open and aeronaut floated gently to earth about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ miles where they started.

As all stunts, times when it fails, so was Wild Flier Clark stunt failed, when he inflated his large balloon preparatory to making an ascent, but just as he was about to go the balloon was discovered to be on fire, the result being that it was completely burned. Wild Flier Clark secured another balloon, attempted the stunt again at closing of the fairs, rose about 50 ft and travel only a block.

Lady aeronaut thrilled the audience as her balloon acension was always successful and thrilled audiences

Balloon acension always be the last day of fair usually the last stunt on the program.

HORSE RACING

Horse racing one of the oldest sport, every fair established a race track and has been part of the entertainment for many years.

It was the drawn back for Pine County with a race track when Pine had joint fair with Chisago County. 1889, with assistance from the state, Pine County purchased a small tract of land on north side of the River. Lay out the race track, so it be ready for the 1890.

First race was unsuccessful, but most interesting for the sudience. A race is noted for the inability of the rider to keep his horse in the track, instead horses ran across the fields over to the gate and into the woods, in fact every place but the race track itself. Only one horse and rider stayed within the track won the prize.

Several private race tracks were lay out for training race horses. McAllen farm, near Pokegama had a race track and race horses. There were others who had private tracks.

Prizes for horses were high. In 1909, the Fair board appropriate \$200.00. there were different categories. Pony, trot, pace, Slow horse race, gentlemen race, wagon race.

Horse Racing in 1910 and 1920 got top billing for the fair horses as in big race tracks, were named, Queen B, Blue Jay, Fancy, Ella M, Watson, Black Beauty, Jasper, Crescent, Princess Patch were some of named Horses. Many owners own several racing horses. (Pecture of race track page 56)

I had a friend, who as^o young man, he worked for Mc Allen often talked about how the horses were trained, daily on private track. We moved to this area, the outline of McAllen's track could seen planly

WEDDING

First wedding in 1911, of Gertaude May Eaton and Arthur Elroy Wood the bride was given away by governor E.O. Eberhart. The ceremony was performed on platform front of the grandstand, according to the ritual of the M.E. Church. Gifts donated to bridal couple from the county Business men, Steel Range set of Dishes and Silverware, lamps, Barrel of flour, clock, bride and groom shoes, wedding ring, gold piece and Cradle.

Wedding of Thelme Spicer and Everett Vork of Sandstone in 1929 was stormy one. Shortly before the wedding, flashes of lightning fear of rain, marriage ceremony was shorten as much as possible yet the approaching storm made an unusual and gorgeous background and setting as lightning flashed across the sky. Conclusion of the wedding, a set piece of fireworks, was lighted bearing the words "congratulation, bride and groom". Couple many beautiful gifts. Wedding gown was donated by Klein's Department Store in Sandstone.

1930 Beautiful wedding of Mabel Peil and Richard Thieman of Pine City ceremony was performed by Rev. Carl M. Steging, pastor of the Zion Luthern Church of Pine City. The orchestra played the Lohengien processional, as six members of revue took their places, forming a beautiful background, there was absolute stillness throughout crowds of thousands of spectators, not sound was except the reading of marriage vows. Couples received many gifts, wedding gowns from Klein's Department Store, Wedding veil, marriage license, wedding ring, ect...

1932 Beautiful wedding of George I. Petry of Hinckley and Grace Giese from Pine Lake. Platform was brilliantly lighted with a string of lights overhead, plus the two large spot lights that been placed on top of grandstand. Beautiful ceremony was impressive, with complete silence of audience, as Rev. Reo Carl Stegings voice was heard distinctly in hushed silence of the huge crowd. Wedding gown was gift from Klein

WEDDINGS WERE HIGHLIGHT OF COUNTY FAIR DURING THE 30'S

Each year at County Fair time Richard and Mabel Thieman are reminded of one of the most important days in their lives, their wedding day.

Fifty two years ago the Thieman's were married by Reverend Carl Steging, pastor of the Pine City Zion Lutheran church before a crowd of 2,000 people seated in the grandstand at the Fair.

"I can still remember exactly how it all came about," Richard said. "My folks didn't know a thing about our plans until they read it in the Pine Poker and they were pretty shocked," he laughed.

Recalling the details leading up to the event he said,

"Mabel and I and some of our friends were sitting around the ice cream parlor located where Olson's Shoe store is when the secretary of the Fair Board happened to walk by."

"We were planning to be married that fall and he dared us to have our wedding during the fair as the grand finale to the evening grandstand performance."

The Depression was in full swing and the prospect of having most of their wedding expenses paid for by the Fair Board and local merchants appealed to the young couple.

On the spur of the moment Mabel and Richard said, "Why not!"

At first, some people were stunned by the idea of having a religious ceremony as part of the show at the Fair. It seemed almost a sacrilege or a mockery, but the Thieman's remember it as a beautiful, meaningful ceremony that has stood the test of time.

An account of the wedding in the Pine Poker-Pioneer dated

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August 3 21, 1930 said,

"There was absolute stillness throughout the thousands of spectators and all through the ceremony not a sound was heard except Rev. Steging's voice as he read the beautiful words of the Lutheran marriage service. It was very impressive and beautiful and no church wedding could have been more dignified or formal."

Mabel was only 17 years old at the time but the excitement of the event is still vivid in her memory.

"The whole community had a part in our wedding," she said. "That seemed to make it very special."

Mabel was outfitted from the veil on her head to the white kid slippers with rhinestone buckles that she wore on her feet by a Sandstone clothing store.

A florist provided the wedding bouquet of roses and Richard was issued a marriage license free of charge. Gillespie Auto Company furnished the new cars that drove the wedding party to the fairgrounds.

The grandstand and bleachers were filled and fences on both sides were lined with people straining to watch the unusual ceremony.

As the orchestra played the traditional wedding march, the chorus girls from the grandstand show known as "Miller's Jewels of 1930" joined hands and circled the platform. Wearing blond wigs, blue tulle gowns and large hats, they formed a human picture frame for the ceremony.

LeRoy Soderbeck and Ed Peil were groomsmen, Marie Thieman and Sybil Saun, bridesmaids, identical twin cousins of the bride, Dorelle and Lois Stransky were flower girls and Charles Niley was

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ring bearer.

Mable ascended the platform on her fathers arm in the traditional fashion.

"It was really beautiful," Mabel said, "and all those people were there to share in our happiness."

Close relatives of the couple were seated in a special section close to the stage.

"The stage was much bigger in those days. I think the whole crowd could have danced on it at one time if they wanted to," she laughed.

The young couple was paid \$25. for sharing their wedding with the public and they used the money to honeymoon in Duluth.

Shaking his head Richard recalled an incident that almost cost him his job in the city following his return to work.

"My foreman came in and said he was married the same weekend we were and he was bragging there were 250 people at his wedding," Richard said.

"Not to be outdone by him I piped up that that was nothing-- there were 2,000 people at my wedding."

Richard was called in to the office and put on the carpet for ~~lying to lying to his~~ lying to his foreman.

"I had to bring in a copy of the Pine Poker to prove I was telling the truth," he said with a twinkle in his eye.

In 1980 the Thieman's were honored with a special plaque from the Fair Board for their 50th wedding anniversary. Their anniversary party was featured on WTCN Television that night. Their wedding was news in 1930 and it was still news 50 years later.

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ENTERTAINMENT WAS HOMESPUN AT TURN OF CENTURY

"Look the list over carefully boys and see if you can afford to let this opportunity go by. Talk it over with her and be married at the Fair," an ad in ~~XIV~~^a 1911 issue of the Pine Poker said.

The following articles have been contributed to the couple that agrees to be married on the platform at the fair: Smith Hardware will give a steel range valued at \$60.; Pine City Mercantile a set of dishes worth \$20., A.M. Challeen, a set of silverware for \$7.; Asplund and Olson, lamp and water set worth \$7.; R. P. Allen, a barrel of flour; W. A. Sauser, a mantel clock worth \$12.; J. Y. Breckenridge, a wedding ring worth \$10.; H. Borchers Shoes a pair of slippers for the bride valudd at \$6.; R. G. Harte, Hinckley, a pair of shoes for the groom \$4.; F. G. Rybak, a pair of wool blankets for \$6.; Pine City State Bank a \$5. gold piece; W. P. Gottry, a three year subscription to the Pine County Pioneer; R. Gray, one dozen cabinet pictures of the bridal pair; F. C. Ingleston of the boat livery will give the bridal couple and immediate relatives a launch ride on Cross Lake. Webster furniture Co. of Hinckley offered a cradle with the statement that they could think of nothing better when looking into the future than to offer the newlyweds a cradle for the day when there would be three.

And last but by no means least, Rev. H.H. Parish of the M.E. Church offered to tie the knot "free".

An advertisement like that was enough to make almost any lad who had been postponing the proposal because of a shortage of funds, pop the question.