

Homestead Heritage Exhibit Hall

The first Exhibition Hall was built in 1918 and had been the center stage of fair events and celebrations throughout the early years of the Kendall County Fair Association. A devastating misty early morning fire on Friday, February 17, 1984 completely burned the sixty-six year old building to the ground, and along with a structure history, a wealth of Kendall County Fair memorabilia and mementos were destroyed. Burned also and never to be replaced were seventeen antique showcases that were stored inside the Exhibit Hall. With a plea from the association to the community for donations of fair memorabilia and mementos, the association replaced many of the destroyed items lost in the fire. Only a few of the early president's photos and catalogs have not been replaced, along with selected fair mementos such as trophies, ribbons and photo's. Shortly before the fire the Exhibition Hall had just undergone a remodel and was electrically re-wired. With the remodel complete the solid aged structure promised many more decades of usefulness. The actual cause of the fire has never been determined.

With the help of association members, women's auxiliary, and community volunteers the now existing Exhibition Hall was built with donated funds and many volunteered hours. With all this effort and pride for the Kendall County Fair Association, the newly built Exhibition Hall doors was opened for the 79th Annual Kendall County Fair on September 1, 1984.

From the earliest days of the Kendall County Fair the Exhibition Hall was and is the "Heart" of the annual fair. It continues to showcase year after year the many talents of citizens of Kendall County. Each year the locals, young, and young at heart enter exhibits into judging competition against their fellow friends, neighbors and even family members for a chance to win a ribbon or the "Best of Division" award for the best overall entry in age groups categories from baking to taxidermy. The main showcase cabinet is brimful of fair memorabilia and mementos of the past and present.

"The President's Wall" atop the showcase displays photos of the association's Presidents from 1949 to the present. Selected walls throughout the Exhibit Hall display photos of fair royalty, projects and celebrations. A wall of plaques honoring association individuals is displayed listing their designated titles and years of service on "The Acknowledgement Wall".

The Exhibit Hall is open daily and nightly during selected hours during the fair for visitors to enjoy the exhibits and take a journey down memory lane by viewing the history on display from the first Exhibition Hall to memorabilia of the first Kendall County Fair held in downtown Boerne on September 4, 1905.