



Sunday, August 6

6:00 p.m. Community Worship Service

Monday, August 7

5:15-5:50 p.m. Children's Pedal Pull Registration
 6:00 p.m. Midway Opens with
 Poor Jack Amusements
 6:00 p.m. Art, Photography, & Tole Decorating
 Exhibits in the White Building
 6:00 p.m. Children's Pedal Pull
 7:00 p.m. Farm Antiques &
 Division I & II Antique Tractors
 7:00 p.m. Entertainment
 7:30 p.m. Talent Contest

Tuesday, August 8

8:30-11:30 a.m. Enter Home & Family Exhibits - White Bldg.
 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Enter Open, FFA, 4-H Exhibits - Antique Pav.
 6:00 p.m. Midway Opens with Poor Jack Amusements
 6:00 p.m. Art, Photography, Tole Decorating
 Home & Family Exhibits in White Bldg.
 6:00 p.m. Open, FFA & 4-H Exhibits in the
 Antique Pavilion
 6:00 p.m. Antique Tractor Show behind the
 Antique Pavilion
 7:00 p.m. Out-of-Field Stock Farm Tractor Pull
 7:30 p.m. Variety Show

Wednesday, August 9

8:30 a.m. Baby Contest Registration
 9:00 a.m. Baby Contest Judging
 Noon Midway Opens with Poor Jack Amusements
 Noon Children's Day Parade Registration
 1:00 p.m. Children's Day Parade
 1:00 p.m. Art, Photography, Tole Decorating,
 Home & Family Exhibits in White Building
 1:00 p.m. Open, FFA & 4-H Exhibits in the
 Antique Pavilion
 6:00 p.m. Antique Tractor Show behind the
 Antique Pavilion
 7:00 p.m. Horse Pull
 7:00 p.m. Cornfield Cloggers

61th Annual



FREE FAIR, INC.

Aug. 7-12, 2000

Reunion time Thousands of old friends gather at Mooreland Fair

Everyone's life is so busy these days that seeing old friends and even family that we know sometimes is hard to do. So that's why we attend the Mooreland Fair every night so that we can see everyone. I call this the "Big Reunion." Family vacations and milestone class reunions are planned around each fair. It's a week where everyone in the community can see just about everyone else on any given night.

walk through the Merchant Building signing up for the various door prizes to be given away on Saturday night, or sit in the bleachers and watch the tractor or horse pulls or even the Cornfield Cloggers.

We can all get together to watch the wonderful talent contest or listen to the inspiring Gospel singers on Sunday and Friday nights. To top of the week bring your blanket or

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Thursday, August 10

- 5:00 p.m. Pork Chop Dinner in Fair Board Food Bldg.
- 6:00 p.m. Midway Opens with Poor Jack Amusements
- 6:00 p.m. Art, Photography, Tole Decorating, Home & Family Exhibits in White Bldg.
- 6:00 p.m. Open, FFA & 4-H Exhibits in the Antique Pav.
- 6:00 p.m. Antique Tractor Show behind the Antique Pav.
- 6:15 p.m. Magician Marcus Lehmann on Fairgrounds
- 7:00 p.m. Cornfield Cloggers
- 7:00 p.m. Magician Marcus Lehmann - Entertain. Pav.
- 7:00 p.m. Street Stock 4-Wheel Drive Trucks
- 7:45 p.m. Small Wonder Gymnastics - Entertain. Pav.

Friday, August 11

- 5:00-8:00 p.m. Blood Drive in front of Merchants Building
- 6:00 p.m. Midway Opens with Poor Jack Amusements
- 6:00 p.m. Art, Photography, Tole Decorating, Home & Family Exhibits in White Bldg.
- 6:00 p.m. Open, FFA & 4-H Exhibits in the Antique Pav.
- 7:00 p.m. Cornfield Cloggers
- 7:00 p.m. NTPA & HSTPA Super Stock & Modified N.A. Tractors & Super 2-Wheel Dr. Trucks & Hot Farm Tractors
- 7:15 p.m. Gospel Concert

Saturday, August 12

- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Run Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Mile Fun Run
- 9:00 a.m. 5K Run
- 9:30-11:00 a.m. Car Show Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Run Awards
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Blood Drive in front of Merchants Building
- Noon Midway Opens with Poor Jack Amusements
- 1:00 p.m. Parade Line-up Begins
- 2:00 p.m. Car Show Awards
- 3:00 p.m. Parade
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. Pickup Home & Family Exhibits
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. Pickup Art, Photography & Tole Decorating Exhibits
- 5:00 p.m. Concert — **Cook & Waters** on concrete beside Fair Board Food Building
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Pickup Open, FFA & 4-H Exhibits
- 7:00 p.m. NTPA & HSTPA Super Stock, Pro Stock & Modified Tractors & Hot Farm Tractors
- 7:30 p.m. Queen & Princess Coronation
- 8:30 p.m. Merchandise Drawings & Parade Results

elephant ear from the Blue River Band Booster Tent, a lemon shake-up from the Nettle Creek Young Farmers, or a sandwich and fries from the Fair Board's Food Building. We can visit as we

watch in amazement as the parade comes through town on Saturday afternoon to the theme of "Pages from the Ages."

— By: Jodie Brown

Gary & Darlene Gard always benefit the fair

A redwood swing sits in Gary and Darlene Gard's backyard, flanked by two profusely blooming clematis vines. There is a cactus which has beautiful yellow blossoms open one day each year. There are the relaxing sounds of a waterfall from a large flower-trimmed fountain. Birds come very close. A hummingbird once perched on Darlene's hand as it flew near a side window to feed on sugar water.

Darlene and Gary might be seen as prototypes of the "new retired," enjoying leisure hours in the backyard of their home on South Cory Street in Mooreland. But the Gards aren't exactly the leisurely retired. After working at Warner Gear for almost 35 years, and being retired for 12, Gary started a new career at Wal-Mart — and he's been just as steady at this new job — he's been there seven years. He works evenings and doesn't leave until everything is done. Darlene says he wouldn't be there if he didn't like it — "He just likes people!"

Gary likes lots of things. One of them, country music, gave him one of his most public roles at the fair: "Red-Hot Rhythm," the band which most people associate with the fair and especially, with the playing in front of the hot dog stand

every hour every night. Gary expects the band to resume playing this year, after a one-year break, to "play maybe twice a night, maybe not always in the same place and not on such a tight schedule." Playing "red-hot rhythm," Gary says, is more strenuous than you might think, especially in the kind of heat we often have at the fair. In any kind of show, Gary says, you have to "get with it" — that's what people enjoy.

Gary should know about shows. He's been in plenty of them. The Mooreland Lions Club, of which Darlene is a member, put on several variety shows at the fair. Gary usually did a

pantomime of a novelty act like his favorite, Ray Stevens. Darlene also did a number every year; once she did "Sonny and Cher," complete with long black wig and help from daughter-in-law Tammy. Gary still remembers that number.

Gary remembers, too, most of the out-of-town shows which have come to town. When programs out of Cincinnati used to come to Mooreland, Gary says, people in Muncie — when you tried to sell them tickets — wouldn't believe it was the real Bob Braun show — they thought



Darlene & Gary Gard

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Gard

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it must be an imitation — to come to Mooreland! Gary performed on-stage with Coleen Sharp in that show. He thinks the Fair could use one big-name show each year, but most of all, it “just needs new blood.”

Darlene continues to be active with the Lions. One of their main projects each year is the Community Birthday Calendar, and Darlene has about 100 customers. She confirms dates they want printed on the calendar, adds anniversaries and new babies, takes orders, and delivers the calendars. The Lions also are active at the Fair and Darlene helps with their booth, where they collect eyeglasses and hearing aids and sell gifts and raffle tickets (“50/50”,) to help support their community work, such as the annual children’s Christmas party and Easter egg hunt. Darlene also sells ride tickets on the Lions night, a service which the club donates to the Fair. Sometimes she sells on other nights as well, and Gary sometimes serves as a runner, delivering tickets and change to the booths.

Darlene worked 12 years at Huntington Industries, and in years past put her sewing skills and her sewing machine to work for the fair mending tents. She makes cornbread for Mooreland Friends and usually works a day in their ham and bean tent. She supports school events like Jeremy’s band contests and Justin’s ball games, and bowls on Mondays. Gary used to bowl, but, for now, considers it “too confining.” He celebrated his 65th birthday in June by playing golf.

One of Gary’s favorite activities in high school, (Mooreland High School, Class of 1953), was the baseball team. He says that, if you know where it is on the fairground, you can still make out the pitcher’s mound, and the cement third base dugout is still there.

Darlene enjoys vacations, and recently spent several weeks in Florida. Gary usually prefers going fishing or staying at home. But he took Darlene on one surprise trip, which was a reprise of his senior trip. She didn’t even know what was going to happen — they just went — for three weeks! They went to Washington, D.C.,

And New York, through Pennsylvania. They can tell you all kinds of interesting details; for example, about the Hershey plant and the soldiers guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Darlene, especially, enjoys tours, and both she and Gary can tell you the advantages of using a tour for at least part of your sightseeing. Of course, they don’t use one most of the time — they just travel the back roads and go a different way every time, visiting new towns so they “can say we’ve been there.”

One of Gary’s main interests has been the Mooreland Volunteer Fire Department. He served on the department, off and on, for 40 years, including five years as chief. He was treasurer of the department for several years. Darlene was active in the auxiliary. Both of them worked in the hot dog stand at the fair, and Darlene took her turn as chairman.

Although Gary retired from the Fire Department in 1993, he and Darlene still are interested in it, and of course, still work in the hot dog stand some. Darlene used to make sloppy joes in her kitchen. . . she says, “So did Larry and Pearl [Harbert]. . . They fixed it in their camper for years.”

Things have changed. The sloppy joes are now made in the BRV kitchen, usually just before the fair, not in batches weeks before as they used to be. But some things haven’t changed. Gary and Darlene still live in Mooreland and wouldn’t ever leave. Darlene says, “If he ever sold the house, he’d have to sell me along with

it!” And she still enjoys her wonderful, big kitchen.

The south end of Cory Street still is a neighborly place. There are usually people out visiting on nice evenings — It doesn’t have to be Fair week for people to get together. If you sit in Gary and Darlene’s backyard for awhile, you are likely to see other visitors, nieces and nephews, brothers or sisters. Darlene’s mother, who “celebrated her 80th birthday — put out her garden and does her own yard,” may call, and neighbors across the street, Terry and Trish Ewing and their children and grandchildren — they’re just like family, you can tell — may come over. Gary and Darlene knew Terry and Trish for many years before the Ewings came to Mooreland, and are responsible for their move here. Before the families expanded, the two couples often went camping together. This summer, though, Gary and Darlene took their grandsons on vacation on a houseboat. And, he always did at Warner Gear, Gary takes a vacation from Wal-Mart for the Mooreland Fair.

Talk to the Gards for very long and the name of “Dad Gard” will come up. In fact, it was Darlene who used the term, in very fond memory of Kenneth Gard, always in his bib overalls, with a pencil behind his ear, building something. Nobody loved the fair much more than “Dad Gard,” (the rest of the town usually called him “Shorty”). He must have passed on his love for the fair to his children, all

See GARD, Page 3



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Gard

Continued from Page 2

of whom have been involved with the Fair in one way or another.

Gary is the oldest. He is treasurer of the Fair Board; as he remembers, "Bob and Ralph [Manifold] asked me to take it over when Otho Koontz died." He has been active with the fair since 1972. Gene, the second oldest of Kenneth and Cathlene Gard's boys, does announcing, Gerald has worked with advertising, and George manages the clean-up crews. Their sister, Carolyn Cooper, and her daughter, Cathy, help out in the Band.

Gary and Darlene's younger son, Alan, also in the Band, night watchman at the fair for about a dozen years, is in charge of night watch. Scott takes care of the advertising signs on the fairground, and he and his wife, Tammy, are active with another band, the BRV Viking Fury. There is work at the fair for that band, too, with their elephant ear tent. Darlene says, "I love their walking tacos!"

With his job at Wal-Mart, Gary's retail career has almost come full circle. When he was in high school, he worked in the grocery store in Mooreland. Some who remember him then think that might be where he cultivated his natural, friendly way of waiting on people. They also tell, as

Gary did not, about the promotion he got from the grocer, Don Driskell. When Don opened a store in Blountsville, he sent very young Gary up there to manage it.

Gary does talk about how business was in Mooreland in the 50's. The merchants worked together to promote the town. Gary used to collect for the "free show" Mooreland had on Saturday nights. "The elevator, filling station, drug store, bank, the other grocery store, Saffer, even before Driskill. . . They paid \$3.50 each. The depot was still here, and the barber shop. . . We used to sit on the bank of the railroad to watch the movies. "Gary and Darlene, a little later on, went to Losantville on Friday nights for the show. . . "Williamsburg used to have them on the side of a building."

He thinks something like that would be hard to do now because of copyrights, and because "no one would have anything to gain by it . . . It was to draw people to town to help business. . . " Like the fair. . . wouldn't be here if people didn't benefit."

**No Alcoholic Beverages,
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