

County Fairs – they’re all alike aren’t they? Not really, although it’s true most county fairs have animals, entertainment, food and a carnival. It’s the unique quality of those characteristics that distinguish a truly special fair. It was the dream of Dick Ames to have a family friendly fair and to have attractions that would develop the Scott County Fair into something he was proud of. Through his gifts and graciousness Dick realized that dream before he passed away in January.

One of the big improvements Dick negotiated for the fair was the addition of Gold Star Amusements in 2015. Dick invited Mike Featherston, the owner of Gold Star Amusements, to bring his show to the Scott County Fair. Dick had just purchased a restored vintage carousel from Gold Star, which he then donated to the fair to keep company with the beautifully restored Ferris Wheel Dick had donated in 2012.

Gold Star is a family business; in fact, Mike’s elementary-aged grandchildren represent the sixth generation of carnival kids. With their headquarters in Faribault, Minnesota at the Tilt-A-Whirl factory, they are just down the road from us. Even though they are practically neighbors, with some of the family living in Scott county, we are very fortunate to have them at the fair, as they bring their shows to fairs all over the country with only several events held in Minnesota.

Gold Star will be back at the Scott County Fair this year returning with The Ring of Fire, Sizzler and a new fun house attraction: “CooCoo Haus.” Be sure to watch for chances to get your advance ride tickets, and an opportunity to win ride tickets and wristbands on “Win-it-Wednesday on Facebook and Instagram.

See you July 24th through the 28th at the Scott County Fair. You won’t want to miss it; because of Dick Ames we’re a one-of-a-kind fair. Thank you, Dick – we’ll never forget you.