

Creative Arts Building History and Meaning

People have been entering in the Creative Arts Building for many years, but few know and appreciate the history of the building. The Creative Arts Building possess many loyal participants and volunteers who help make the building better each year. Check out the Scott County Fair website to access the Premium List. Changes will be made soon! We hope to see you and your entries at the Scott County Fair!

See the Scott County Fair website for the current Premium List

at: <https://scottcountyfair.org/forms/creative-arts-education-horticulture-registration/>

History of the Creative Arts Building:

The Scott County Fair started May 1915 at the Schutz & Hilgers' Park (now known as the Mini-Met baseball park). In 1973, the fair moved to its current location.

FIRST WOMAN'S BUILDING:

For the second year's fair, 1916, the Jordan Independent reported that a handsome new Woman's building was to be built, in the summer, on the south end of the fairgrounds. The building committee of the Scott County Fair awarded contractor Andrew Martin the bid for a new Women's Building, measuring 30x50 feet, to be erected on the highest part of the grounds for the amount of \$1,350. Inside walls unbroken to a height of eight feet were constructed to afford more space for displays of art needlework. It has a ladies and children's restroom.

Premium Books 1940-1941:

The Scott County School Exhibit Premium Books dated 1940 and 1941, listed the schools under the Division of Education Department and separated them by class as: Rural and Semi-Graded Schools, (grades 1-8, ages 6-16) and High and Graded Schools. Rural schools and city schools were not allowed to compete with each other. Classes for the rural and semi-graded schools and city schools were: Geography, Language, Penmanship, Sewing, Manual Training (now called Woodwork), and Handwork (which included art, drawings, cross stitch, soap carvings and posters). Classes for the High and Graded Schools were: Geography, Language and History Booklets, Penmanship, Sewing, Industrial Arts (now called Woodwork), Handwork (which included paintings, soap carving, drawings and posters).

Some of the sewing and needle work items that may have been entered in the 1940's are: bedspreads, buffet scarf, card table covers, doilies, dresser scarf, infant wear, pillows with stuffing, sheet and pillow case sets, towels, rugs, quilts and women's garments.

The Premium Books were sponsored by the businesses throughout Scott County with their ads listed in the books. An entry sheet was also included for easy registering of entries. Just fill it out and mail it in.

Premium Books 1959-1966:

The School Exhibit Premium Books dated 1959 – 1966, listed the schools by class as: Public Schools not maintaining a High School, Parochial Schools and Independent Districts maintaining

a High School. Exhibits are on a booth basis and should include work of as many of the grades as possible. Some suggestions are: Health, Safety, Good Citizenship, Handwriting, Art, Music, Conservation (Soil, Wild Life, etc), Development of Industry in MN, such as: flour milling, mining, lumbering and dairying.

In the Premium Books from 1940 thru 1966, they only listed exhibits for livestock, poultry, grains, 4-H, Schools and FFA. There was nothing specified as for the Woman's Building. I would presume the exhibits would have been baking, canning, sewing and needlecraft, quilting and floral. They may have added some type of knitting and crocheting in later years. In the 1961 Premium Book, "Rural Arts" was added. It included: Photography, Painting, Sculpture from soap or wood and Craftwork from leather, metal or weaving.

In 1976, the Creative Arts Building started charging a 25 cent fee per item entered and continued until the 2019 fair when the fee was dropped and the premiums were raised a bit.

Creative Arts in 1980s:

The School Exhibits Department was started in the Creative Arts Building in 1986. Currently we have not been able to find any premium lists from this time period, but photos from the 1990s show entries similar to what we have now. They also show the Scott County Public Health Nurses had an information booth and talked with the children. There was a Family Resource area with information from the CAP Agency and the Scott County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. They had carpet sections for on the floor for Story Hour and a table for the youth to draw and color, then hang them on the wall. They also had some of the Scott County Sheriffs come to fingerprint the children possibly in the early 2000's.

Creative Arts in 1990s:

In 1995, a new 50x100 foot home activities/education exhibit building was built. The old 24x48 foot home activities building and the school exhibit building were moved to new locations and will be used as poultry and rabbit buildings. Dick Spencer is building the display racks and cases for School Activities and Home Activities building.

At the March 23, 1998 Scott County Agricultural Society monthly meeting, a series of proposals concerning the Creative Arts and School Activities building were made. These proposals include changing the name of the building from Creative Arts/School Exhibits to Creative Arts and Education Building; include the current Children's School Exhibit Classes/Lots in the Creative Arts Premium List under the class title of "Children's Exhibit;" and utilize the area which has been the "School Exhibits" for Children's Exhibits and for an Educational area.

Creative Arts in 2000s-2020:

Exhibits in the Creative Arts, Education & Horticulture Building from 2014 to the current time are: Special Needs Adults and Students Exhibits, Children's Exhibits, Baking, Candy, Canning, Quilts, Needle Craft, Sewing, Crafts, Ethnic Crafts, Woodcraft, Artwork, Photography, Garden Vegetables, Herbs, Fruit, Flowers, Homemade Drinks and Homemade Sausage, Eggs,

Honey/Syrup, Corn, Grains and Field Seeds and Hay.

The most popular categories in 2010 were: Baking, Needle Craft, Crafts, Photography, Gardening, Flowers and in Children's Exhibits: Craft Projects, Creative Engineering, Drawings and Sculptures. From 2017 thru 2019, they are: Baking, Needle Craft, Photography, Flowers and in Children's Exhibits: Craft Projects, Creative Engineering, Drawings and Sculptures.

Demonstrations in quilting, knitting, crocheting, spinning, needlecraft, woodcarving and more go on in the Creative Arts Building. The Historical Society adds a nice touch with its demonstrations and presentations. We also have crafts for the kids by Creek Water Memories and, also, a group of volunteers that help in the building before the fair starts, does Crafts for Kids.

Last year we added some new baking contests: Pies and Frosted Carrot Cakes. After they were judged, we auctioned them off. Proceeds will go to future projects for the Creative Arts Building. Being the first year, we had a great turnout and a lot of fun.

You need to have things like that to bring people to the building.

Each year after the fair, the building superintendents get together with the department heads and decide what went well and what changes need to be made. Then the building superintendents get together and make the final changes.

Premium Books were mailed to previous exhibitors and put in the Scott County libraries and banks for people to pick up. In 2005, Premium Books were no longer being printed due to the cost, so the Premium List and Entry Form were put on the Scott County Fair website. It's pretty self-explanatory if people take time to sit down and read it. We've tried to make it as reader-friendly as possible. You can find it here: <https://scottcountyfair.org/forms/creative-arts-education-horticulture-registration/>

Years	Number of Exhibits		Exhibitors	
	Lowest to highest	Average	Lowest to highest	Average
1976-1979	611-636	623		
1980-1989	491-681	615	102-124	115
1990-1999	636-1009	826	120-203	167
2000-2009	603-1382	1055	250-1060	568
2010-2012	1244-1419	1354		
2017-2019	830-970	898		

What does the Creative Arts Building mean to me:

Lori Pint: "I like the "sense of community" that comes with participating in the Creative Arts Building. We have a crew of dedicated volunteers, who return year after year with enthusiasm. I try to enter samples of what I preserve, some years I enter more than other years. Fiber is a big

interest for me. I like to spin my own wool, knit, crochet and weave with it. I've also demonstrated spinning and knitting. I love being part of the fair."

Joy Schmitt: "I just started entering items into the Creative Arts building a few years ago. Through lots of years of 4-H for myself then my children the experience of submitting projects was natural. I had decided to take a community ed class that fall to learn to spin wool. A couple of ladies encouraged us to keep spinning and enter a skein at the fair. Well I did. To my surprise I placed very well. But now what to do with all this yarn I am making?? I had so much yarn made but it just sat there. So with some help from YouTube I taught myself to crochet. Each year I look over items I have made to determine what to sign up. I can honestly say when deciding what to enter I pick some of my most unique items. I am not the shawl or afghan typical crochet person but the animaguri or one of a kind items. Getting back into doing projects for the creative arts building has not only had me reconnecting with my past but gives me a reason to push forward to trying to make something even better than the year before. I appreciate all of the hard work so many people put into this area at the fair. So much time, dedication and commitment go into this each year and they are hidden behind the scenes. So thank you to all volunteers."

Dianne Jabs: When asked how she decides what flowers and gardening to exhibit, she said it depends on what seeds she sees in the store, what survived the winter and the weather conditions. As for her baking, she gets out her favorite cookbooks and looks at the premium list of cookies and breads. Helping in the Creative Arts Building is a way of visiting with people and getting to know them.

Pat Will: "The Creative Arts Building is a place where people, ages 1 to 100, can show their talents at everything they can make, bake, sew and grow. I really enjoy being able to welcome and visit with everyone entering our building during the fair. I ask if they entered anything this year and what they might enter next year and remind those that haven't entered that they don't have to live in Scott County to enter in our fair. When asked about entering, I always show them the premium list and walk them through the different departments we have and how to enter online. You meet so many nice people and get to know them. I love being at the fair. I'd be there all day, every day if I could.

"My aunt, Maddie Lambrecht, would quilt with my mother, Rosemary Lucius, in mom's basement. My dad had made some boards for a quilt frame. Sometimes mom would cut squares from old clothing and sew them together on the sewing machine for the top of the quilt and should buy a solid color material for the bottom, matching a color in the top. Sometimes they would buy pre-printed material since it already had a pattern on it. They would attach the bottom, batting, and then the top to the frame with thumb tacks. They would use "c" clamps to tighten the frame. They would set the frame on a chair at each corner. They would start hand stitching the quilt from the top. After stitching 12 – 18 inches, whatever they could reach, they would remove the thumb tacks, unclamp that end, roll that frame board a few times, clamp it tight and start stitching again. When they had finished, they would take it off the frame and finish sewing the edges of the quilt. It would take them anywhere from 94 hours to 140 hours to

make a quilt depending on the pattern and how many details they wanted to stitch around.”

Barb Lehnen: “The Children's Exhibit area is a wonderful way for the youth of our community, and beyond, to be free to create and use their imagination. They have the freedom to choose what they want to paint, build, create and sculpt. There are additional youth categories in Artwork, Baking, Crafts, Gardening, Needlework, Photography, Sewing and Woodcraft for them to participate in.”

Cheryl Schmeig: “Quilters choose a pattern and color they like, made of 100% cotton. They use cutters, cutting boards, rulers and rotary cutters since they are faster and easier than cutting with a scissors. A regular sewing machine is used to sew the pieces for the top of the quilt together using a straight stitch. They choose polyester batting for thicker quilts and cotton batting for thinner quilts, which makes it easier to hand stitch. They'll wash the cotton batting before using due to shrinkage. For the bottom of the quilt, they'll choose a plain color to match the top to be able to see the stitching better. Some choose a print material matching some of the colors in the top. A long arm quilting machine is used to sew it all together.”

Judging Process:

What the judges look for depends on the category. In the premium book at the top of each department there is a list of different aspects of a project that judges will consider for judging.

The actual judging process includes having a judge for one or more departments, whose job it is to decide the placing and the Champion and Reserve Champion. Each judge has a clerk who records the results and helps get the ribbons for each project. Finally, each judge will have between 1-3 helpers, depending on the category, who will bring the judge all projects within the lot and place these items back in a decorative manner.

Volunteers:

People would be surprised at the number of volunteers it takes to run the building. We have a judge, a clerk and two or three helpers for each area, that's not counting clean up, set up, etc. In 2019 we had about 65 people who volunteered in the Creative Arts Building alone.

Each year people wait to submit their registrations because they don't know what their flowers or vegetables will look like, they're not sure what photos or art they might have ready or if they'll have time to make or bake everything they want to. They don't have to do that. They can submit their registrations for everything they think they will bring and then we will delete them later if they don't materialize on entry day. That way their entry tags will be ready when they bring in their exhibits and will avoid long lines.

If there is anyone interested in helping in the Creative Arts Building, please feel free to contact Pat Will at 952-447-1652. You can also contact any of the superintendents listed at the top of the premium list.