



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

October 14, 2019

### Program

Our program tonight, following an introduction by Lion Club President Andrew Manning, was our Annual "Fairy Tales," led by Fair President Lion Charlie Childers, covering remarks from our Lions on their observations of the Cullman County Fair. In general, the consensus was that this was one of our best fairs, ever.



Lion Fair President Charlie Childers give us a recap of our Fair, while Lion Club President Andrew Manning looks-on.

Lion President Andrew kicked things off relating how the only problem he had was getting his own wife's car parked to her satisfaction. He stated that he had a good time as usual in his job of parking cars and appreciated the friendship & fellowship in working with his team. (As this newsletter's editor and as a someone whose job was parking cars at the Fair for 30 years, I can understand these sentiments. I never really wanted or aspired to any other Fair job.)

Next, Lion Charlie began by relaying a complaint that Fair workers were cleaning chickens in Sport Men's Lake Park and leaving feathers and remnants of chickens scattered about. Lion Charlie said he was sure that none of the workers had live chickens, but that maybe the complaining man saw chickens being fed to the lions and tigers. However, those animals were only eating chickens from Walmart which does not even sell chickens with feathers. The real problem here was wild coyotes feasting on geese from the lake. He said he also had a complaint from an elderly lady who lived within a few blocks of the Fair who said she could hear Fair music; Lion Charlie said she call once, every night at 7:30; he figured she called that once and went to bed and to sleep. He also had a complaint from a little girl about 30-inch-tall who was not permitted to get on those rides with a height requirement of at least 42 inches; someone else was upset that the rides did not continue after midnight. Lioness Dottie Henke who handled phones in the Fair office said that she had not one complaint about the Fair during its operation; the only complaint she had was from a few PETA members before the Fair started saying that the Lions and Tigers were beaten and otherwise, mistreated; one of these callers was from California, another from North Carolina; this complaint was ridiculous.

Lion Charlie also noted that we were several thousand dollars higher this year than any other in terms of both gate receipts and All-In-One ticket sales.



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Whether or not we made more money this year than any other remains to be determined after all the bills are paid. He also mentioned that he and others had noted how clean and neat the Fair was, and how well-trained the Fair workers were, compared to other mid-way companies in the past.

We did have a few suggestions from the audience to improving our operations, mainly in have better control of people getting in for free, and a problem with sewage in one area; we also had some comments about how some new ideas after the last Fair worked with better results this year, including work on the stage-area and parking lot. We had some funny stories of incidents, and comments about how some Lions went beyond the call of duty, such as when Lion David Bussman fixed a burst water line supplying water to the Fair workers right after closing, and that Lion Charlie Powell had fortunately saved a piece of pipe from another job that just fit to fix that pipe.

Lion Charlie closed out by thanking our Fair Managers, Lions Jerry Bonner and Charlie McBrayer, as well as the Fair Board and all the Lions who help make the Fair a great success for our Club and the Community. He also noted that we would be at it again next year, starting on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Lion President Andrew gave a special shout-out to Lion David Bussman for his superior management of the Lions concession stand and to Lion Ricky Peek who ran the parking lot, being on the scene every day, all day. I'll say it again, "One of our best Fairs, ever."

### Other Business

A "Thank You" was received from Childhaven. The Christmas/Fair Banquet will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup>.



**New Lion Bill Wilt.**

A new Lion, Mr. Bill Wilt, was introduced, tonight. He was sponsored by Lion Ed Henke. Lion Bill is a Cullman native and a local businessman for over 30 years. He did become a Club member just in time to work in the concession stand at the Fair.

Lion Steve Murphree requested Lion help for parking at the Peinhardt Living Farm with parking for its Family Day Open House on Saturday, October 19. If you have not yet signed up, call Lion Steve if you can help. His number is 256-708-9572. Lion Steve noted that the Peinhardts have always helped at the Fair, as they did this year, and that we, in-turn have always helped them on their Family Day.

Lion Austin Monk attended a 34-A District meeting on the North American Membership Initiative, for which he encouraged our support. Our District was one of four in North America to receive



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special funding for membership enhancement. This initiative includes four focus areas: Forming new Clubs; creating cyber Leo Clubs; newsletter articles by various Lions Clubs in 34-A on their most successful fund-raising programs; and training for District Zone Chairmen.

### Upcoming Programs and Events

October 19: Parking support to Peinhardt Living Farm Family Day.



*a music historian* **Mr. Craig Mann** *a music historian*

October 21: Photojournalist for the Cullman Tribune and music historian, Mr. Craig Mann.



**Bill Strandlund**  
Executive Director, Grace Place Cullman

October 28: Mr. Bill Strandlund, Executive Director of Grace Place Cullman.



**Ms. Lesley Ann Hyde**

November 4: Ms. Lesley Ann Hyde, paranormal investigator and founder of "Southern Ghost Girls."

### .Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).