

Carolina! weekend

Getting 'stuffed' at the State Fair



Lisa Fay, above, runs the "Pig Racing" game at the fair. Sean Seandoyle, lower right, insures the safety of the track on the Doppel Looping roller coaster. Lower left, a man double-checks one of the children's rides in anticipation of the fair's Thursday opening.

Photos by Greg Rickabaugh

State Fair

Returns to Columbia this weekend

By GREG RICKABAUGH

Editor in Chief

When you think of the State Fair, what do you think of? The rides, the games, the cotton candy and elephant ears? Well, this year add to it skateboarding exhibitions, famous country and religious singers, and the National Donkey and Mule Show. The State Fair, which started

Thursday and continues through Oct. 25, brings a few additions this year in trying to provide South Carolina with eleven days of excitement and fun.

The State Fair offers every kind of food imaginable. From egg rolls and barbecue to giant corn dogs and candy apples, the State Fair has it all.

Rhino Rhineheart of Florida works at the World Famous Fiske French Fries at the State Fair.

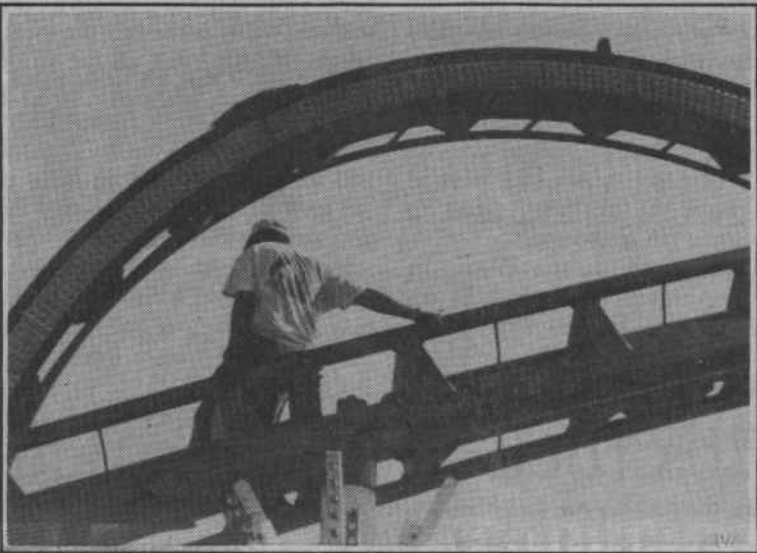
"Everybody eats. There are people who come to the State Fair and don't ride the rides, but they eat," Rhineheart said.

Workers sweated in the heat earlier this week while pulling out thousands of stuffed animals, constructing roller coasters, preparing food, and moving in the farm animals.

Mike Wylie from Florida tightened the tracks Thursday on Ghost Mansion, a slow ride through a haunted mansion full of skeletons and creepy creatures.

Wylie said the rides are all safe because the operations are maintained daily.

"As long as the crews maintain the maintenance, check the tracks and keep safety standards, there's nothing to worry about," Wylie



said. For those who like to take a chance and spend some cash, the State Fair is always good for their numerous games which offer stuffed animals as prizes.

Lisa Fay, 23, has worked the games at State Fairs since she was 15 years old.

At the South Carolina State Fair she works "Pig Racing," where plastic pigs move closer to a finish line when balls are rolled into various holes. The first contestant to get their pig to the opposite side wins a small stuffed animal which can be added with others for bigger stuffed animals.

"I use a microphone and do a lot of fast talking," Fay said. "You try to entertain them as well, so they don't think you're just after their money. You have to treat them like people and not like customers."

"I'll give someone back their money if they're not having fun," Fay said.

The prices for the State Fair vary throughout the week. General admission prices, which do not include tickets for the rides, are \$4

Monday-Thursday and \$5 Friday-Sunday.

The rides cost between three and four coupons each for adults. A book of 27 coupons is \$13.50 at the fair.

The price of each general admission ticket includes the performances of various musical artists throughout the week. Country singer Randy Travis performed Thursday night. The schedule for the rest of the week includes:

■ Friday, Oct. 16, Diamond Rio, shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

■ Saturday, Oct. 17, Joe Diffie, shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

■ Sunday, Oct. 18, Cathedrals, shows at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

■ Monday, Oct. 19, Vince Gill, shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

■ Wednesday, Oct. 21, Peabo Bryson, shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

■ Friday, Oct. 23, Trisha Yearwood, shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

■ Saturday, Oct. 24, Doug Stone, shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

■ Sunday, Oct. 25, Sandi Patti, shows at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Neighborhoods plan end of 15-year-long party

By SEAN MCGUINNESS
Staff Writer

After a 15-year tour of duty, the punk rock band known as The Neighborhoods will be calling it quits when they come to Columbia for the last leg of their farewell tour.

Lead singer David Minehan, bassist Lee Harrington and drummer Carl Coletti will perform at Rockafella's in Columbia Oct. 16 and 17 at 10 p.m.

"We've had such a famous and infamous history in Columbia, we had to make it the high point of our last shows," Minehan said. "We've done about 20 shows (in Columbia) in the past."

Created in the garages of Boston, The Neighborhoods joined the punk rock explosion in 1977, performing their first show in 1978 at The Rat underground club.

They started as a group of wide-eyed, naive teens and were signed to the Ace of Hearts record label and their first release, "The Fire is Coming," sold more than 15,000 units.

Today, their roller-coaster ride has netted them six records on independent, foreign and major labels.

"If you peel back the layers of rock you will find The Neighborhoods. We lived out our dreams. We feel gratified and satisfied and ready to move on," Minehan said.

The Neighborhoods will split up

after their final two day show at The Rat in Boston, which is a week after the Columbia performance.

"Harrington is going to get his undergraduate degree, Coletti is relocating to San Francisco and I'm gonna take five minutes to figure it all out," Minehan said.

Inspired by the '50s rebels of music and guitar wizard Jimi Hendrix, Minehan looked back on the history of music and its future evolution.

"In the '70s we had too much bloated music that took us away from reality, punk rock was a reaction to that," he said. "In the '80s, it was futuristic and dehumanizing."

Minehan said he has no regrets for The Neighborhoods' 1,500-show career even though they received minimal airplay.

"I remember every one of those shows, though!" he said.

Minehan had a message he wanted to give to anyone who is in a band or wants to start one.

"Do it for fun. Make sure that it doesn't include drugs or alcohol because you're kidding yourself. If that's how you get your rocks off, then you need to be doing something else," he said.

"But most importantly, follow your heart, not the flock. Music is about individualism," he said.

Minehan said he looks forward to the two-day show at Rockafella's.

MOVIE RATINGS

Last of the Mohicans	★★★★★
School Ties	★★★★★
Sneakers	★★★★★
Singles	★★★★★
Mr. Saturday Night	★★★★★
Bob Roberts	★★★★★
Husbands and Wives	★★★★★
Hero	★★★★★
Enchanted April	★★★★★
Mr. Baseball	★★★★★
Glengarry Glen Ross	★★★★★

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