

20 Years Ago...

# Little Jimmy Dickens, Electric Prunes Top Attractions

David Mahaffey  
Staff Writer

Do you recognize the names Little Jimmy Dickens, Nip Nelson or the Electric Prunes? Chances are if you were around in 1967 you will.

These three names were among the top performers to appear at the 1967 version of the Clearfield County Fair Grandstand Revue, according to the 1967 Progress fair tabloid.

Twenty years ago The Progress offered a preview of the fair in the annual fair tabloid and this article will take a look back at what the Clearfield County Fair had to offer in 1967, as was listed in The Progress' tabloid.

**Opening Day**

The opening day of the fair offered the annual parade. "The biggest parade ever" was the billing for the event, which included 83 units and 50 bands. The tabloid reported that \$2,000 in prizes were to be given away to parade winners.

One person that was already a winner was the special guest at the parade that year. Miss Doris Ann Lausch, Miss Pennsylvania 1967, led the participants through the parade route.

Tuesday marked the official opening of the James E. Strate Shows on the fairgrounds. The carnival that was run by

E. James Strate, son of the late James E. Strate, was at that time the world's largest and was brought into Clearfield on its own 50-car private train line and then set up by the 1,000 employees that worked it.

Tuesday evening brought a different kind of entertainment as a group of ladies from Texas tried to prove the fact that women can drive as well as men. The ladies were members of the Retroff All Girl Auto Thrill Spectacular. The ladies would put on a thrill show just as their male counterparts do.

Wednesday night opened the grandstand revue "Say it With Music". The revue was featured twice nightly Wednesday through Saturday. The revue had nightly regulars and a special guest each of its four nights.

**Nightly Performers**

Nightly performers at the revue included:

•The Hardy Family, billed as "America's First Family of Fun and Flips." The group included the mother, father and two teen-age daughters.

•The Hal Sands Manhattan Rockets, a lovely line of beautifully costumed chorus girls, whose performance reportedly added that extra touch to the grandstand revue. This also

marked the return of the chorus line to the fair. The line had been dropped from the fair show but was brought back because of popular demand.

•Chase and Park was a comedy duet that used athletics, members of the audience and a portable trampoline to create a crowd pleasing act.

•The Torreanis, a young couple that had formerly performed with the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus, presented a high wire and acrobatic act.

The master of ceremonies for the grandstand revue was Nip Nelson, a professional impressionist who did musical and dramatic imitations.

The top attraction for the opening night of the grandstand revue on that Wednesday 20 years ago was a group of musicians, dancers and singers imported from the South Seas.

Pearls of the Pacific was the group and their act included the dances and songs of their native land. A fire dance and the flaming sword of fire death defying dance entertained the audience.

On Thursday, the 1967 fair offered the Clearfield County Grange Square Dance Contest along with the nightly grandstand revue.

The revue spotlight that Thursday fell on country music singer Little Jimmy Dickens.

Little Jimmy had been the first country music artist to circle the globe on a world tour and was

one of the more popular country artists in the mid-sixties. Some of Little Jimmy's hits included "Country Boy," "Out Behind the Barn," "The Honeymoon is Over" and his most popular hit "May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose."

The next night the revue featured trumpeter Al Hirt who, according to the fair tabloid, was recognized worldwide (in 1967) as one of the best, if not the best trumpet player alive.

On Saturday there was an afternoon feature to go along with the nightly grandstand revue.

**Joie Chitwood Debut**

The Joie Chitwood Thrill Show came to Clearfield in 1967 as the feature attraction at the Saturday afternoon grandstand show.

As part of their act in '67, the thrill show demolished three cars and had a special feature. A youngster by the name of Joie Chitwood Jr. was doing some of the car maneuver stunts with his father Joie Sr.

The grandstand revue feature attraction that year for Saturday was a rock 'n roll group called the Electric Prunes.

The four-member California based band had the hit "Get Me to the World on Time." That year's fair tabloid referred to the group as one of the fastest rising groups of rock'n roll.

The fair also had the usual attractions of animal and agricultural exhibits, harness racing through the day, floral shows and the 4-H show.

Another of the specialties of the fair 20

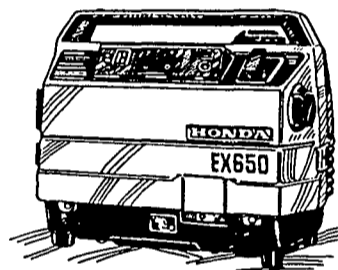
years ago was the unbeatable combination of kids and animals. Out of this combination came the Calf Scramble.

The Calf Scramble sounds simple when it is explained. All a boy (the tabloid had only boys listed to participate) had to do was halter a calf and then lead the calf to a designated place on the track. The problem with this simple procedure was that usually the calf had no interest in being haltered and if it was haltered there was no guarantee the calf would

follow. The fair in 1967 was presented by the Clearfield County Agricultural Society and managed by the Clearfield Volunteer Fire Co.

There it is, a review of what the people saw 20 years ago at the fair. Some things have changed and some things have stayed the same, but one thing that was true in 1967 and remains true in 1987 is one headline from the 1967 Progress fair tabloid, "The fair pro-halter there was no gram offers something for everyone."

**RELIABILITY IS STANDARD, NOT OPTIONAL.**



You're looking at the most trusted name in generators. Partly because of a fuel-efficient, 4-stroke, Honda engine inspired by our world-class automobiles and motorcycles. Partly because of engineering that ensures easy starts and quiet, hassle-free operation for camping, boating, outdoor parties, you name it.

And, partly because the world's largest selection of portables—from 650 to 6500 watts—comes standard with one very exclusive feature: Honda reliability. See your Honda generator dealer. It's your only option if you want the best. **HONDA Power Equipment** IT'S A HONDA

**ED'S SAW SHOP**  
Near The Clearfield Mall  
**765-3349**  
FINANCING AVAILABLE

For optimum performance and safety, we recommend you read the owner's manual before operating your Honda Power Equipment. Connection to house power requires transfer device to avoid possible injury to power company personnel. Consult a qualified electrician. © 1987 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

LOSE 17-25 POUNDS IN SIX WEEKS

**DIET CENTER**  
FLO LUTZ, DIET COUNSELOR

319 EAST LOCUST ST. CLEARFIELD, PA. 16830

FREE CONSULTATION (814) 765-3101



**MOYER'S AUTO BODY**

**WE OFFER:**

- ★ Custom Paint & Body Work
- ★ State Inspection
- ★ General Auto Repair
- ★ Remember, winter is not far away. Start thinking now about complete Oil Rustproofing.

**Starting at \$49.95**

110 Mt. Joy Rd., Clearfield 765-4080

**K & C DENTAL CENTER**  
LOCATED AT 619 S. BRADY STREET, DuBOIS, PA.

**DENTURES** STARTING AT ONLY **\$180/** COMPLETE UPPER & LOWER

- PARTIALS
- REPAIRS WHILE YOU WAIT
- PERMANENT RELINES SAME DAY
- FAMILY DENTISTRY

**HOURS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**  
**1-800-822-2061**

We accept Pennsylvania Medical Assistance and Private Insurance Plans. Senior Citizen Discount.

**HAVE A GREAT TIME AT THE CLEARFIELD COUNTY FAIR**