Mount Airy Fairgrounds

The Virginia-Carolina Fairgrounds, also called the Mount Airy Fairgrounds, held an annual county fair since the early 1900s. Displays of farm equipment, produce, fruit, baked and canned goods, handicrafts, art work, farm animals, cattle, horse shows and races, games and entertainment, educational exhibits and contests were all a part of this popular event. At the 1919 fair, a military exhibit was presented featuring machine and field guns, army shoes, and war implements used by the Germans along with a huge display of posters explaining the advantages of being in the Army. Local soldiers were on hand to give demonstrations of the Browning machine gun along with providing a fireworks show featuring trench rockets, mortars and star shells. Horse shows became a widely popular, separate event in 1941 and were first sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Veterans Memorial Park

In 1946, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars joined together to purchase the 36 acre Taylor farm and began to create what is now called Veterans Memorial Park. On July 4, 1947, a grand opening featured a parade with 20 floats, nationally known speakers, war veterans, county and city officials and a large livestock show. A circus, rodeos, fairs, and festivals such as the Mount Airy Fiddlers Convention have been held at Veterans Park over the past 65+ years.

This site, a part of the “Geocaching for History” program, was researched and placed on the Emily B. Taylor Greenway by the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History in partnership with Kids in Parks-Track Trails System – Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina Foundation and the North Carolina Humanities Council. The goal of this program is to encourage physical activity and exploration of the history of our community.
1917 Fair Season Ticket

1917 Surry County Fair Premium List
Mt. Airy News 1919 Fair grounds advertisement
Mt. Airy Fair Grounds

Thursday
1 Day Only
Sept. 4th

The Only Circus That Will be Here This Year

Rhoda Royal Circus

Trained Wild Animal and Old Buffalo Wild West Exhibition — A Historical, Ethnological and Educational Exhibition. Greater, Nobler and Grander Than Ever Before.

See ROYAL'S Famous Herd of Performing Elephants Who Have Delighted the Hearts of Thousands of Spectators.

THE MILITARY HORSE DRILL, A Pictoresque Equestrian Novelty Introducing the Famous Royal Black Horse Hussars.

FRONTIER DAYS—A Great Wild West Show Full of Thrills, Famous Rough Riders, Daring Cow Boys, Cow Girls, Rope Spinners, Lasso Throwers, Champion Trick and Fancy Riding.

PROF. WHITE'S Famous Troupe of Trained Donkeys, Dogs, Goats, Ponies and Little Henry the Cute Bucking Mule.

Two Bands, Free Concert at Noon. Free Open Air Exhibitions on Grounds at 1 and 7 P.M. Performances at 2 and 8 P.M.

Under Water Proof Tents. Doors Open One Hour Earlier

See Bulletin Boards and Hand Bills
Lack of Space forbids Entire Particulars Covering This Big Enterprise.
What was once the fashionable farm home of C. W. Taylor has been converted into a recreation center for the Auxiliaries of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Headquarters of Veterans Memorial park will also be located in this building.

Early plans for Veteran's Memorial Park
The above drawing shows how the two veterans' organizations in Mount Airy, the VFW and American Legion, have consolidated in proposing to build a park as a memorial to the local war dead. To be known as Veterans Memorial Park, it is estimated that the development of the property, known as the C. W. Taylor farm and located on the Fancy Gap highway just outside the city limits, would be $100,000. This amount is to be raised by donations from public and business concerns. Once the development of the park would be self-functioning from revenue from a pool, fairs, horse shows and other amusement events. The park would be open to the public, thereby further needed recreation program here.
Horse Show
Fine Horse Slated to Be at Mount Airy Show

Golden Promise, shown above with Raymond Geden up, is slated to appear in the Mount Airy Horse Show at the fairgrounds on Friday and Saturday of this week. Golden Promise, one of the outstanding three-gaited performers in the country, is owned by Miss Dorothy Hopkins Ritterbusch, of Bar

Mount Airy Horse Show
Here Today & Saturday

The Mount Airy Horse Show, which is to be staged at the fair

grounds here on Friday and Saturday of this week under the

auspices of the Jones B. Jones Post of the American Legion, the Mt.

Airy Kiwanis Club and the Mt.

Airy Lions Club, promises to be one of the biggest and best shows

in North Carolina this year.

Despite the wartime travel re

strictions, the management of the

County City Show is assured of

over one hundred of the South's

finest show horses in the fifty-

five showing classes, and the

prize money of more than $3,000

is the largest total paid by any

show in the state this year.

Four Big Programs
There will be four big pro-

grams, including afternoon

and night shows on both Friday

and Saturday. The afternoon

programs will start at 2 o'clock

each day, while the night events get

underway at 8 o'clock. The show

is being staged under the man

agement of W. C. "Bill" Dillion,

well known horsemanship of Greens

boro.

The Mount Airy show is a bon

fide show for the serious horse

man, and the big events to look

for include the show jumping,

open hunters, junior walking

horses, local three-gaited ponies,

junior five-gaited horses, local

pleasure horses, green hunters,

novice three-gaited horses, open

walking horses with owners in sad-

tle, thorough and half-bred hunt-

er, and combination five-gaited

horses.

The Friday night show features

open jumpers, junior fine hunter

and children's horsemanship,

road back, open three-gaited po-
nies, children's hunters, three-

gaited horses, hunt seat and out,

ladies' five-gaited horses, road-

sters, five-gaited mares, ladies'

three-gaited horses, walking mares

and five-gaited stallions and geld-

ings.

The Saturday afternoon pro-

gram will show junior three-gaited

horses, working hunters, three-

gaited horses, amateur five-gaited

stake hunters, three-year-

old walking horses, novice five-

gaited horses, stud club, local

children's horsemanship, combination

ing three-gaited horses, walking sta-

lions and geldings, horses suitable

to become hunters, pony race,

amateur three-gaited stake, and

hunter stake.

The final program on Saturday

will be the junior and open show.