

## Information Sheet

**R**      **Billings (Mo.).**  
**717**      **Fair programs, 1906-1966.**  
            **One folder.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are eight program booklets for annual street fairs and livestock/agricultural shows at Billings in Christian County, Missouri. Included are booklets for 1906, 1910, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1938, 1939, and 1966.

The first two booklets in this collection, chronologically, are for the "fourth" and "eighth" annual "Street Fair, Agricultural Exhibits [and] Trades Carnival" held at Billings on 26-28 September 1906 and 28-30 September 1910. J. W. York served as president of both events, with A. J. Howard as treasurer. C. A. Neyer was secretary in 1906, with W. P. Sullivan filled that position four years later. The program for 1910 identifies the Billings Fair Association as the sponsoring agency. The festivities included competitive shows in such categories as "horses, mules and jacks," "cattle," "swine and sheep," "poultry," "agricultural," and "textile and household." Prizes were awarded to the best entrants.

The third through seventh booklets deal with the "street fair and stock shows" of the 1930s. By this time a new "series" of fairs had begun, with that of 1931 being the "second annual" event. The fair in 1933 was the "fourth annual," but that of 1935 was the "fifth annual." Perhaps there was no fair in 1934 due to depressed economic conditions. The format remained the same, except that the fair was held in mid- instead of late-September. Presidents during this period were W. M. Swift (1931), Avery L. Dreier (1933), F. W. Amsler (1935), and Charles Schatz (1938 and 1939). The booklet for 1938 is undated, but as the "eighth annual" event it directly precedes the "Ninth Annual Street Fair and Stock Show" held on 14-16 September 1939.

By the mid-1960s another "series" of fairs, now styled as the "Billings Street Fair and Cattle Show," had been started, with the "third annual" event being held on 14-16 July 1966. The competitive categories had by this time shifted away from livestock and towards horticulture, "culinary products," sewing, canned products, antiques, "arts and crafts," flowers, and clothing, with an emphasis upon youth participation. The only livestock division appears to have been a "junior cattle show," consisting entirely of dairy breeds. The officers of the "fair board" are not listed.

Advertisements for local and area businesses dominate all of the booklets.

*r795*

*28 June 2001*

*Mark C. Stauter*

*Gift*

## Shelf List

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Booklet</u>		
1906	“Fourth Annual Street Fair, Agricultural Exhibits [and] Trades Carnival Held at Billings Missouri, September 26, 27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> 1906.” J. W. York, President.		
1910	“Eighth Annual Street Fair, Agricultural Exhibits, Trades Carnival. Billings, Mo. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 28, 29, 30, 1910.” J. W. York, President.		
1931	“Second Annual Billings Fair and Stock Show – Billings, Missouri – September 17, 18, 19, 1931.” W. M. Swift, President.		
1933	“Fourth Annual Billings Fair and Stock Show – Billings, Missouri – September 14, 15, 16, 1933.” Avery L. Dreier, President.		
1935	“Fifth Annual Street Fair and Stock Show – September 19, 20, 21 1935 – Billings, Missouri.” F. W. Amsler, President.		
1938	“Eighth Annual Street Fair & Stock Show – Billings, Mo. – September 12, 13, & 14.” Charles Schatz, President.		
1939	“Ninth Annual Street Fair and Stock Show – September 14, 15 & 16 1939 – Billings, Missouri.” Charles Schatz, President.		
1966	“Third Annual Billings Street Fair and Cattle Show – July 14, 15, 16, 1966 – Billings, Missouri.”		
<i>r795</i>	<i>28 June 2001</i>	<i>Mark C. Stauter</i>	<i>Gift</i>

### **Index Cards**

Agricultural exhibitions—Missouri—Christian County.  
 Amsler, F. W.  
 Billings (Mo.).  
 Billings Fair Association (Billings, Mo.).  
 Christian County (Mo.).  
 Dreier, Avery L.  
 Howard, A. J.  
 Livestock exhibitions—Missouri—Christian County.  
 Neyer, C. A.  
 Schatz, Charles.  
 Sullivan, W. P.  
 Swift, W. M.  
 York, J. W.