



The Arch's new home is at the front entrance to the expo building.



ARCH

We're having a ~~Fund~~-Raiser

We need help from the public to raise funds for bricks & mortar, electrical lighting and landscaping.

RAISE THE ARCH buttons are available for purchase at the Winnebago County Parks Office, 625 E. Cty. Rd. Y #500, Oshkosh. Monday through Friday 8am-4:30pm.

All proceeds go towards the Raise the Arch project. The goal is to \$5,000.00 and have the arch in place for next year's Winnebago County fair.

Call 920-232-1960 for more info.



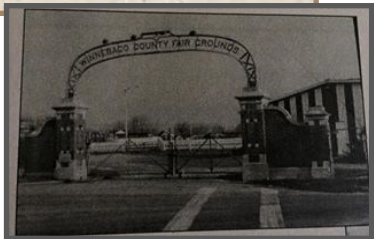
A piece of history

As per the Northwestern from September of 1928:

"The archway at the auto entrance at Jackson drive and Murdock street is also finished. It was lighted for the first time Wednesday night and was the subject of many favorable comments on its attractiveness. It was noted that automobiles which usually pass the vicinity in a hurry, slowed up perceptibly so that the occupants could take a longer view of the brilliantly-lighted archway."

The arch was first lit on September 11, 1928 one week prior to the opening day of that year's fair. The arch originally cost \$1,500.00 and was built and installed by Flour Brothers Construction. The eagle at the top of the arch was procured from Friedley-Voshardt Co. of Chicago Illinois and is shown in their catalog as No. 4006.

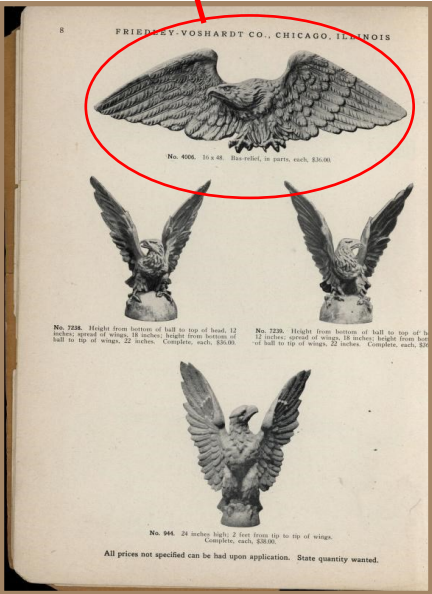
Below is one of the original renditions of the arch done in wood. This arch was replaced with the steel arch (at right below) after calamities struck the fairgrounds, a fire and storm damage.



The first Northern State Fair was held in 1870 by the Northern State Agricultural and Mechanical Association and was a counterpart to the State Fair in Madison.



The steel archway was removed from the premises when the fairgrounds was torn down and remained in private hands until 2015 when it was acquired at auction from the estate of the citizen who had owned it since that time.



We've all heard of old fashioned barn raisings, so...

By 1872, the Fair was conducted by the Northern State Fair Association and was held on the 60 acres located at the north end of Jackson Drive. In the ensuing years, building were erected. Some of these burned down and others were demolished by the devastating tornado of 1885. Large tents were then erected until the old buildings could be replaced.

Sometime in the early 1890's, the name of the sponsoring organization was changed from the Northern State Fair Association to the Oshkosh Fair Association. In 1910, the name of the organization was again changed - this time to the Winnebago County Fair Association. This organization was chartered in 1910 and remains as the presenting organization to this day.

In 1990, the Fair was moved from the Jackson Street location (Murdock Street area) to its present location on County Hwy. Y.

At some point during its long history the date of the Fair was changed from the months of October and September to the current month of August. This was partly due to the cold weather and also so that area youth could enjoy the fun and lasting memories before resuming school in September.