Beaver County  
15th Annual Elderfair

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“Oklahoma: Our Home”  
October 5, 2007  
Beaver County Fairbuilding

The Beaver County Inter Agency’s project is the annual Elderfair. October 5, 2007 was the date of the 15th Annual Elderfair. In celebration of Oklahoma’s centennial, the theme was “Oklahoma: Our Home”.

The Elderfair provided OVER 100 older adults and caregivers in the Panhandle and Northwest Oklahoma an opportunity to learn about services and resources that are available to them.

The event was free of charge as was the lunch. Service providers throughout the area attended the Elderfair and provided information at their booths and door prizes.

OHCE—Beaver County provided morning coffee and refreshments. Sharing their booth was Beaver Co. Extension Service with a nutrition display and handouts.

Merlene and Dale Hester started the program with their vocal duet. The crowd then had time to tour booths and get more coffee. Door prizes were drawn at this time and later throughout the day.

Mr. Melvin Welch, 101, entertained the crowd with a few a cappella songs. He sang the original state song, *Oklahoma-A Toast*, adopted in 1935. He commented that he didn’t know or even like the new state song. (*Oklahoma!* by Rogers & Hammerstein was adopted as the new state song in 1953.) It’s interesting to note that Mr. Welch also preformed the song at the televised Oklahoma Centennial Spectacular in the Ford Center on November 16th.

Sean Voskuhl, AARP Oklahoma Assoc. State Director, presented State Representative Gus Blackwell, Speaker Pro Tempe, an award for his outstanding efforts for the elderly.

Laverne High School Show Choir not only entertained but also served the hot lunch to each Elderfair attendee.

M.J. Alexander was the guest speaker at the Beaver Elderfair. M.J. has authored a book called “Salt of the Red Earth: A Century of Wit and Wisdom from Oklahoma’s Elders.” She had a slide-show showcasing sepia portraits of Oklahoman centenarians. Ms Alexander shared insights from many still living in Oklahoma. *Note: A portion of this presentation was retold by Willard Scott on the Oklahoma Centennial Spectacular on Nov. 16th.