

## Lake County Fair announces their Second Hall of Fame Class

The Lake County Fair Board has announced their 2011 Hall of Fame Class. The Class is scheduled for induction at this year's Lake County Fair. Robert "Bob" Baker, Florence Belcher and Arthur Warren will be inducted on August 16<sup>th</sup>, the opening day of the 2011 Lake County Fair. Mrs. Belcher and Mr. Warren are being inducted posthumously and will be represented by friends and family. The induction ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Belcher Gazebo on the fairgrounds. .

Bob Baker has been a concessionaire extraordinaire at the Lake County Fair for the past 52 years. In 1959 he operated a home-made game at the Fair to help put himself through college and he has been a fixture on the Fair's midway ever since. Bob Baker is best known for his clean, brightly colored stands serving food and Bob's Fresh Lemonade up and down the Fair midway. Bob was one of the very first concessionaires to bring the concept of branding to the fairs and festival circuit. He is recognized as an industry trend setter by placing his name and logo on his trailers and on his serving cups and by requiring his employees to wear company shirts and visors. Bob and his wife Elaine bring professionalism and class to an industry not always seen in that light and Bob Baker is a true friend of the Lake County Fair.

Florence Belcher was Secretary/Treasurer of the Lake County Fair for over 30 years. Several years of her service saw financial difficulties during the 1950's and 1960's and her frugal financial ways helped the Fair to survive. Florence's pet project was always the Fair Premium Book. She took great pride in the organization and content of the annual Book and she is often credited for having set a high standard for the Fair's award winning premium books of today. Florence was a talented baker and for decades, she brought her famous cookies to the monthly Fair Board meeting as a treat and an incentive to keep meeting attendance up. Even after her formal service, Florence's love for the Fair kept her engaged as the Associate Secretary for many years. Sue Chapin, former Secretary-Treasurer and George Wagner, past Fair Board President, both long time friends of Florence Belcher, will accept the Hall of Fame plaque on her behalf.

Art Warren entered his first 4-H project at the Lake County Fair at the age of 10. As an adult, Art served on the Fair Board for over 30 years including 3 years as Board President. All total, he participated in the Lake County Fair for over 60 years of his life. Art is best known for his many years spent as chairman of the Farm and Garden exhibit at the Fair. Art encouraged many a gardener to enter the Fair through his day-to-day work as owner and manager of Perry Coal & Feed. Art was a decorated serviceman and a respected community servant in Perry Township where he served for 35 years on the Perry Fire Department and 10 years as a Township Trustee. After Art's passing in 2002, his family provided the funds necessary to establish the Arthur F. Warren Memorial Youth Scholarship which to this day, is awarded annually to an outstanding Lake County youth having a background in agriculture. Art's son Rick and granddaughter Amy Warren will participate in the Hall of Fame induction ceremony and accept his plaque.

The purpose of the Lake County Fair Hall of Fame is to recognize individuals who have made special contributions to the success of the Lake County Fair. "These individuals made a long term impact on the fair, its programs and the agricultural industry" said Hall of Fame Committee Chairman John "Doc" Kroh. "They have been great Friends of the Fair and we continue to be inspired by their achievements."