

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

The Poteet Strawberry Festival just finished last weekend. I was there. I worked at a booth Saturday and Sunday nights to closing. I also attended and bought at the Strawberry Auction conducted by the Poteet Rotary Club, of which I am a member. You have never experienced strawberry heaven until you have tasted one of the auction strawberries. The proceeds go to the grower and the Poteet Rotary Club. And those monetary receipts represent two great causes. The strawberry growers represent a group saving an excellent tradition for Poteet.

The Strawberry Festival Association has given grants and encouraged new growers over the last few years. Instead of declining numbers of growers, they are on the increase now. The Association has done a fabulous job in this area, sustaining and building the list of growers.

I have worked the festival weekend at the same booth for over a decade now and find it rewarding. It is tiring to be on your feet that long, serving the public. It is fun to watch the people and the crowds. As a witness, I can say that I have never seen so many people as I saw Saturday night. It was packed! We sold out of food, and I bet that was true of all the booths. Most of the booths are dedicated to non-profits to help them make money for their individual projects. It is an excellent opportunity for them that is allowed by the PSFA. I have enormous respect for the skill and ability of the PSFA, who put it on year after year.

The Poteet Rotary Club started the Strawberry Festival in 1948. They expanded the festival to include other non-profit groups over the years, such as the Poteet Lions Club, The Poteet VFW, and many others. The project grew so large that upon the initiation of the Rotary Club, the local groups formed a non-profit corporation. This organization bought land across the highway from Poteet and built the Strawberry Festival grounds. They generously offer the grounds to many worthy causes all year long. This year the PSFA was expecting over 110,000 attendees. That is plus the thousands of volunteers that work the festival and the extremely popular carnival. It seemed much bigger than that this year. My compliments go to the PSFA for a great job!

Here are a couple of historical facts: George Strait and David Lee Garza were born in Poteet. Also, my father, Milton Hurley, and cousin Charles Hurley were born in Poteet. Poteet has a remarkable history in the development of Atascosa County.

Thank you for listening, and God bless us all.