

MY COUNTY FAIR ENTRY

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Chi Chapter-IA

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I was admittedly a bit jealous of my friends in 4H as I grew up. They were always working on projects that they were preparing for the fair. My best friend refinished a cedar chest, which earned a blue ribbon one year. I couldn't earn a ribbon, because my family really had little extra money for being involved or doing projects and no way to get a project (if I had one) to the fair for judging. So, woe is me, I thought year after year.

Silver linings sometimes don't show up when you'd like them to if ever. However, 50+ years after my pining to enter something at the fair, my time came. I was made aware that there was a way I could enter something at the fair this year, 2024. A category of memorable collections at the Clay County Fair piqued my interest. I have my "Mickey's" I thought.

I've collected Mickey Mouse items since I was in high school. I have several watches, cookie jars, a puppet, a wall clock, stuffed Mickey's, salt and pepper shakers, pins, Mickey Mouse ears and a pair of the white puffy hands from Disney World, pencils, VCR tapes of old Mickey cartoons, and a Mickey phone, to name a few. I have an entire artificial Christmas tree covered with Mickey ornaments. There are too many items to list them all. Additionally I had to write a narrative about why, and when I started collecting.

In order to enter this collection at the fair I had to pick and choose what I wanted to display because the space was only 24 inches wide and about 19 inches tall. I sorted through my treasures, picking the oldest, the most unique, and some favorites to create my display. I arranged them in the case the Thursday before the fair and went home satisfied that I'd finally created an entry all these years later.

The judging and ribbons were done that same afternoon. But I would not be able to make my way to Spencer to check on the awards until Sunday. I was on pins and needles. I drove down to the fair after lunch and made my way to the Creative Arts building to check on the ribbons. When I got there I was met with a ribbon, a purple ribbon in fact, for best collection! Needless to say, I was over the moon. I'd finally won a fair ribbon, and it was the highest I could earn in that event no less. My cup is full.