This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are booklets for the 1951 and 1952 fairs held at Belle in Maries County, Missouri. Typical “county” fairs, they included agricultural exhibitions, entertainment, and carnivals. The fair in 1951 also celebrated Belle’s fiftieth anniversary with a historical pageant.

The Belle Fair, Inc., sponsored these annual fairs at the fairgrounds in Belle. The fair in 1952 was described as the “fourth annual” event.

In 1951 the fair was held on 13-15 September. In addition to the fiftieth anniversary celebration, it included the standard agricultural exhibitions and contests, fireworks, and four performances by Roy Acuff and his Grand Ole Opry show on Friday. This 116-page booklet includes a schedule of events, detailed rules and regulations for the livestock show, and many advertisements for area businesses. Officers of the fair board that year were: H. C. Runge, President; August Rieke, Vice President; and Rainey L. Backues, Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1952 the fair was held on 11-13 September. This 120-page booklet consists of a schedule of events, general information, rules and regulations for the agricultural exhibitions, and many advertisements for area businesses. Roy Acuff and his Grand Ole Opry troupe again performed on Friday, with Saturday reserved for “public speaking” by Republican gubernatorial candidate Howard E. Elliot and Democratic senatorial candidate Stuart Symington. Officers of the Fair Board that year were: Homer Hilton, President; Walter Fleischmann, Vice President; and Rainey L. Backues, Secretary and Treasurer.
Lambert, Ralph
Maries County (Mo.)
Miller, Calvin
Mittenhauser, Ernie
Nilges, Lawrence
Ott. Albert, Mrs.
Rieke, August
Robertson, Ernie
Robertson, Harry
Runge, H. C.
Schoenhals, R. H.
Skaggs, Walter
Stookey, Charles
Symington, Stuart
Thompson, Orvil