

70th Annual Spring Livestock Show & Fair Honorees
Meyer Farm
Norma Herndon and Nelwyn Hardy

Our (Nelwyn Meyer Hardy and Norma Meyer Herndon) ties to Tri-Club go back to the very beginning when our neighbor Louis (L. C.) Nagy decided to host a community gathering at his dairy farm which was just south of FM1960 and I-45 where North Forest and Meyer Elementary are now. The Spring area was VERY rural at the time supporting mainly ranchers and farmers so as a break in the daily grind, he decided it would boost spirits for surrounding farming families to be able to show off some of their prize livestock which at the time meant everything from the rat-catching barn cat, to the hunting dog, and/or a cow out of the pasture. He even arranged hay rides for the kiddos.

The 'event' became so popular Nagy began hosting it annually and quickly recruited our dad Avalt Meyer (Pops) to assist in making it bigger and better and competitive. As entries became more groomed in order to get that highly-sought-after ribbon, and the FFA, FHA, and 4-H organizations formed, Tri-Club was born and moved to the four-stall bus barn at what is now the campus of Carl Wunsche High School.

Soon a BBQ for the community was added which Pops cooked during the previous night on pits at the original Mallot Homestead with the help of only one other man he would round up every year. When the BBQ ready bell rang, farmers' wives brought in an array of side dishes to complete the feast which we helped serve. In addition, a Fashion Show was added along with a Talent Show which featured singers, comedians, joke tellers, ventriloquists (Norma with her sidekick George), piano players, and the list goes on.

As interest and participation grew, so did the variety of entries ranging from tailored garments to well-groomed livestock to vegetables fresh from the field, to the cherished Pet Show for the little kids. With the competitive spirit growing, outside judges were brought in to determine the best of the best. During the Talent Show, anticipation was high waiting for the ribbon and trophy winners to be revealed.

Now what many folks don't know about Tri-Club is that is where today's Women's Movement actually started when Nelwyn - A GIRL - double entered through 4H with a cow (girls could not join FFA and most didn't show livestock) and FHA with cooking and sewing. The story continues because her cow Jeanie didn't like being away from the herd and let everyone know it at show time so to keep Jeanie calm, Norma's pet cow Baby was brought in and little sister Norma became the 4-H Mascot.

As we ventured off to college and other interests filled our lives, thankfully Tri-Club continued to grow as a result of dedicated volunteers committed to enhancing a program for young people to instill in them a sense of responsibility, patriotism, and the need to give back.

During that time, while we were not directly involved with Tri-Club, we were both in high school classrooms as educators - Nelwyn 34 years and Norma 22. However, Pops and Mom remained active by lending experienced expertise paving the path for us to follow which at the time we did not fully see. As a result of their efforts, we were thrilled when Pops was selected as Tri-Club's 50th Year Honoree which also reconnected us to the program.

Shortly afterwards, life began to pull the reins back on Pops and our role reversal journey as caregivers heightened our awareness of the importance of giving back and sharing your God-given blessings which our parents had ingrained in us. We saw we had BIG shoes to fill. In trying to fill those shoes, we began pooling resources from IRS refunds, subbing jobs, etc. to become Meyer Farm buyers at Live Auction which has not only been fun to get into bidding wars, but rewarding as well when we see the maturity growing in those young people. We also take great pride in having established the Avalt Meyer Memorial Tri-Club Scholarship.

As we celebrate Tri-Club for 69 years, we can't help but reflect on Mr. Nagy thinking it would be nice to simply get the neighbors together.

As we celebrate Tri-Club for 69 years, we can't help but reflect on how Pops, who oversaw Tri-Club vegetable projects, took a young man under his wing who was in a less-than-desirable home condition and guided him into outstanding adulthood.

As we celebrate Tri-Club for 69 years, we can't help but reflect on how we are sooooo thankful for and amazed by the countless, dedicated volunteers (many who no longer have kids participating in Tri-Club) have the drive with little recognition to put in tireless hours getting down and dirty to keep the wheels turning to ensure these kids know the meaning of hard work, character building, responsibility, patriotism, giving back, (you often see past participants return to help with Show chores) and that it takes a village to make good and positive things happen.

As we celebrate Tri-Club for 69 years, we can't help but reflect how most of the area family farms have succumb to warehouses, apartments, subdivisions, and strip centers which makes us especially admire these young people who choose livestock projects which are more difficult since they have to travel to a barn to care for them and not just go right out to the back yard pasture as we did.

As we celebrate Tri-Club for 69 years, we can't help but reflect how through Pops his grandson Adam, who has become a buyer, saw a man endure life's ups and downs as he literally dug his living out of the dirt, yet found time to serve Tri-Club and SISD School Board for 24-1/2 years.

As we celebrate Tri-Club for 69 years, we can't help but reflect how rewarding it has been to witness the tremendous benefits of this program and how often years later some of the kids we have helped financially come up to us to say thank you.

Tri-Club is blessed with so many of God's Angels on Earth who always make us feel like super special queens of royalty. We see it as a blessing to have been a small part of the growth of this tremendous program and are humbled for being named Honorees of the 69th Tri-Club.

