



# *Fair a Sensation In Statehood Year*

By the time of statehood, the State Fair of Oklahoma already was a popular civic enterprise. Articles and advertisements in The Daily Oklahoman featured the State Fair to be held Oct. 5-16, 1907, amid an impressive array of sensational attractions.

Receiving top billing were "the fastest horses in the country" running each day for \$15,000 in stakes, automobile races; an Igorrote Village of "25 head-hunting, dog-eating, wild people from the Philippines," Seymour's band, a fireworks display of "The Eruption of Vesuvius" and a carnival with trained animals, freaks, sideshows and other attractions.

Ada boasted that the State Fair was "the place to get progressive ideas."

The Katy railroad provided cars to run a special train from downtown Oklahoma City over a shuttle track to the fairgrounds east of town for businessmen to inspect the facilities in advance of the opening. Newspaper reports said 10,000 people attended the fair on opening day.

Another report said that "driving from Guthrie to this city in an automobile, Mr. C.N. Haskell reached here only a few minutes before the time for his speech to begin."

Haskell had been elected governor of the new state Sept. 17, 1907, and was awaiting a proclamation by the president to make the statehood of Oklahoma official.

Oklahoma was one of three states west of the Mississippi River to have booths at the Jamestown Exposition in 1907. It featured a collection of 300 photographic scenes "thrown on the screen with the latest model stereopticon," combined with a lecture on the great new state delivered at 15-minute intervals.