

## CORNISH FAIR

As an Introduction, the following pages are taken from  
the *History of the Town of Cornish, New Hampshire*, by  
Barbara Eastman Rawson, 1963

## Chapter VII

### ANNUAL EVENTS AND CENTENNIALS

CORNISH FAIR - OLD HOME DAY - MEMORIAL DAY  
CORNISH SESQUICENTENNIAL - SULLIVAN COUNTY CENTENNIAL

#### *Cornish Fair*

In 1948 the P.T.A. started a Penny Jamboree to raise funds to pay an architect for drawing up plans for the new school which was contemplated. Penny boxes were distributed in the homes in advance of the Jamboree, the residents were to put in all the pennies that could be spared and to bring the boxes to the Jamboree. Homemakers made fancywork, home cooking and home sewing, all to be sold. The items were raffled off with the use of a wheel, a total of \$300.00 was netted.

The Jamboree was moved outside in 1949 in order to have more space. It operated with much the same idea for the same purposes. For both years, the Jamboree was sponsored and directed by the P.T.A. and the School Fund Committee.

In 1950 the "Cornish Town Fair" was held the first two days of September. There was no admission, visitors were asked to donate to the school fund and were given a tag. There were door prizes as an attraction, and also free parking as an encouragement for more guests. Twenty-five percent of the profits of the group concessions and ten percent of individual concessions was given to the Fair. There were food booths, a bean dinner, sales of flowers and handicrafts, bingo and a Dutch auction. Contests such as pie eating, rope climbing and greased pig chase were held. For the first and only time the Little Town Hall was converted into a "Chamber of Horrors." Melvin Fletcher, a magician and slack wire performer, entertained in the afternoons. There was a Little Sister Beauty Contest and pony rides. Dances were held both nights.

In 1951 there were bicycle and doll carriage parades as well as similar contests and concessions. Melvin Fletcher again performed, and both evenings a play was presented by the Cornish Players. A "Miss Cornish Fair" contest was held.

With Harry Nelson as chairman in 1952, the Fair was held again with much the same program and midway. On September 28th, the Fair was incorporated, the papers were recorded with the Town Clerk and Secretary of

State. Fred Davis, elected treasurer for 1953, has served in that capacity ever since.

For the 1953 Fair, Harry Nelson was again chairman. The added attractions were a band concert and movies of the Grantham Mountain fire. Tents were used for the first time the door prize numbers were placed in the program books. This was the first year that the Garden Club, as an organization, presented a flower show in the Little Town Hall. For the first time, the proceeds were devoted to some purpose other than to the school fund one-half was retained as working capital, one-half was used to fix the ceiling of the Town Hall.

In 1954, with Harry Nelson again chairman, there were several firsts a three-day Fair, resulting from the introduction of 4-H Day, a talent show horse show, children's parade, and tractor-pulling contests. The first admission was charged—50 cents for those 16 years of age or older—and the date was changed from the end to the third week of August. The door prize numbers were removed from the fair program book, the ticket numbers were used in the drawings. On the last night, after removal of the exhibits, a dance was held in the Town Hall. Part of the proceeds went to make booths, and part was used to put a storm door on the Town Hall, with the usual one-half reserved as working capital.

The following year, Randall Kenyon was president. The date was changed to the middle of August and the admission age was lowered to 12 years. Because of the increase in size of the fair, it was necessary to lease some land adjoining the fairgrounds, the committee also worked to fill in the swamp beside the Town Hall and painted the Little Town Hall.

Until this time, the Fair had been quite successful, drawing large crowds with reasonably good weather. By Saturday afternoon, the edge of the hurricane which had badly damaged Massachusetts and Connecticut struck Cornish in the form of a cloudburst over Croydon Mountain, and by six o'clock the lower grounds were flooded. Due to the foresight of the committee in retaining one-half of the profits as working capital, the Fair itself was not as badly hurt as the concessions were. At a meeting following the Fair, an agreement was reached to reimburse the concessions for their losses.

Randall Kenyon was again president in 1956. Ox and horse pulling contests were added to the program. For the first time, a commercial touch on the midway was allowed merry-go-rounds and other rides for the little children were permitted. This was the first year of the group exhibits which later became Special Exhibits.

The next year Jesse Deming was president of the Fair. This was the first year that the Fair made application for reimbursement of premium money from the race track funds. The slogan "Biggest Two Day Fair in Sullivan

County" was adopted, and for the first time, the full program, complete with rules and regulations—and purposes—was included in a new style fair program book.

In 1958 and again in 1959, Arthur Densmore was the president of the Fair

Since its inception, the Fair has included a "beauty" or "popularity" contest, in one form or another. The first year it was a "Little Sister Beauty Contest" and the following year "Miss Cornish Fair." One year there was a contest for the "Ugliest Man in Town." After that, the contest became a "Cornish Fair Queen" contest, this has been one of the strongest and most profitable attractions of the Fair, and, conversely, one of the most disputed. In spite of the efforts of the Fair to set up rules and regulations to govern the contest, there continues to be some amount of dissatisfaction with the contest, the criticism centering around the purchase of votes to boost a candidate.

The Fair organization has never intended to allow outside commercial concessions to become dominant, except for the rides, such as the ferris wheel and the swings, they have succeeded in keeping the midway and other concessions limited mostly to local organizations. The children's parade, started in 1954, is still a part of the Fair, but now is included in a much larger parade which also has the Boy Scouts, the entries in the horse show, 4-H cattle, the elder citizens, and tractors, cars and other machinery on exhibit by businesses. Two other perennial attractions are the raffling of a sort of "grand prize"—saving bonds, grocery baskets, or the like—and the tremendous fireworks display that signals the close of the first night.

Unquestionably the Cornish Fair has been a successful venture, it has grown tremendously and nearly doubled in the area necessary for the exhibits, the midway, the cattle and horse show entries, as well as the ox and horse pulling contestants, and parking space. Electricity and water have been problems which are always with the Fair—a tremendous amount of electric power is necessary to light the midway and the various buildings, and it has been necessary to have the electric company install additional facilities for the Fair, water for sanitary accommodations, as well as for the livestock, has been a drain on the resources in the area, causing the Fair to vote some of its money to finding another source for the livestock.

Originally all of the exhibits were in the Town Hall, then the Little Town Hall was used, and finally it was necessary to move a portion of the exhibits to the school, of which one wing is used for 4-H exhibits and the other for Special Exhibits, educational displays, and farm, home and handicraft exhibits. The Town Hall is now devoted almost entirely to displays by businesses or money-raising projects of various clubs, and the Little Town Hall, since 1953, has been the "Floral Hall" of the Fair

In addition to the individual announcing systems of the various shows, there is a central public address system for the Fair, used for announcements, paging, and, inevitably, to find lost mothers for little children. Ever since its beginning, the voice over the microphone of the Fair has been that of Harry Nelson.

The Cornish Fair Association is Cornish and embraces all of Sullivan County. Its purposes are four-fold, as given in its program book

"1 To keep Cornish Fair a real country Fair

"2 To promote our agricultural interests and stimulate competition in our County

"3 To promote a spirit of co-operation among the various local and county organizations.

"4. To grow "

It has two other purposes not listed but demonstrated by all—to make friends and to aid its community

## One Person's View of the Early Days of Cornish Fair

One day in August 1949 Cornish School officials decided to have a penny arcade at the Town Hall to make money for books for the school which was run by Rodney Lovell. It was a success, so the following August officers had been appointed to run a fair. That year the church became involved, selling pies. We tried selling pies for a couple of years and the following year tried cakes. We asked Senator Morris Cotton of Lebanon to come and judge the cakes. He also made a speech.

I didn't attend the first year as son Stanley was born in September.

The following year there were three or four booths around the Town Hall. Cornish Grange started selling hamburgers, hot dogs and soda. the Fireman's Auxiliary had a booth selling soda and if you spent a quarter or fifty cents you might win a teddy bear. There were displays in the Town Hall.

The second year they had a Miss Cornish Fair comprised of children aged two to six. I entered five year old Kathy. A window was taken out on the north side of the Town Hall and five or six children walked up one plank and down another. A girl from Plainfield won.

Irene LaClair had been to other fairs. She thought we could earn more money selling bar-be-que chicken. So we built a bar-be-que pit and hired Ralph Hogancamp from Charlestown to cook our chicken. That proved a success and the church sold chicken, cole slaw and pies for a number of years.

I remember making nine pies each year for Cornish Fair. One day my husband said, "Laura, you ought to go down the road on a bicycle to Cornish Fair juggling your nine pies". And I never learned to ride a bicycle!

About that time I had a 4-H sewing club. At a 4-H leader's meeting, the leaders discussed having french fries at Cornish Fair but it looked as if they wouldn't start it for two or three years. In Cornish Flat we had a very active Home Demonstration club. So I talked to several women and the next year our club started selling french fries. We sold them until the club fell apart.

In two or three years the 4-H leaders of Sullivan County joined the Fair. They opened the school and the 4-H clubs exhibited what they had made in three classrooms. Sullivan County Agriculture Fair grew fast. The 4-H helped the Fair and the Fair helped the 4-H.

Laura Woodward



# THE CORNISH FAIR

by  
Kathleen  
McCarthy

WHEN Cornish puts on its annual fair, the entire village gets involved. There are booths to be manned to raise money for the local church, and buildings to be inspected before the animals arrive, and the school rooms have to be spic and span before the art exhibits and produce can be displayed.

Just outside the school a pony ring is set up, and, below the school, all the way to the town hall, booths and tents are raised to hold the games and refreshments necessary to keep visitors occupied while spending a day at the fair.

Although there are children's rides, including a merry-go-round and a ferris wheel, and there are commercial exhibits, the Cornish Fair has remained largely agricultural. The biggest cucumber and the largest pumpkin are still exciting competitions for the 4-H members.

*Chain saw competitions require both speed and caution. This year's fair will be held on August 17-18.*



New Hampshire  
Profiles

Aug 1973

*Even the animals (right) take an interest in the fair.*

*Four loggers and a fan (below) wait for their own events.*

*Loggers (below right) decide on their choice of events.*

*For many of the youngsters (bottom left) Fair Time means saving your allowance for the big splurge.*

*The watering trough (bottom right) is a good place to meet new friends.*









*An unmatched team digs in to pull away granite curbstones.*



*Cattle showing involves more than just glory, as the two youngsters discover when it is time to change the animal's bedding.*

Cattle showing, horse pulling, and logging contests remain as major attractions, for the whole family to enjoy.

Arts and Crafts from all over the state are displayed in the town hall, but the best handiwork is that of the Cornish ladies who create a wide assortment of home made bakegoods. Entertainment may be a puppet show, or a dixieland band free to anyone who wants to lounge on the grass on the hill behind the school.

For a few days Cornish offers its warm days and cool evenings, clear skies and forested hills as a setting for the whole family and the entire state to have a good time.

# Cornish Fair Program

## Saturday, August 19, 1978

Grounds Open -- 9:00 a.m.

Oxen Pulling 9:30 a.m., 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:30 p.m.

Open Cattle Show -- 9:30 a.m.

12th Annual Woodsman's Field Day -- 10:00 a.m.

Scrub Board Slim - 3 shows daily on Midway

Conservation Commission Films -- School

Flower Show -- Open all Day and Evening -- School

Band Demonstration

Parade -- 2:00 p.m. (Theme: "The Fifties")  
Led by Prince and Princess  
Childrens Section

Rainedrops Variety Show -- 3:00 p.m. -- Stage

Door Prizes -- 4:30 p.m.

8 □ Dance Demonstration -- 7:00 p.m.

Crowning of Miss Cornish Fair -- 8:30 p.m. -- Stage

Rainedrops Variety Show -- 9:30 p.m. -- Stage

Drawing of Door Prizes and \$100.00 Bond

Chicken Barbeque -- all day

Baked Bean & Ham Supper served family style --  
5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at school, by Cornish Rescue Squad

Door Prizes - \$10.00

Bingo -- 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Drawing of \$100.00 Bond -- 10:00 p.m.

Tom Worcester, Chain Saw Artist will be demon-  
strating all day Friday and Saturday

# Cornish Fair Program

## Friday, August 18, 1978

Grounds Open -- 9:00 a.m.

Judging of Exhibits -- Starting 8:30 a.m.  
(Doors closed to public during judging)

Horse Pulling -- 10:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Beef Show -- 10:00 a.m.

Scrub Board Slim - 3 shows daily on Midway

4-H Cattle Show -- all day

Flower Show -- Open to public after judging

Conservation Commission Films -- School

Goat Show -- 1:00 p.m.

4-H Sheep Show -- 1:30 p.m.

4-H Horticulture Judging and Identification Contest -  
1:30 p.m. at the school

Rainedrops Variety Show -- 2:00 p.m. -- Stage

Door Prizes Drawing -- 4:30 p.m. -- Speakers Booth

"Miss Cornish Fair" Talent Contest -- 8:00 p.m. -- Stage

Rainedrops Variety Show -- 9:30 p.m. -- Stage

Baked Bean & Ham Supper served family style -- 5:00 -  
7:30 p.m. at school, by Cornish Rescue Squad

Door Prizes -- 10:00

Drawing of \$100.00 Bond

Chicken Barbeque -- all day

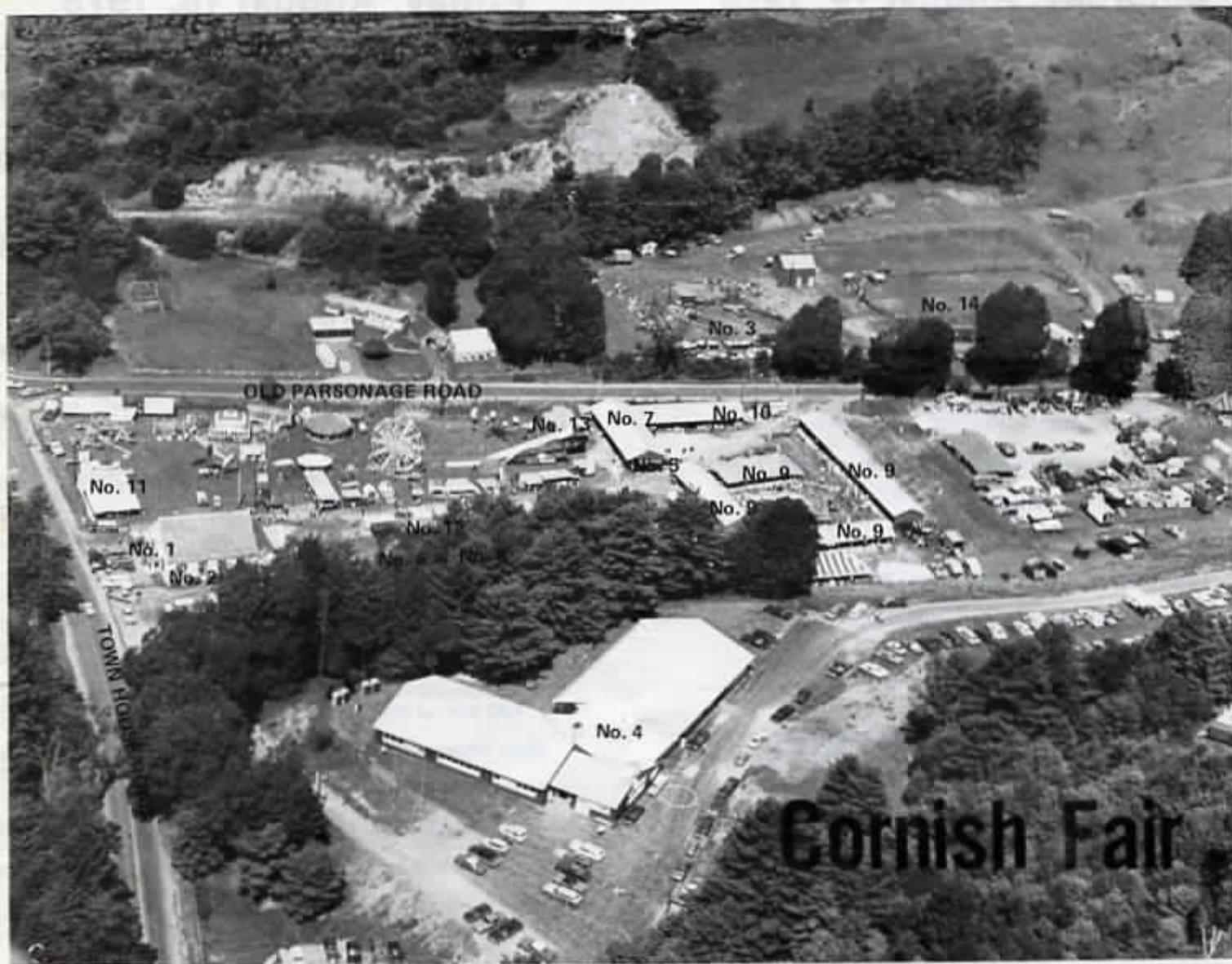
Bingo -- 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Tom Worcester, Chain Saw Artist will be demon-  
strating all day Friday and Saturday

from Stephen Tracy Estate

### KEY TO NUMBERS

1. TOWN HALL, Commercial Exhibits; 2. FIRST AID; 3. HORSE PULLING — OXEN PULLING; 4. SCHOOL, 4-H and Individual Exhibits; 5. SPEAKER'S BOOTH and Treasury Office; 6. STAGE; 7. BEEF; 8. SWINE; 9. DAIRY; 10. SHEEP; 11. BINGO; 12. GOATS; 13. 4-H RABBITS & CHICKENS; 14. WOODMENS FIELD DAY.





# 30th Annual Cornish Fair runs this weekend.

by Chris Pomiecki

For three decades the Cornish Fair has been an annual August event in the small town of Cornish, N.H., one which offers regional attractions to young and old alike. This year, the fair will run all day Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18.

Traditional country fair attractions, like ox- and horse-pulling contests and tests of woodsmanship are special events among the continuous entertainment over the weekend.

The Cornish Fair Grounds are located on Town House Road, between Routes 12-A and 120 in Cornish, and are adjacent to the Town Hall and school.

Both days will feature a midway with rides, booths and amusements, refreshments, beano in the midway tent, as well as special exhibits and shows.

Among the displays to be seen in the school house are ones put on by the 4-H Club of Sullivan County, and a Flower Show by the Cornish Garden Club. A favorite with adults and children, the 4-H's baby chick incubator will be featured.

The 4-H club is also putting on day-long events on Friday, including a swine and beef show in the morning, a dairy show, a sheep show at 1 p.m. On both days the club will exhibit arts and crafts, gardening and food, and photographs, and club leaders are running a food booth.

Other attractions on Friday include a horse-pulling contest at 11 a.m. and again in the afternoon, and an all-day chicken barbeque sponsored by the United Church of Cornish, starting at 11 a.m.

On both days, a baked bean and ham supper will take place in the school house, for the benefit of the Cornish Rescue Squad.

On Friday evening, there will be a talent show by Fair Queen contestants at 8 p.m. on the grounds, and other entertainment has been tentatively scheduled.

Saturday brings more amusements on the fair grounds, as well as special activities including an ox-pulling contest at 9:30 a.m.; an all-day open cattle show, and the annual woodmen's field day, highlighted by woodchopping and log sawing contests among the many tests of woodsmanship.

At 2 p.m. a parade starts from the State Department Sheds near the school and will proceed down Town House Road to North Parsonage Road and back to the school yard. Included are seven floats, two bands, the Leapin' Lena trick car, horses and fire equipment, promised Parade Director Stephen Tracy.

Festivities conclude Saturday evening with a square dancing demonstration by the Circle-8 Club of Claremont at 7 p.m. and the crowning of Fair Queen at 8:30 p.m.

# Cornish Fair has exhibits for everyone

By RUTH ROLLINS 1973

**CORNISH** — There are many departments at Cornish Fair where area persons may exhibit their skills. The crafts department at the Cornish Fair is open to adults and youngsters with prizes in many categories, such as woodworking, pottery, ceramics, leather, metal, macrame, early American decoration, decoupage and collage. Each exhibitor is allowed one entry of each craft. A best of show ribbon will be awarded the best of the Children's Hobbies with second and third ribbons on others, as well as monetary awards.

Any person wishing to exhibit in the art department of the fair is urged to do so and exhibits will be received on Thursday, Aug. 16 from 3 to 8 p.m., with work accepted as space permits. All exhibits will be insured for the duration of the fair.

Professional judges will determine the winners in each category of professional, amateur, junior and elementary divisions. Categories are oil paintings, water colors, drawings and prints, photography, sculpture and mixed media for the professional and amateur competition. Oil paintings, water colors, drawings prints, and mixed media will classify in the junior competition. Drawings, paintings and mixed media will be judged in the elementary competition in two groups, grades 1-4 and grades 5-8.

In addition to cash prizes, an honorable mention award will be given in each category with a rosette for best of show. All work must be ready to be hung when presented to the committee, Mrs. Arthur Densmore and co-chairman Mrs. John Kousman. Water colors must be mounted or matted. The artist's name, address and the medium used should be listed on the back of each entry.

For area cooks the culinary department offers three prizes for twenty different baked foods, white and dark yeast breads, white yeast rolls, fancy sweet rolls, fancy raised breads, quick breads and plain donuts, six per plate. Also six each brownies with nuts, dropped cookies, filled cookies, refrigerator cookies and cupcakes. Frosted white and

chocolate cake, angel cakes, sponge cake, chiffon cake, and apple, mince and blueberry pies fill the categories.

No commercial mixes are to be used, and there must be competition in each class to warrant a first prize. Entries should be marked by number and division and will be received Aug. 16 from 4 to 9 p.m. All baked goods must be on a paper plate and wrapped in transparent plastic. Judging will take place Friday morning. Co-chairwomen are Elease Bortree and Polly Monette.

In the second division of the culinary department a special exhibit of decorated cakes following the theme "Wonderful World of Fantasy" invites all persons who decorate cakes for sale or for family use and children under 16 years of age to exhibit their talent in this division. Prizes of \$5, \$3 and \$1.50 will be given in each adult division; \$4, \$2 and \$1 in the 16 years and under division.

New to this department this year is the home produce display where ten different articles preserved by the exhibitor may go into competition, with prizes of \$5, \$3 and \$2 being awarded. Vegetables, fruits, jams and jellies are included in the display.

Mrs. Robert Rice, chairman of the vegetable department welcomes those gardeners with fresh vegetables to enter the competition. Vegetables should be clean, free from disease, uniform in size, shape and color. Sweet corn should be stripped back on one side so that the judges can see the kernels. Monetary prizes will be awarded. Also, a Home Garden Group Display for adults and children will be exhibited. Adult prize money will be \$5, \$3 and

\$2. The junior display will be \$4, \$2 and \$1.

For those farmers wanting to display hay and forage Mrs. Rice welcomes them to do so. Categories are first cutting legumes, first cutting mixed grasses, second cutting legumes and second cutting mixed grasses. Corn must be displayed by fastening three stalks with roots in burlap. All exhibits must be in place by 8:30 a.m. Aug. 17.

New Hampshire maple producers are invited to enter the competition at Cornish Fair where prizes are given in seven divisions: Syrup, sugar cakes, maple cream, damp sugar, dry sugar, maple candy and a special division where articles are packaged to sell. This division shall consist of four or more different maple products of good quality and shall be judged on the basis of packaging, attractiveness, labeling and display. A special sweepstakes of show award of \$9 will be given exhibitors with the highest total score on entries in four divisions, providing any exhibitor has qualified as a money winner in at least two divisions. For more information chairman Kenneth Bascom, R.F.D. Alstead may be contacted.



**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS** of the N. H. Fairs Association, elected at the annual meeting in Manchester, include, seated, from left: Dr. C. B. Dearborn, Penacook, secretary-treasurer; Edwin Moulton, Plymouth, vice president; Paul Mayette, North Haverhill, president; Frank M. Kimball, Hopkinton, retiring president and meeting chairman; and Frank T. Buckley, commissioner of agriculture, banquet toastmaster. Standing, left to right, as their faces appear—Albert Yeaton, Deerfield; Harold Byam,

Hillsborough; directors; Albert Barney, Tilton, president, N. H. Sheep Breeders Association, speaker; Albert W. Brown, representing George Wilson, Rochester, director; Norris Weld, Cornish; Evans H. Barrett, Cheshire; Reuben Hodge, Sandwich; Mrs. F. C. Fillmore, Belknap 4-H; Samuel Reddy, Hopkinton; Clark Ingalls, North Haverhill; and Erwin Clifford, Canaan, all directors; and Paul Corson, Topsfield, Mass., president, National Federation of State Fair Associations, featured speaker.



OFFICERS AND SPEAKERS at the annual meeting of the N. H. Fairs' association in Concord, Tuesday, from left are Dr. R. W. Smith, Laconia, secretary-treasurer and banquet chairman; Harold Fowler of the state Tax Commission, speaker; Perley I. Fitts, commissioner of agriculture, speaker; Richard Wood, Atkinson, vice president; Lester E. Mitchell, Plymouth, retiring president, now a director; Clark Ingalls, North Haverhill, president; and C. Hilton Boynton, Durham, UNH extension dairyman, speaker.

## Fair Officials Review Financial Hardships

CONCORD — New Hampshire's fall fairs, faced with the problem of ever mounting costs of labor and services and unable to boost admission and other charges, for fear of falling patronage, soon will discuss the possibility of all fairs making an across-the-board percentage reduction in premium payment level.

Fair officials label this an unavoidable move, if many of the fairs, several of them long in the picture, are to continue to operate in the black, and stay alive.

Looking ice cold facts and figures in the face at their recent annual meeting of the N. H. Fairs' association, here, leaders agreed the financial picture is bleak, and quick and definite moves necessary, if some of them are not to hit the toboggan, and soon.

Unanimous view was that New Hampshire needs all its agricultural fairs, and that death to a major fair is a blow to the area it services and to the fairgoing public, which has been crowding its gates, in many cases for generations.

There was general agreement that a sensible move to help balance the books would be to reduce premium list payments on a percentage basis, across the board.

But it was also agreed that, unless all fairs did so, then fairs that did not, would benefit at the expense of those that did, when the state aid funds from the racetracks are allotted, this done on the basis of premiums actually paid out.

### To Map Reduction

The association voted to hold an emergency planning session within the next three weeks at which the association officers and spokesmen for every fair concerned, would attempt to make out an across-the-board reduction, the same percentage to apply to all fairs.

If unanimous endorsement of the proposal is had, it was agreed, then the move will be made, the expected result a better balancing of books by all fairs, several of which, admittedly, need such a shot in the arm.

The association looked at its treasury, decided it had enough operating funds on hand for 1958-59 fiscal year needs, and voted a 50 per cent reduction in these funds provided by each fair member.

The membership also renewed its appraisal of the late Andrew L. Felker, for 33 years commissioner of agriculture, as the greatest friend and booster the farm fairs ever had, and voted another \$100 gift to the Felker Memorial fund, which eventually will be activated, to provide an annual UNH scholarship for some deserving farm student. A gift of \$100 had been voted in 1950, when the fund was begun.

Clement A. Lyon of the

state Dept. of Agriculture, also secretary of the N. H. Agricultural conference of 18 farm organizations, reviewed the memorial plans, begun following Mr. Felker's death. It was to be a \$5,000 fund, he said, and some \$4,000 already has been donated. But until the \$5,000 level is reached, the money remains inactive in the UNH treasury.

In lighter vein, the fair officials staged a bit of Alphonse and Gaston act, the result a vote instructing the officers to provide special passes, four to each member fair, by which as many representatives of any one fair may have unrestricted passage through the gates of all other fairs, for both enjoyment of them and opportunity to study ways and means of bettering their own programs.

Because the fall fairs receive in the vicinity of \$100,000 of state racetrack income as a premium subsidy and the books, therefore, annually are audited by the state Tax Commission, the association called in Harold Fowler of the commission, to lay down the cold financial facts on where the fairs stand. The picture painted, for most of them, was anything but rosy.

### Expensive Proposition

It showed that too many fairs are having hard sledding, that expenses have soared in recent years with the rising costs of everything, including labor, services, equipment, entertainment and such, while gate income has been unable to follow this hectic pace. That's when the boys agreed that all fairs ought to consider some similar move capable of changing the picture and the call for the em-

ergency committee meeting was sounded.

There was agreement the folks who show at the fair, whether in livestock, canned goods, maple syrup or guinea pig department likely would be displeased at any premium reductions. But the discussion ended, with agreement that fairs running annually, even at somewhat reduced premium offering certainly will be much better for the community, than closed fair grounds with premiums offered.

Perley I. Fitts, commissioner of agriculture, who doles out the \$100,000 racetrack money annually, recalled other years in which he said, fairs showed a tendency to pay too high premiums in an attempt to get a bigger bite out of the state pie.

He agreed that reasonable premium reductions, under the present financial picture might be a good move, but cautioned against too heavy reductions, pointing out the participation of showmen brought in by the premium they win, is certainly prime importance in the picture.

Final speaker was Hilton Boynton, Durham, representing the N. H. Purebred Dairy Cattle association, who made six suggestions for the bettering of the fairs, some applying more than others to a particular fair, he agreed.

Needed, he said, is a suitable show ring, one that level, allows cattle to be shown to a d v a n t a g e, equipped with a fence, plenty of bedding on the walkways, and a loud speaker, enabling judges to explain their placings, thus e-

educating participants and spectators.

#### Improve Posting

Needed, he said, is a list of those who will take part in the show competition, well posted. Also needed, he added, are accommodations at the ring for the onlookers, whose numbers increase if there are seating facilities. He agreed that many fairs may not be able to provide elaborate equipment, but suggested at least provision of inexpensive units, like boxes and boards, or maybe logs.

He said that registration papers on all animals should be checked before animals enter the ring, with each exhibitor required to bring to the ring, papers on all animals competing in the get of sire or produce of dam classes. A major need, he stated, at most fairs, is an animal washing rack with suitable drainage, and off the beaten path. Present arrangements, he said, in most cases, locate the water in and around paths followed by patrons, confronting them with careless handling of the hose, and a muddy mess in general.

Finally, he suggested, the order in which the animals are to be judged and the time of judging should be announced or posted, well in advance, for the accommodations of the people fitting the animals and the public planning to watch the placings. It is disconcerting, he indicated, for a cattle owner to bag up his prize cow, only to discover he's hours ahead of the need.

A special feature of the banquet program was the introduction of the 1958 queen of the fall fairs, Miss Sandra Ramsay of Glenclyff, sponsored by the North Haverhill fair people. She received a grand ovation from the 225 banquet patrons, and was presented the trophy provided by the fairs' association.

## They came to the fair



EARLY BIRDS got the good seats. This row of chairsitters was the first to arrive Friday morning, but by afternoon, the hill was filled with spectators. (Maura Morrison Photos)



THE LINE UP — Participants in the horse pulling contest keep a close watch on the competition while waiting their turns. The competition is friendly, as many of the trainers

attend fairs all over the state. A large number turned out for the Cornish Fair this year.

# Everybody wins at Cornish Fair, the competitors and the watchers

CORNISH, N.H.—The crowds were in a holiday mood at the Cornish Fair Saturday, the last day of the annual event that began Friday. They were there in the thousands.

They watched the horse-pulling contest and animal judging, looked at displays of produce and handwork and enjoyed a variety of refreshments dear to a countryman's heart.

Haughton and Sharp of Newfield won top honors Friday in the free-for-all horse-pulling contest, drawing a load of 13,300 pounds for 68 inches.

Second place winner was Fred Cook of Halifax, Vt., with J.D. Durgin and Sons of Antrim, placing third.

Whitey Smith and Sons, East Swanzey, placed first in the under 2,900-pound class with Arthur Ray, New Market, second.

Fred Cook to top honors in the second

class, pulling 14,000 pounds; he also took a third, with Whitey Smith and Sons taking second.

In the Cornish Garden Club flower show, Orville Fitch took a blue ribbon in the "Anything Goes" division with an arrangement of cosmos, phlox and dahlias.

Michelle Neilson won the miniature "Seven Dwarfs" exhibit, while Stanley Woodward won in the "Huckleberry Finn" arrangement.

Blue ribbon winners in the house plant division were Ann Kempton, Vitaline Carpenter, Phyllis Maguire, Mary Garrow, Lois Stone, Patricia Youder, Mary Marro and Nellie Jones.

Other blue ribbon winners were Dorothy Hawkins, African violet; Marro, jade plant, and Evelyn Lear, Rex begonia, and Rena Tracy, Carolina Gordon and Gladys McElreavy.

An Easter egg plant displayed by Edith Bascom and a large boxed Corliss plant by Gordon, drew much attention. The blue ribbon winner in the different-plant category was Celia Wilder for a coffee plant.

Blue ribbons for cut flowers went to Marlene Marsh, Doris Williams, Bernice Johnson, Lois Stone, Lori Avery, Margaret Kenyon and Vernon Fields.

Blue ribbons for gladiolus went to Stanley Woodward, William Noble, Ruth and Doris Williams and Amy Brown.

Alvin and Nancy Clark of Langdon took the sweepstakes-of-the-show award in the maple sugar division with their maple sugar products display.

Shirley Sullivan, Brokenridge Farm placed first for sugar cakes and dry sugar and second for damp sugar. Ruth Bascom earned top money for damp sugar and second for her sugar cakes, maple cream and maple candy. Keith Beardslee, Cornish, took a second place for maple syrup.

In the packaged-to-sell division, Ruth Bascom, Acworth, took top money with Sullivan, second.

Thomas Hunt, White River Junction, was tops in the strained honey division with Scott Kearns, second. Kearns won a first for comb honey and John Hammond, second. Both are from Cornish.

Dean Hammond and Wendy Kosciuk of the N.H. Dept. of Agriculture were the judges.

# Extension Connection

**ext** Cooperative Extension Service • University of New Hampshire  
Sullivan County Office • 45 Crescent St. • Claremont, NH • (603) 543-3181

AGRICULTURE • 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT • FORESTRY • HOME ECONOMICS

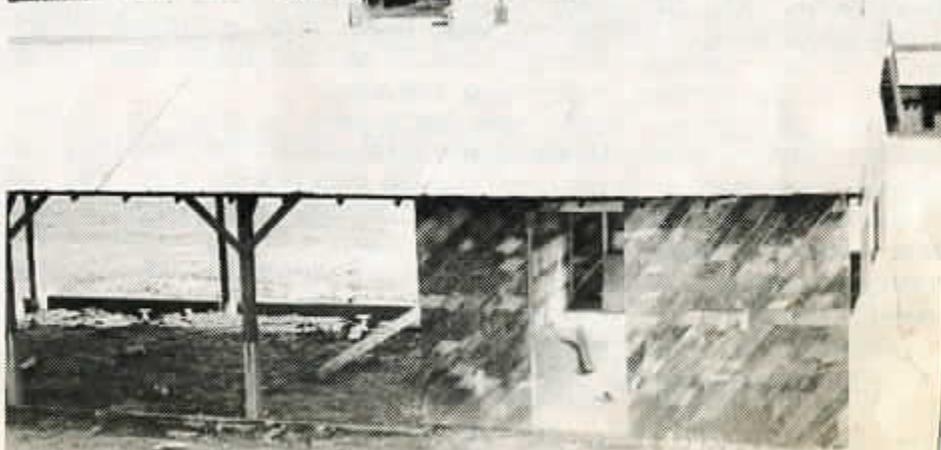
## AUGUST 1986

### "4-H Dairy Complex"

The "4-H Dairy Complex" will soon become a new, exciting addition to one of our biggest 4-H events annually occurring at Cornish Fair in August. This project has been undertaken by the 4-H leaders and Cornish Fair Associates in a dual effort to promote and increase people awareness of the dairy industry and 4-H programs.

Our plan is to renovate a portion of an existing dairy barn to include a permanent 4-H Dairy Booth, milk room, and milking parlor. Construction efforts are in full swing under the expert supervision of Steve Clark, Charlestown and Bill Overman, Cornish. At this point the dairy booth portion of the complex is near completion and we are ready to pour the foundation for the milk room and parlor. Work completed to date can be attributed entirely to volunteer efforts.

We are grateful to those dedicated 4-H leaders, 4-H'ers, parents, Cornish Fair directors and professionals who have taken time from busy schedules to help at work sessions that have taken place each Sunday since early June. We have our sites set on the opening day of Cornish Fair '86 as the target date for completion. Work sessions will continue through mid August, each Sunday (some Saturday sessions, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, may be added) in an effort to achieve our goal. Please, if you can spare some time or a weekend or would like to help in some other way, give us a call. There is a part for everyone!



"4-H Dairy Complex"



Valley News — Dan Hunting Stone is in charge in Cornish.

# He Does Fair

By JANE WHITTINGTON PICARD  
Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — He has run the Cornish Fair since its origin as a Penny Jamboree in 1949, and, at the age of 73, Jesse Stone has no intention of retiring.

"I just love fairs," said Stone, rising slightly from his chair in spontaneous enthusiasm. "If there was a fair this afternoon, and I didn't have anything else to do, I'd go to it."

Stone, described by his wife as "fair-minded," has been president of the Cornish Fair for 36 years, and is the only remaining charter member. "I'm the only one who stayed right there," he said, adding that he still lives the fair 24 hours a day.

Jesse and Marion Stone have lived all of their 45 married years on a working dairy

## Business, And Then Some, In Cornish

farm on Gap Road. They raised three children there, and have always been both family-oriented and community-minded.

Stone was vice president of the PTA when he offered to organize the first Penny Jamboree, which was held inside the town hall. The goal was to raise money for a new school. He rounded up about 15 people to help him, and they made enough to contribute, by Stone's estimation, nearly \$500 toward the construction of the present Cornish Elementary School. "We thought it was good," he said.

Today, the Cornish Fair Association owns 40 acres of land on Townhouse Road, and leases both school and town property at fair time. Last year's fair made a profit of \$24,000, employed hundreds of volunteers, and drew about 18,000 people.

Stone continues to operate on a grassroots level, recruiting volunteers, raising money, and trying to get people to take the fair as seriously as he believes it should be taken. If you're new in town, he might well be one of the first people to drive over and welcome you.

He's bothered by what he considers to be a lack of awareness among Cornish residents about the fair's purpose. All profits are donated to town organizations, like the rescue squad, the fire department and the two Granges. "I personally don't know just how we're going to get word to newcomers and the old people alike, that the fair association does an awful lot for the town," he said. "We donate an awful lot of money. People don't

know, really."

He does appreciate the time people give to the fair, but he's frustrated that only a small percentage of the town's population participates. "Every voting member of the town of Cornish, every registered voter, is a member of the fair association," he pointed out. "We can't seem to get that across."

Stone said he believed that those who do pitch in could do even more, and that people are not nearly as generous as they should be. "I really appreciate everything everyone does," he said, "but it does bother a little when someone will say 'Well, if we're going to work, we've got to have our admission in.' It

(Continued on page 22)

— FAIR

## Fair

(Continued from page 17)  
gripes you a little bit."

Stone has always paid his daily admission. The only exception he makes is on Friday, when people over 65 are allowed in free.

Stone was president of the New Hampshire Fairs Association in 1978-79; he says he went to every fair there was in New Hampshire during that time. He came away liking Cornish the best.

"I think it's more of a community fair, a country fair," he said, noting that the theme for this summer's fair, which runs August 15 to 17 is *A Farmer's Life For Me*.

He also thinks the Cornish Fair is safer and quieter than most. "Everybody says they can bring their children there, and they don't have to worry. You go to these other fairs, and you don't dare let your children out. We don't allow drinking on the grounds; most fairs sell beer right on the grounds, and I don't like it at

all."

It's difficult to find Stone at the Cornish Fair because he doesn't spend much time in the office. "I might step in but I don't stay. You can't find me in any one place on the fairgrounds."

What he likes is mingling, getting to know folks, and sampling the various events.

Referring to his years of volunteer service to the fair, Stone said: "If you're having a good time, I'm having a good time. . . . Now I think that's what fair is."

# Cornish Fair, Others Hurt By 'Rock' Revenue Loss

By BYRON O. CHAMPLIN  
Union Leader Correspondent

CORNISH — The 31st annual Cornish Fair was scheduled to open its gates this morning amid concern for the future of state subsidies for it and other N.H. agricultural fairs.

According to fair treasurer Donald LaClair, about 25 percent of the cost of putting on this, the largest two-day fair in Sullivan County, is paid for with the state's share of the proceeds from Rockingham Park.

*"Only three fairs of the 11 would survive without the subsidy unless they went sky high on prices."*

He said that since the track's closing after a fire earlier this month, concern has grown over the future of the 11 agricultural fairs aided by the state.

"Yes, it will hurt us," he responded when questioned about the track's closing.

"Only three fairs out of the 11 would survive without the subsidy unless they went sky high on prices," he added.

Although he declined to be quoted on exact figures, LaClair said that partial state support of agricultural fairs keeps entrance fees to judged competitions and admission to the fairs low, encouraging the growth of interest in farming and animal husbandry among the young in rural areas.

He added that often the investment goes back into the community as in Cornish, where over \$4000 from last year's fair was returned in the form of scholarships and physical improvements to the town hall.

Today is scheduled to be "4-H Day" at the fair with 4-H swine and horticultural judging and cattle and sheep shows.

There will also be horse pulling competition during the day and the Miss Cornish Fair talent contest in the evening.

Saturday will feature the 14th annual Woodman's Field Day, sponsored by the fair and coordinated by the Sullivan County Chapter of the N.H. Timberland Owners Association.

The competition will include a chainsaw steeplechase, chainsaw, bucksaw and two-man crosscut saw speed-sawing, two-man log-rolling, double-bit ax throwing and tree felling.

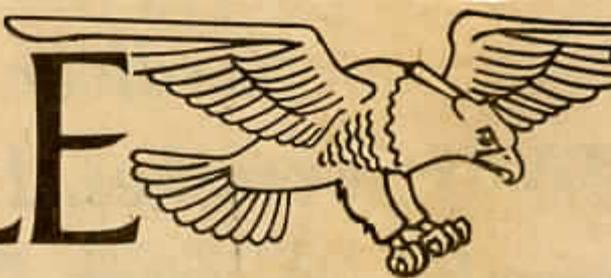
Also on Saturday will be the popular ox pull, the new working steer competition, an open cattle show, a beef show and the crowning of Miss Cornish Fair.

There will be exhibits of flowers, art, fancy work, firearms and crafts as well.

The fair will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. both days.



**CURIOUS COW** — Bella, a calf from the Broken Ridge Farm in Cornish wonders who's giving her a bath on the Cornish Fair Grounds. Chuck Sullivan is holding the hose.  
(Photo by Byron Champlin)



## 14,000 attend Cornish Fair

# Queens, floats, bands entertain thousands

By RUTH ROLLINS

CORNISH, N. H. — The two-day Cornish Fair had an attendance of 14,000 people, with 2,600 of them senior citizens who were admitted free.

Thousands of those attending lined the parade route on Saturday afternoon to view the 1983 queen, Rita Fontaine, Miss New Hampshire, Monica Rastallis and Prince and Princess, Philip Osgood and Molly Bourne. Also the 1982 Cornish Fair queen Kathy Merrill.

Also, the State Grange Fair Queen, Diane Brown, 10 floats, three bands and various other entrants, including queen contestants.

Taking first place in the floats division was the Cornish Rescue Squad with "Children's Song." Second place winner was the Cornish Kindergarten with their float "Mother Goose Songs."

The 4-H Leaders Association copied third place with "USO Canteen." Their float included a 48-star flag and several service men and women who reminded those present of the World War II era.

Fourth place winners were the Cornish Girl Scouts with "Songs of Patriotism and Friendship."

Winners in the children's division were Erica and Amelia Thrall, Mirka Zapletal, Craig Richardson and Charles and Stacy Philbrook. Also James and Terry Zullo.

The 1983 prince and princess were



A BIT OF ADVICE was offered by this float entered by the Cornish Recycling Center. The Grouch of Sesame Street fame helped the center communicate its message that recycling pays to the thousands who lined the Cornish Fair parade route. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

# Country Fairs Threatened By Rising Liability Insurance Rates

By MIKE RECHT

Associated Press Writer

CONCORD — New Hampshire's traditional county fairs, with their hot dogs and beer, oxen-pulling contests, amusement rides and demolition derbies, are among the businesses being threatened by soaring insurance liability rates.

One fair operator calls it a "very, very critical situation" that might need government intervention, an amusement ride operator says he might have to price himself out of the market, and Agriculture Commissioner Stephen Taylor says many charitable enterprises also are threatened.

"Most (amusement ride) operators expect insurance rates to triple," said John Fanelli, who owns his own company in Fitchburg, Mass., and supplies rides at the Hopkinton Fair, Hillsboro County Fair in New Boston and the North Haverhill Fair. "How much can you pass off to a family that comes to a fair? How much can they pay?"

"The courts award so much money (on liability claims), it's unbelievable."

Jerry Pendleton of Webster, chairman of the Hopkinton Fair's entertainment committee and vice president of O.D. Hopkins Associates amusement ride manufacturers, said his fair has insurance through next year's fair. But then there could be trouble.

He said he was told by an insurance agent that Hopkinton could get \$1 million in coverage, but it would cost 30 percent more than the \$10 million it had last year.

"After next year, we may be scrambling around trying to find insurance," Pendleton said. "Being

a non-profit organization, there is a limit to what we can pay for insurance. I believe we pay \$9,000 or \$10,000 a year. If we have to pay \$70,000, \$80,000 or \$90,000, as some larger fairs have had to do, it's questionable whether we can survive.

New Hampshire has 13 agricultural fairs each year with Hopkinton and Deerfield the largest. Two years ago, an economic study at the University of New Hampshire showed that \$13 million to \$14 million is spent at the fairs each year, Commissioner Taylor said.

"Some fairs operate about break even," he said, "and if they get a day or two of rain, they lose money. This (liability insurance) is another problem."

He said raising prices isn't the answer. "Fairs are very price sensitive, and fairs that have gone from \$3 to \$4 admittance have hurt themselves. A family can drop \$40 to \$50 a day," he said.

If any fair called it quits, among those hardest hit would be charities, Taylor said.

"Fairs are the backbone of many

of our charitable enterprises. For example, if the Cornish Fair went out, 30-to-40 charitable organizations in Plainfield, Cornish and Claremont would have to scrounge around to find other ways to raise money," he said. "The snowmobile club has the french fries and hot dog booth, the Sullivan County 4-H sells ice cream, the Meridan Volunteer Fire Department runs the ticket booths, the Claremont Lions Club parks cars and the town of Cornish puts the profits back into the community to fix up the ballfields, etc."

Members of the state fair association, which operates out of Taylor's office, have spent a lot of time discussing the problem and how to deal with it, he said. "They feel kind of helpless. They have to pay what is demanded for liability insurance," he said.

"They're saying that if the pattern continues . . . the alternative seems to be to give up amusement rides, and that isn't going to make much of a fair. Fairs are a delicate balance, and when you take out an important part of the entertainment, it is that much weaker."



# Cornish Fair Board Eliminates Parade

BY GREGORY TROTTER

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — Come Aug. 20, there will be livestock, music, art exhibits and all the other activities people might expect at the 61st Annual Cornish Fair.

But there will be no parade.

Citing operating costs and concern over a relatively new state law, the Cornish Fair board of directors voted to eliminate the parade from this year's festivities.

No change has been announced in Claremont's June 12 Alumni Reunion parade.

Last year's Cornish Fair was drenched by rain and paltry in revenue. Cutting the parade this year will save at

*See CORNISH—A4*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

least \$3,000, said Wayne Gray, president of the board.

"It's getting tougher and tougher, but we all want to see this thing keep going," Gray, a construction worker, said of the fair.

The parade route ran about a half-mile through Cornish and typically had about a "half-dozen" floats, Gray said, in addition to fire trucks, marching bands and livestock. Cash prizes were awarded to the floats that were most original, attractive and most closely matched the parade theme.

Last year, winners of the first place float in three divisions — adult, youth and Cornish school — each received \$175. The fair also has to pay insurance premiums for bands and other local groups to participate, Gray said.

Cost was not the only factor. Fair directors were also worried that some participants might fail to comply with a safety law enacted following the

2006 death of Thomas Fogarty, a 9-year-old Cub Scout killed in a Portsmouth parade when he fell from the carriage of a float.

Police said Fogarty was sitting on a trailer, near its wheels, while it was traveling at a slow speed, when his right foot got caught between the tire and pavement. He was pulled under the wheels.

A law now prohibits using vehicles with protruding or outrigger wheels in a parade unless they have been modified to protect riders. The law also requires one adult, other than the driver, to supervise every four children and be able to communicate with the driver. Children riding on a vehicle must remain within the perimeter of the vehicle and be "reasonably protected" from injury if a vehicle stops.

In Claremont, the June 12 parade will go on for the 139th Alumni Reunion hosted by the Stevens High School Alumni Association, said Bob Stringer, president of the alumni group. But they are also feeling the

pinch of the new law. "There are strict rules to go by this year and they're being enforced by the police for the first time," Stringer said.

Because of the provision about the outrigger

wheels, the floats have to be shorter. It likely will mean more people walking beside or behind the float, instead of standing atop it. And that's not necessarily a bad thing, Stringer said.

"It is kind of scary when you look at all the kids on a float, hanging on just by themselves," he said.

In Cornish, the decision to cancel

the parade elicited some disappointment.

Amanda Posner and Molly Stender were shocked to hear the news, as they were eating lunch at the Cornish General Store. Posner, a massage therapist in Cornish, has participated in the fair as a ticket seller, and in 1990, as a driver of a decorated 1979 Chevy Impala.

Stender, who works at the general store, said she had fond memories sitting on the hay bales on a parade float and throwing candy children in the crowd.

"Wow, I think a lot of people will be disappointed. That's usually my busiest day," Posner said.

Stender added: "People come to the parade. It's not like any other weekend."

*Gregory Trotter can be reached at [gtrotter@vnews.com](mailto:gtrotter@vnews.com), or 603-732-3210.*

# The Cornish Fair: A Chance

## 46th Annual Event Draws Thousands

By KATHRYN NIEMELA  
Valley News Correspondent

CORNISH — An Elvis Costello lookalike was reelin' and rockin' Texas style, crooning *It's So Easy to Fall in Love* as about 100 people looked on. The Ferris wheel was spinning in the bright sunshine, oxen lingered in the shade, and kids admired the scorpions and tarantulas on display at the Furry Friends Zoo.

But this was only part of the excitement yesterday during the second day of the 46th annual Cornish Fair.

Sandy Flynn, a junior at Fall Mountain High School in Langdon, was brushing down prize-winning Sandy's Girl, a 2-year-old registered Texas Longhorn steer. The steer, kept on her family's Sleepy Hollow Farm in Charlestown, was one of only a few at the fair.

"I bought her with my own money two years ago," Flynn, the daughter of Daniel Flynn said proudly as she fluffed up the animal's tail. "She's a pretty good heifer; she's got good blood." Flynn cares for the steer, feeding her grain and hay and brush-

ing her daily, and finds the animal very easy to take care of.

"It's really fun. I like to do it; it's a challenge," she said. "And I like the experience of teaching other people about the breed."

Tim Putnam, 13, of Piermont, N.H., had just won first prize in the aged-cow category for his dairy cow, Joy. Putnam, who has been showing Joy for five years, gets up at 5 a.m. to milk, feed and clean his prize-winning animal. "It means a lot to win," he said, smiling.

Bob Demars, vice president of the Cornish Fair Association, said promoting local agriculture is the whole idea behind the 4-H events.

"These kids have worked diligently all year with their animals, and this is their one event that they can show in Sullivan County," he said. The Cornish Fair, he said, has a good reputation of being a nice little country fair. "It's a family fair; we try to keep it clean and neat."

Bill Overman, 85, a board member of the Cornish Fair Association since 1957, says the fair began as a penny pitch run by local church and Grange groups to raise money for the town's school house. In his 38 years of attending, Overman says, he's never singled out one aspect that he can call his favorite. He likes it all: the

cattle and sheep shows, the horse, ox and tractor pulling.

"All these things go together to make up a fair," he said, adding that the event is "a means and a reason for people to get together."

"We renew some old acquaintances, and we make some new acquaintances," he added. "And we have a lot of different classes of stuff to show, which gives people a means and a reason to show their wares and their product."

Attendance runs between 15,000 to 17,000, and the proceeds benefit many nearby communities. About 20 nonprofit organizations seize the chance to earn some cash: The Blow-Me-Down Snow-mobilers run a refreshment stand to pay for trail maintenance, and four fire departments — Acutney, Cornish, Claremont and Meriden — raise money through bingo, parking fees and amusement rides.

"So they all get a percentage to help their organization," Demars said. Some of the proceeds, he added, are used to help the community offer college scholarships and, on occasion, to buy athletic fields.

The fair continues today; the excellent weather is expected to continue as well.

## To Meet, Eat And Compete



Valley News — Geoff Hansen

Josh Swift, 6, of Norwich urges his Holstein oxen, Buck, left, and Blaze, onward as they pull a one-ton sled at the Cornish Fair. Josh hopes to own a farm by the time he's 10.

# THE HORSE PULL



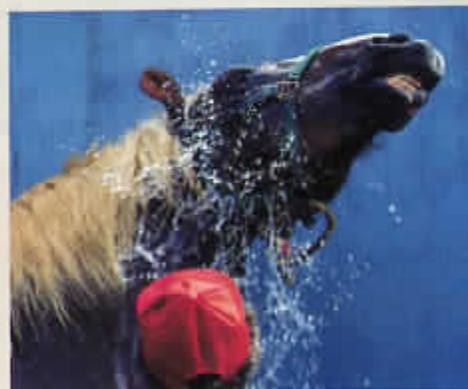
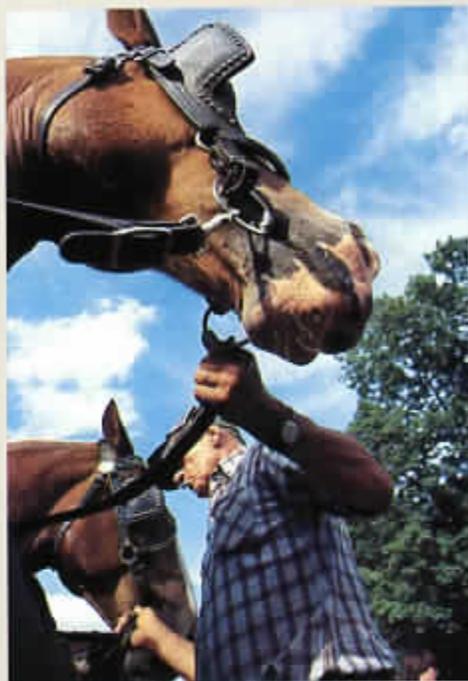
**H**e has spent countless hours working them, conditioning their bodies to drag a sled through the dirt with ever increasing weight. He's careful that they are fed, watered, curried; he's watchful of their health. He selects the finest harness, brass and leather, to complement the power their teamwork has created. And the night before the Fair he polishes the brass, and readies them for transport.

Fair Day, before the crowd, their hooves counterpunch the earth anticipating the powerful lunge their trainer will soon demand. Dry dust explodes in puffs beneath the pounding of each hoof as they are pushed back, back again, into position for coupling. Frantic, they wait the sound as the hook takes the tongue of the great weight and suddenly "now," he says in his code, "pull!, pull!, pull!" and with every Godgiven muscle they give him the thrust he needs to move the great weight to victory and to the honor of man and beast.

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY KINDRA CLINEFF**



*Upper Valley Magazine Sept-Aug 1987*



**T**he Cornish Fair is a traditional Upper Valley event famous for horse pulls, farm and domestic exhibits, food, fun and rides. The dates this year are August 14, 15, and 16. See you at the fairground.

# Stone honored for Fair work

WINDSOR, Vt. — Nearly 70 people gathered at the Cattleman's Restaurant Nov. 12 to attend an appreciation banquet at which Jesse Stone was honored.

Stone has provided 40 continuous years of dedication and service to the Cornish Fair Association, serving as its president from 1971-1989.

He has seen the fair grow from a small fund raising event for the local PTA, which was held at the Cornish Town Hall, to the present three-day fair that draws 20,000 people annually and fair which provides many local organizations a chance to earn proceeds to fund many worthy causes.

The fair association itself has provided many thousands of dollars for various civic projects, the latest of which is a \$10,000 donation toward the Cornish

Elementary School addition which is in progress.

Stone has always been proud that the fair has provided events for 4-H youngsters that give them an opportunity to compete and show their many exhibits during fair days.

"I've enjoyed working with people, I live the fair 364 days a year," said Stone, "I've enjoyed my involvement with the state fair directors."

Arthur Bailey, fair treasurer, presented Stone with a plaque in acknowledgement of his dedication. Incoming president Robert Bladen presented Marion Stone with a flower arrangement.

Among those present were Stephen Taylor, Commissioner of Agriculture and C.W. McGinnis, state veterinarian and Cornish Selectmen Cheston Newbold and Robert Ballard.



**APPRECIATED** — At a recent appreciation banquet of the Cornish Fair Association, Treasurer Arthur Bailey presents President Jesse Stone with a plaque in acknowledgement of his 40 years of continuous dedication and service. Baily served as president of the association from 1971 through 1988. (Ruth Rollins Photo)



**ROYAL CANDIDATES** — Christopher Ackerman and Theresa Bertrang were chosen to represent the 1988 Cornish Fair as prince and princess. Christopher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Ackerman and Theresa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Bertrang. Twelve contestants vied for the honors. The children will be crowned in ceremonies held Aug. 19 just prior to the Miss Cornish Fair activities. The candidates were, front from left: Kristen Walker, Melissa Adams, Wesley Verrill, Cassie Fitch, Leah Condon and Mandy Longacre. Second row: Theresa Bertrang, Chris Ackerman, and Philip Ackerman. Back row: Hannah Birch, Jared Condon and Shanella Rosan. (Beth Bellina Photo)

# Milton to serve as pageant director for Cornish Fair

CORNISH, N.H. — Leslie Milton, 1984 Miss Cornish Fair, is serving as pageant director for the 1988 Cornish Fair contest. Milton has served as both a judge and pageant director for various similar events throughout the New England area since her own crowning experience.

She will be assisted by her mother Mrs. Ralph Ingalls, Maple Street, Newport. Milton is a graduate of Hesser College and has an associates degree in business science and travel.

Three prominent judges from varied fields of interest will serve on a panel to select the new Miss Cornish Fair queen, Aug. 19.

They will award points which will determine the winner as young women compete in private interviews, evening gown and talent divisions.

The young woman selected Miss Cornish fair at the climax of the event to be staged at the Cornish Fair Grounds, under sponsorship of the Fair Association, will gain the right to continue to climb toward added honors in the Miss

New Hampshire Scholarship Pageant to be conducted in May.

The winner of the New Hampshire Pageant will carry the state banner to the national Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., to seek the crown and fame as the new Miss America.

The new Cornish Fair queen will also compete in the New Hampshire Fairs Association queen pageant to be held in the spring.

Serving on the three-member panel of judges will be Laurie Thiboutot, Nashua. Thiboutot has been a professional model for a number of years. She was crowned Mrs. New Hampshire in 1987.

Presently she is the director of a modeling agency in Nashua, "New England Academy of Modeling," Nashua. She is also the instructor of the pageant prep program offered at the school, and has judged numerous pageants. She resides in Nashua with her husband and 7-year-old daughter.

Peter Richard Kuncik, a newscaster for over 25 years, working at various New Hampshire radio stations in New Hampshire, New Jer-

sey and New York, is among the judges.

Kuncik is currently News Director of station WXXX, Newport. He is a former broadcast editor for the Associated Press, former president of the New Jersey Associated Press Broadcaster's Association, in addition to being an award winning broadcaster in New Jersey.

Kuncik is a graduate of Seton Hall University, South Grange, New Jersey, with a BA degree in communication arts.

He resides in Charlestown with his wife Joan and children Kerri and Kevin.

Ernest R. Tyler of Baker and Tyler, Certified Public Accountants and the New Hampshire Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is the coach of the Mascoma High School varsity soccer team.

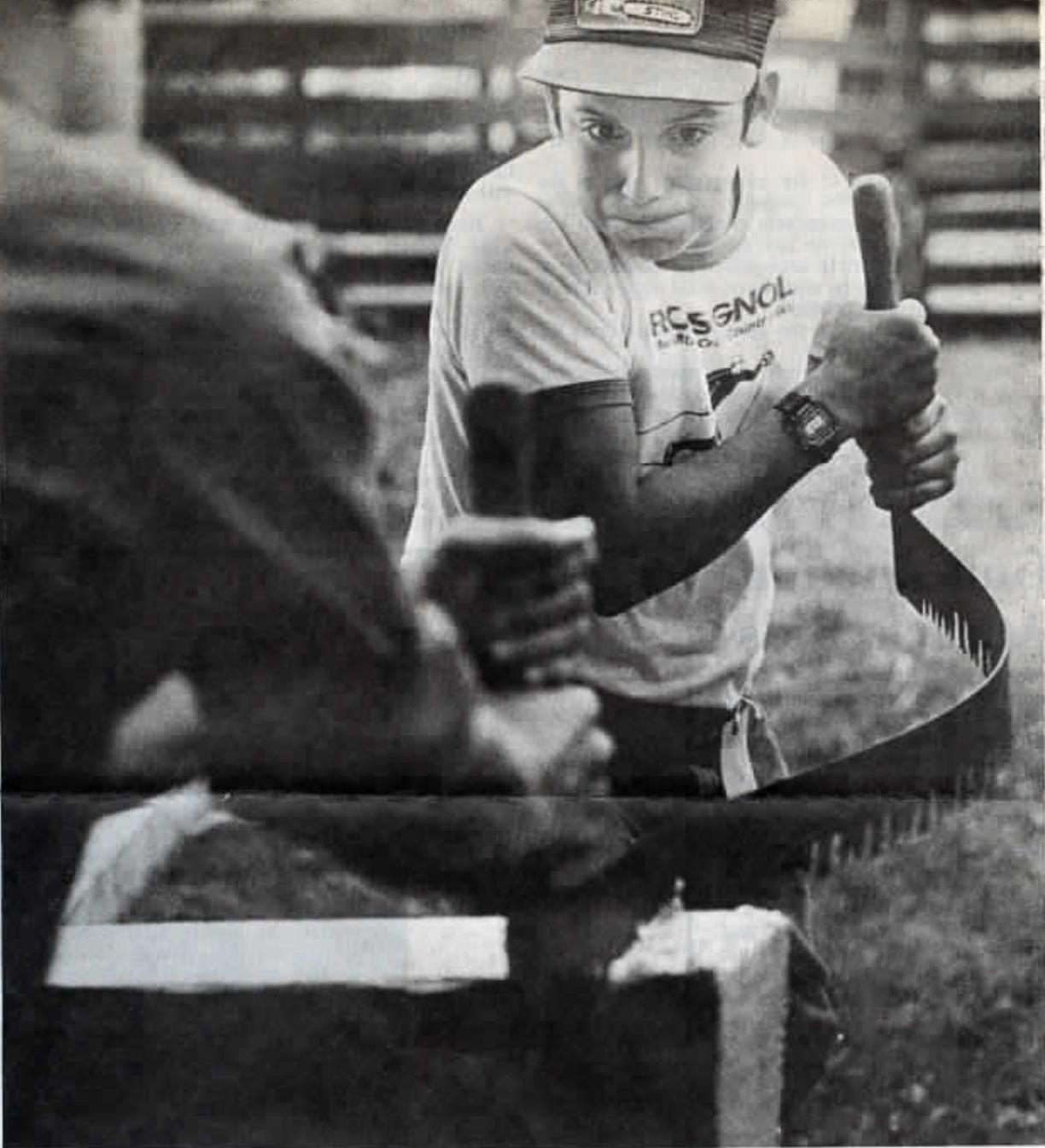
The pageant auditor will by Myron Kuhre, a long time member of the Cornish Fair Board of Directors and former pageant director.

Entertainment during the pageant will be singing by Lisa Bradbury, North Reading, Mass. and sign language by Milton.



**FAIR TIME** — The 39th annual Cornish Fair got under way yesterday. An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people are expected to attend Sullivan County's biggest three-day fair. Above, 4-H club members show their sheep, while below, a team from Bradford takes part in the popular horse pulling event. (Photos by Brad Hills)





Valley News Bill Conradt

E.J. Durgin, 14, of Lempster, N.H., competes in the crosscut sawing trials with Shawn Howard, also a Lempster 14-year-old, in the 4H Junior Woodsmen's contest at the Cornish Fair yesterday.

# Fair Weather In Cornish

By DAN BILLIN *Aug 22, 1988*  
Valley News Staff Writer *A6*

**CORNISH** — This year's Cornish fair attracted a record number of people, according to Arthur Bailey, treasurer for the Cornish Fair Association.

Bailey estimated total attendance at this year's fair to be around 17,300. "This is the most attendance we've had at any time," he said, despite yesterday's attendance being "a little disappointing."

That attendance mark helped produce more than \$42,000 in gate receipts, Bailey added. After staying up late last night to count the proceeds from the fair, he was back at the fairgrounds this morning, where the cleanup and counting was still going on.

"It's been a hectic three days," Bailey said. "Some of us are retired people who work on the fair. When you work 18 hours a day for three days, you're liable to get a little foggy."

The weather was kind to the fair this year, with three days of sunshine and a break from the heat and humidity that prevailed in the weeks preceding the fair. "We had a good break on the weather," Bailey said.

The fair benefits a wide group of community organizations, including local churches who police the fairgrounds for a fee and put on suppers, granges that

set up booths to make money, the local parent-teacher organization, and the Claremont and Meriden fire departments.

Bailey said the PTO will receive \$3,000 for its work selling and taking tickets. The 4H organization will receive approximately \$5,000, and the fire departments will keep the proceeds from the parking concessions they ran, he said.

The fair gave out more than 18,000 in prizes this year, Bailey said, for contests ranging from donut making to the horse pulls.

The fair association's scholarship fund, which is drawn from profits of the fair, has been built back up to \$1,200, Bailey said. Two years ago, the association found that more than \$15,000 was missing from its coffers, including \$3,883 that was supposed to be in the scholarship fund.

"We've recovered from that," Bailey said today. "We had a lot more interest in the farm and horse events this year," Bailey said. "Everything associated with the traditional fair events seems to be blossoming."

Bailey called this year's pageant "the most successful we've ever had." The contest attracted 10 contestants for the title of Queen of the Cornish Fair.

# Woodsman's Day is more than fair

Back Times Aug 22, 1988 p. 3

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — Excellent weather and good participation resulted in a well organized silver anniversary celebration for the Sullivan County Chapter of the New Hampshire Timberland Owner's Association's Annual Woodsman's Field Day held at Cornish Fair Saturday.

Jim Taylor, Merrimack copped the All Around Woodsman's trophy and the runner-up award went to Don Quigley, Dover. A popular couple who have won either one or the other of the titles several different years of Cornish Fair.

Taylor received a hand carved trophy and \$100, Quigley a trophy and \$50. Each were awarded a year's membership in the New Hampshire Timberland Association.

Mark Molleur, Greensboro, was the novice winner, competing against 10 novice registrants. He was presented a custom-made competition buck saw blade and a trophy, donated by Taylor. The runner-up in the amateur class was Adrian Owens, Hanover. Points are tallied throughout the day long event to gain the All Around Woodsman status, with speed being an important factor.

First place winners in the two man log rolling contest were Quigley and Taylor, with Don Dolliver and Leo Lessard coming in second. Herb and Jerry Gingras, Dover, third and Conrad Ferland, Morrisville, and Eugene Villeneuve, Waterville, fourth.

The chain saw steeple chase event found Leo Lessard, Lyndon, placing first, Villeneuve, second and Chauncey Varney, third. Quigley and Dolliver tying for

fourth place.

A chain saw speed sawing free-for-all had Varney the top winner, followed by Villeneuve, Lessard and Dolliver.

Jim Taylor teamed up with Gale Taylor to win the Jack and Jill cross-cut sawing contest. Matt Chagnon and Christie Lapierre took second place and Lisa Guyer and Lessard, third. Dolliver and Lois Pond placed fourth.

The wood chopping event found Donald Barrett, Millinocket, Maine, the winner, followed by Taylor, Quigley and Gingras.

Barrett took top honors in the tree felling event, where huge poles set in the ground are chopped to fall on an exact spot where a pin is placed in the ground.

Taylor placed second, Sam Roy, Winchester, third and Robert Doyle, Winthrop, Maine, fourth.

Another event that called for complete accuracy was the double bit axe throwing contest. Lessard took top place, followed by Taylor, Matt Chagnon and Don Barrett.

Taylor took first place in buck-saw sawing competition, Quigley placed second and Barrett and Dolliver followed.

Quigley and Taylor teamed up to win the top spot in the two man crosscut sawing contest. Dolliver and Lessard placed second, Herb and Jerry Gingras, third and Sheridan and Robert Doyle, fourth.

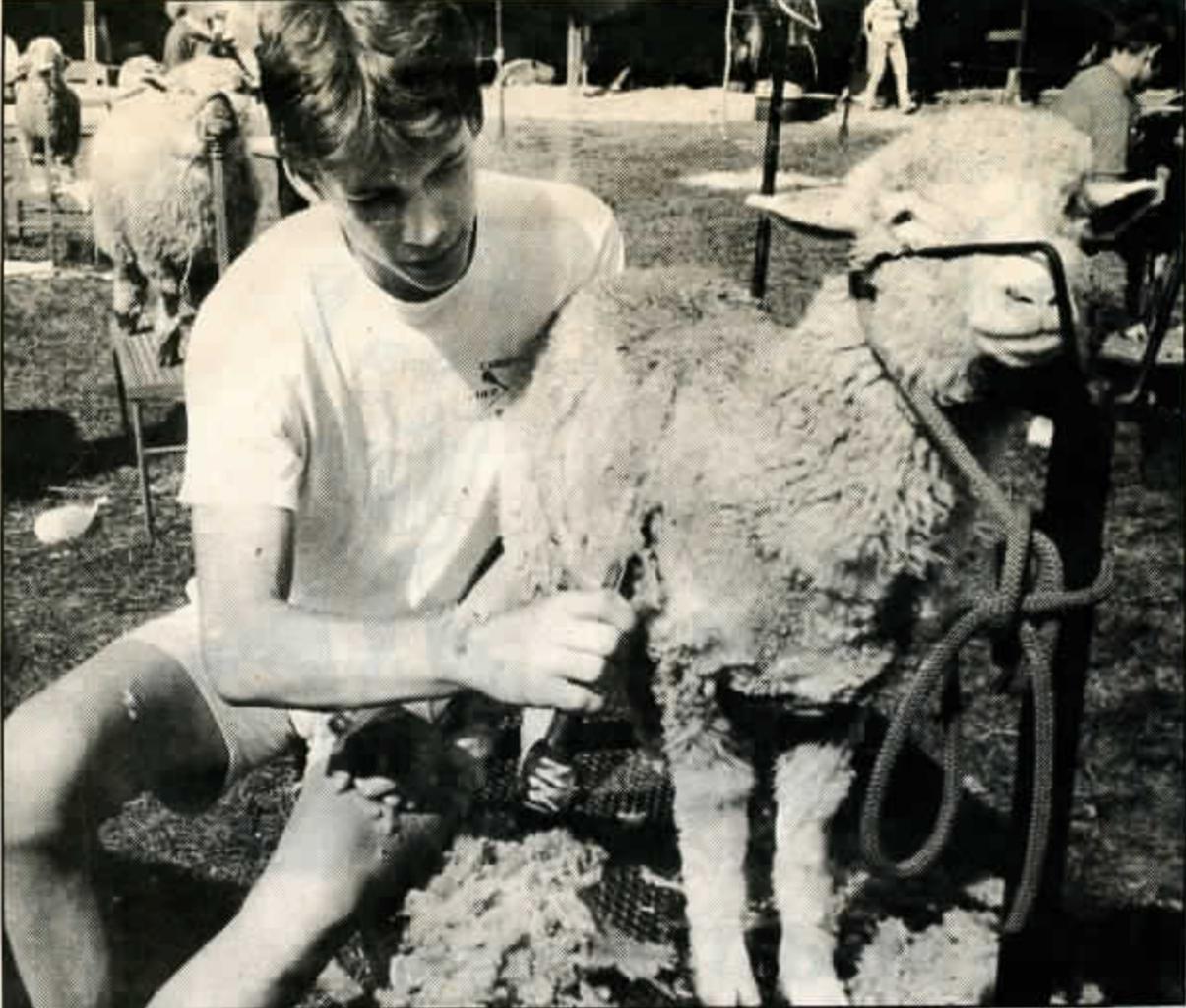
The New Hampshire-Vermont woodcutting skills competition was won by the New Hampshire team of Taylor, Quigley, Jerry Gingras and Neil Mooers.

Showing excellent cherry picker skills were Steve Gould, first, Howard Grace, Donald Goodwin and Robert Kibby.



ROLLING ALONG — Contestants roll logs as part of the competition at Woodsman's Day during Cornish Fair.





**SHEER EXCITEMENT** — Scott Ginn shears his Dorset sheep during the 4-H blocking and trimming contest held at the annual Cornish Fair Saturday. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

## *Fair's farm horse competition featured wide variety of events*

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — A relatively new event at the Cornish Fair was the farm horse competition, organized by Nathan Cass, Cornish. Included was a team driving event, team scoot event, team log drawing and single horse log draw.

In the team driving event the team is hooked to a dump cart and driven through a figure eight course, then backed into a posted area representing a narrow barn opening.

The first five winners out of 11 teams in the team driving event were Dean Hurlbert, Bath, who proved to be a strong contender throughout all events; Bob Jenkins, Francistown; Hugh Fifield, Canterbury; Nathan and Everett Cass, Cornish.

The team scoot event, where a log is loaded on a scoot, runs a figure-eight course and passes through seven gates consisting of two posts. Twenty seconds are added to the time of contestants for each post that is touched by either horse or scoot.

First five winners were Hurlbert, Joe Collins, New London; Cliff Hosley, Charlestown;

the next gate and dropping the second log at the sixth gate before finishing the course.

Again Hurlbert was the top winner, followed by Bert Harris, driving a team owned by Donald Gerald, Townshend. Next Jenkins, Everett Cass and Louis Cadovette, Greenfield.

The single horse log draw event was also won by Hurlbert, with Randy Hutchinson, West Fairlee, placing second. Jenkins, third, Dennis McFadden, Brownsville, placed fourth and Hosley, fifth.

Robert Sprano served as announcer, Peter Decatur kept time, Kenneth Wheeler was the judge. Help in the ring was provided by Eric Fevre, Stephen Kimel and Doug Chapman.

Fred and Shirley Sullivan, Brokenridge Farm, Cornish, served as co-chairman of the open cattle show held at the fair, which had 185 dairy animals entered, many of them by 4-H exhibitors.

Harold Carleton, West Newbury, Vt., garnered the Champion of All Breed Award during the weekend event.

Carleton received the senior champion, reserve senior champion, grand champion and reserve

junior champion, senior and grand champion awards in the Ayrshire showing.

Susan Adams, West Lebanon, took home the junior champion award in the Guernsey breed class. Jackie Delaney, Claremont, received the reserve junior champion reserve senior and reserve grand champion awards in this class.

The grand champion award went to Crescent Farm, Walpole, who also won the senior champion award.

Crescent Farm also copped the senior and reserve senior awards, as well as the grand champion and reserve grand champion awards in the Jersey breed class.

Jay and Nancy Murphy, Pratt Farm, Bradford, Vt., copped the junior champion and reserve junior champion awards in the Jersey breed show.

The junior champion award in the Holstein division was won by Heather and Christina Braley, Post Mills, Harkdale Farm received the reserve junior champion award.

The milking shorthorn breed show found the Taylor Farm, Meriden, taking the reserve junior champion, senior and reserve sen-

I returned to the fairgrounds and this time found Jesse Stone. He looks like a farmer, talks like a farmer, dresses like a farmer and described himself as "just a regular old Yankee farmer." He is also president of the 39th Cornish Fair. We sat behind the food stand while he explained this little country fair. It started with a fundraising event for the PTA inside Town Hall. The next year they had a few booths inside a fence on the outside of Town Hall. The third year they moved up to the present site, putting the brook in a culvert and filling in swamp. He says, "We figure this is the largest three-day fair in Sullivan County," a statement given with a smile and containing a key qualifier for careful readers.

Oh, it is a small fair, but there are those who love it. Money they make goes to civic projects, exit doors for Town Hall, an addition for Town Hall, things like that. This year they plan to give \$10,000 toward an addition on the elementary school. Ticket-takers and other workers are volunteers, and the program generates some revenue with ads from places such as Garfield's Country Smokehouse ("We smoke with Corn Cobs, Hickory and New Hampshire Hardwoods") and Clark's Lumber Co. ("Low Impact Logging. We care About the Land"). Stone expects to draw 20,000 people at \$3 a head, but there are expenses, \$5,000 in prizes for 4-H events alone, though prize money is not big, just \$10 for the best applied quilt, \$3 for the best frosted cake, \$1 for third place in pies.

Today, final day, there is an antique tractor pull. Mr. Robinson will race his pigs four times, and though there is no parimutuel betting, one may bet with his neighbor. There is a pig scramble at 11:30 a.m. and again at 4:30 p.m. Contestants must catch the pig and put it in a bag without help. The pig scramble was successful last year, 40 of them caught by boys and girls and women. Stone says that when the pigs began to squeal, the women squealed, too, and the women had a lot of fun, caught five pigs, and they're worth \$45 apiece. As successful as the fair is, Stone says there are no plans to get bigger. For one thing, they like it well enough as is; for another, they can't park any more cars.



**PETER ANDERSON**  
Off the Road

## Big needn't be better

CORNISH, N.H. — I knew the big guy was not Jesse Stone because Jesse Stone is a farmer and the big guy looked like a carnival man and was, Jesse Stone was not there, a disappointment, and I wandered the grounds of the Cornish Fair, watched a young man, naked to the waist and streaked with grease, set up ride machinery, and then walked up the hill to the track for Robinson's Racing Pigs. I would talk to Mr. Robinson, but the sign on his trailer said beware of the dog, and I beware. Mr. Robinson has as much right to privacy as Cornish's most famous and reclusive citizen, J.D. Salinger, even if Mr. Robinson's trade is less lofty than that of the man who wrote "The Catcher in the Rye."

I must not waste time while about my publisher's business and on the expensive account (this trip cost \$1 in tolls in the company car). I drove a short way to the home of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, a national historic site, to see the grounds and the white pine hedges there. By luck I ran into Bill Noble, the gardener, who showed me the hedges. White pine is a poor choice, can look pretty ratty, but that's what Saint-Gaudens planted, and, as Noble says, "Anyone can plant a hemlock hedge." We stood under the honey locust by the front door, the largest honey locust in New Hampshire, 80 feet tall and 102 years old, a remarkable thing. I left without going inside the sculptor's house, for I saw what I came to see. I was 45 years old before I could recognize a honey locust but have been looking at statues since age 4 or 5.



**HARD LIFE ON THE FARM** — A young farmer finds time for a snooze while the scarecrow seems to be more active waving to the crowd, in the Cornish Fair parade last weekend. The scarecrow was Terri Zullo. The scene was popular with parade watchers, attracting much applause. (Ruth Rollins Photo)

Valley News Thursday, August 17, 1989

# Pigs Take Over Cornish

By REBECCA BAILEY  
Valley News Staff Writer

Aug 17, 1989

**T**here will be racing pigs, greased pigs and cured pigs at the 40th Annual Cornish Fair. The first two are for entertainment; the third are for supper.

## Weekend Highlights

The racing pigs, Robinson's Racing Pigs, run like low-flying missiles around a small track. This is their third year at the fair. The

greased pigs enter the ring for "pig scrambles" in which humans try to catch them. The cured pig — ham — is served up with baked beans at 5 p.m. tomorrow and Saturday.

Other animals and their events include sheep judging, dairy judging, horse pulling and oxen pulling. Humans will take part in their own exotic events, such as bingo, clog-dancing and helicopter rides. Activities will take place all day long for the three fair days.

The Cornish Fair runs tomorrow and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5

# Telephone workers help 4-H members pioneer

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — A group of eight telephone company workers, "The Pioneers," gathered at the Cornish Fairgrounds last Saturday to volunteer their time, talents and energy to help a group of Sullivan County 4-H members realize a dream they have been working on the past two years.

The Sullivan County 4-H Sheep Club, which has 23 members from Washington and East Lempster, has had to show their prize animals in tents provided by the Cornish Fair Association since a former sheep shed collapsed due to snow weight several years ago.

The tent ropes and stakes have been difficult to maneuver with their animals and the moving tents have not provided necessary space to enable the 4-H'ers to present their promotional displays.

Last year, a fellow shepherd lost her flock, and the Sullivan County 4-H Sheep Club members decided to earn funds to purchase her a registered animal to begin again. The animal was to cost approximately \$500.

They worked hard to earn funds, holding craft sales, had a booth at the Sheep and Wool Festival and other events. They were able to purchase just such an animal from a sheep breeder, who believes in 4-H and favors such projects, at a much lesser cost, so they had funds left over.

Having worked so hard to earn the money, they did not want it spent on T-shirts or sweatshirts for themselves; the members wanted to make a mark for future 4-H members.

By a unanimous vote of the club, it was decided to build a permanent facility to house the sheep show on the Cornish Fairgrounds: A building where all the animals exhibited could be housed together, which would provide room for the promotional displays.

A few days before last year's fair, club members decided to compete for prize money in the Cornish Fair parade and built a float, which copped second place and \$100.

This encouraged the members, as they had accomplished what they started out to do, earned some funds, even though they were all busy grooming their animals for the fair show.



**THE PIONEERS** — A benevolent group of New England Telephone Co. workers help Sullivan County 4-H Sheep Club members by setting poles to build a sheep barn at the Cornish Fairgrounds (Ruth Rollins Photo)

They had earned \$400 at the Sheep and Wool Day, under adverse conditions, including rain, sleet and hail, selling lamb shiskabobs and holding a raffle on a USDA freezer lamb, a sheep skin and some 100 percent wool yarn.

Other events included a Christmas bazaar, held at the Washington Town Hall, where crafts and food were sold. Funds were earned by packing wool at the New Hampshire Sheep Breeders Association Annual Wool Pool, held at the University of New Hampshire.

"This was the worst job of all," stated 4-H leader Audrey Rhodes. "Huge bags, 12 feet long, have to be packed. The 4-H members had to climb ladders to fill the bags, then stomp on the wool to pack down the several hundred pounds."

During a year-and-a-half, the club members raised \$3,000 and got several people to either donate materials or sell them at cost to make it possible to build the sheep

barn this year.

Second hand telephone poles were collected and brought to the fairgrounds by Irving Adkins, using his cherry picker. A telephone call to Brian Rivette of the Pioneers, a benevolent group of New England Telephone Co. workers, found the Pioneers willing to help the 4-H Club by donating their time to set the 36 poles needed for uprights.

Robert Evans maneuvered the telephone company boom and drilled the 4-foot holes with a huge auger. Throughout the day, Rivette, Andy Dufresne, Richard Stringer, Brad Clough, John Bell, Ed Karr and Jim Christenson all worked, measuring, plumbing for straightness, steadying poles into place and shoveling dirt around them.

The poles were sawed to the correct height by one of the older 4-H members, Scott Goodspeed, with

the help of construction worker Michael Clark, a 4-H parent, raising them for placing the plates to hold the rafters.

A lamb barbecue was prepared by leaders Carol Adkins and Audrey Rhodes, with Sullivan County Extension 4-H leaders joining in a hand.

Harold LaValley, LaValley Building Supply, Newport, provided the necessary trusses to the 4-H'ers at cost and offered to donate the use of a crane truck and operator to put them in place June 14, which is 4-H Family Day. All Sullivan County 4-H families are invited to participate in the lamb raising.

Kevin Onnola donated money for the 4-H'ers. The Crane Griswold Farms, Washington, donated half the lumber for the permanent pens inside the building. Some of the other lumber needed

# dream

was donated by Marlow Lumber Co. The Cornish Fair Association will provide metal roofing for the new building.

One of the major money donations was made by the Remacle Family, in memory of Roger Remacle, an avid sponsor of 4-H activities, who often provided trophies to be given 4-H members who excelled.

Four freezer lambs for the barbecues, another which will be held on family day, were donated by the Griswold Farm.

"We are very excited" said Carol Adkins, "our daughter is in her last year of showing. We had hoped a barn could be completed in time for her to use it. Our family has been showing our Suffolk breed for 11 years, six of those years in Sullivan County."

The leaders said that all the 4-H Club members were excited about the barn raising, because this is what they really want to see accomplished. "It was an absolute gift from God to have the Pioneers volunteer their time to set the poles. We never could have done this without them."

The sheep club meets with Adkins the first and third Wednesdays of each month and is divided into two groups, with youngsters age 7-19 belonging.

The younger group learns basic sheep care, the older members learn much more advanced knowledge of shepherding. "They learn about their animals from stem to stern," said their leaders, including how to do a necropsy, which is performing an autopsy on an animal which has died.

"It is important to be able to open up an animal to find out the cause of death to be able to save the rest of their flock."

The 4-H members will be demonstrating their expertise in sheep breed contests, market lamb classes, blocking and trimming events, and sheep fitting and showmanship during the Cornish Fair to be held Aug. 18-20.

# Sheep barn becomes community project

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — Parents, friends and 4-H leaders joined forces again Saturday to work on the sheep barn which is being constructed on the Cornish Fairgrounds.

Rafters and trusses were put in place by the men, with the help of a crane and operator donated by LaValley Building Supply, Newport.

Operator David Burhnam and several carpenters joined the group, making sure the trusses were set straight and were well braced before placing the next one.

The space between was carefully measured to allow for correct weight load during winter months. One of those carpenters was Gill Duval from Peterborough, who said he had been attending the Cornish Fair for 10 years and was more than willing to donate his time to the 4-H project.

He was being helped by Bill Sanborn of Potter Place, who echoed the same sentiments and said he just loved coming to the Cornish Fair.

The group worked diligently throughout the day, which included several morning showers.

When the trusses were set, the group went to work putting on two-by-fours to hold the metal roofing, which will be provided by the fair association.

Wives and children joined for a family day of fresh air, good food and fellowship and games for the children. Audrey Rhodes, who shares meetings with leader Carol Adkins, prepared a delicious lamb stew and shiskabobs aplenty, and those attending brought their favorite pot luck dishes to provide meals for the hungry workers and families.

Rhodes reminisced about the excellent leadership given by Roe Hendrick, who served as sheep show superintendent at the Cornish Fair for several years. The sheep barn was something Hendrick was interested in seeing become a reality and he had been very proud of the youngsters who worked to raise \$3,000 to get the barn started. He helped the clubs by drawing up the plans and had planned to participate in the barn raising, which began June 10.

Mr. Hendrick died, after a sudden illness, at his Sunapee home on that date, but he sowed just enough seed to have the 4-H members and leaders to fertilize it and see it germinate to the growth of a sheep barn for their flocks.

People participated from Canaan, East Washington, East Lempster, Newport, Potter Place and Peterborough. "Families involved in 4-H Sheep raising support each other in every endeavor," stated Rhodes. She also remarked that children who do not have animals of their own are always invited to attend 4-H meetings, often an animal can be loaned to them to raise for a time, or they can just learn the many necessary abilities needed to raise sheep.

More funds are needed by the 4-Hers to enable them to complete the structure before the Cornish Fair, which will be held Aug. 18-20.

Money is needed to purchase hinges and latches for 30 gates to make safe closing for the sheep stalls.

Each set of hinges, and each set of latches, will cost approximately \$4 each. Anyone wishing to donate any amount may send it to The 4-H Sheep Barn Fund, Sullivan County Extension Service, 24 Main St., Newport 03773.

## Shirley Bladen is parade chairman

CORNISH, N.H. — Those youth or adult organizations, as well as commercial exhibitors, who plan to enter a float in the Cornish Fair parade, to be held Aug. 19, should register them with Shirley Bladen, chairperson, by calling 542-4622.

Judging in all divisions will be based equally on congruity to the theme "Farm and Family," originality, attractiveness, effort, proportion and scale. Prizes range from \$25 to \$125.

The children's division of the parade follows the "Farm and Family" theme and offers 25 prizes

ranging from \$1 to \$6. Winners will be announced at the speaker's booth as soon as possible after the parade.

All children, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies and 4-H members are invited to march in the parade and should assemble at the Cornish Elementary School at 1:30 p.m. for registration.

Miss Cornish Fair contestants, floats and equipment, also all persons with horses are to assemble at the state yard at 1:30 p.m. All entries must be on time to be eligible to be judged. The parade starts at 2 p.m.

EAGLE TIMES, Tuesday, November 21, 1989-

## Cornish Fair group elects its officers

CORNISH, N.H. — At a recent meeting of the Cornish Fair Association, officers for the coming year were elected: Robert Bladen is president; Jesse Stone, vice president; Arthur Bailey, treasurer; and Heidi St. Pierre, secretary. William Overman will serve as assistant treasurer.

Stone was also elected delegate to state fair association meetings.

Members voted to donate \$500 to the United Church of Cornish Children's Christmas Fund. A donation was also made to the Cornish Rescue Squad in memory of Rena Tracy. For many years Tracy provided lettered signs for fair activities and helped at the Cornish Garden Club flower show held annually at the fair.

The association also noted the illness of Earl Carpenter, who, for many years, worked on horse and oxen pulling events during the fair.

Miss Cornish Fair pageant director, Leslie Milton, requested increasing prize money for contestants, holding the pageant in the new gymnasium at the Cornish School, and adding a swim suit competition at the 1990 Miss Cornish Fair event.

It was noted that several fair directors recently worked on closing in the sheep shed constructed by the Sullivan County 4-H Sheep Club before the fair. The shed was to be painted soon.

A committee was established to study the parking situation during fair days. St. Pierre asked that a new department head be recruited for the crafts department, although she will be willing to work with the person. Anyone willing to take on the responsibility can call either St. Pierre or Bladen.

1989-90 fair directors will be Frank Ackerman, Leland Atwood, Shirley Bladen, Gary Brothers, Connie Carr, Robert Carr, Dianne Callum, Tim Conrad, Steve Clark, Nancy Clark, Robert Demars and Jack Harding.

Also: Barbara Homeyer, Andrew Kuhre, Myron Kuhre, Robin Luther, Carol McSwain, James McSwain, the Rev. Dale Nicholas and Thomas Spaulding.

# 'Farm and Family' theme set for

CORNISH, N.H. — The Cornish Fair Association has chosen "Farm and Family" as the theme for the 40th annual fair.

Booths and several events will be judged according to how well the theme is followed, especially the special exhibits room, cake show and the Cornish Fair parade, which is held on Saturday.

Booths entered in the competition must exhibit the theme to be judged.

Those wishing to exhibit at the fair must have all exhibits in place the evening of Aug. 17 or by 8:30 a.m. Aug. 18, with exhibits remaining until 6 p.m. of the third day of the fair, with the exception of livestock, which is governed by separate department regulations.

All commercial space in the Town Hall and on the fairgrounds must be in place by 10 a.m. Aug. 18. Gates open at 8 a.m. all days of the fair.

Any exhibit competing for an award shall have been made or grown by the exhibitor, and must not have received an award at any previous Cornish Fair.

To be assured space in the dairy cattle show division, entries must be made in writing to James and William Taylor, co-superintendents of the show, not later than July 30 at P.O. Box 271, Meriden. This includes all 4-H exhibitors, also.

Those wishing to enter the beef

cattle show must contact Francis Isabel, chairman, at 603-448-4623, by the same date. Late entries may be rejected.

A special farm horse event will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, with three team events and two single horse events.

Arthur Hunt will serve as chairman for the annual horse pulling event to be held on Friday of fair days. He will also coordinate the oxen pulling event, to be held Aug. 19. Wayne Allen will serve as announcer.

Those having entries in the Cornish Fair Art Exhibit, which will be under the direction of Linda Hammod, may enter in either the professional or amateur divisions.

Categories include oil-acrylic paintings, water colors, both black and white and color drawings or prints. Black and white and color photography and sculpture.

Although frames are not necessary, all items must be ready for hanging when received by the art committee. In addition to cash prizes there will be honorable mention and a rosette for the "Best of Show."

Heidi St. Pierre, chairperson of the crafts department, may be reached at RD No. 3, Box 591, Claremont or by calling 542-9249 for information.

Prizes will be awarded for leather, baskets, candles, macrame, eggshell, fiber arts,

stained glass, nature crafts, metal and pottery. Also, Early American design, musical instruments, chair caning, kites, lampshades, ceramics and Christmas ornaments.

Classes in string art, plastic canvas, toys, textiles, paper and woodworking will also offer prize money.

The fancy work department is under the direction of Connie Carr, Phyllis Howard and Sue Leonard, and will offer premiums of \$1,133. Prizes range from \$1 to \$10. All entries must be brought to the Cornish School between 3 and 8 p.m. Aug. 17. Any article not previously awarded a prize, or exhibited more than once may be shown. Only unused articles will be judged.

The vegetable department has Nancy Clark as chairperson and will offer \$552 in premium money. Martha Zoerheide, chairman of the special exhibits department, may be reached by writing RD 2, Box 80, Cornish to reserve space, or call 675-2295.

Divisions include adult and youth organizations, youth individuals age 5-12 years and age 12-20 years. In the 5-12 age group, two youths may work together, but the exhibit has to be set up entirely by the child, without adult help. Prizes range from \$15 to \$35.

EAGLE TIMES, Tuesday, July 25, 1989

## 40th annual Cornish Fair

Each exhibit must relate to the theme, "Farm and Family," maximum size 3 feet by 6 feet.

Winfred Campbell, Alstead, is serving as chairman of the maple products division. New Hampshire producers who win any of the first three prizes in the maple syrup division will be eligible to compete for the Carlisle Trophy.

Other divisions include sugar cakes, maple cream, damp and dry sugar, maple candy and packaged to sell items. A junior division includes syrup, cakes and cream.

A honey exhibit, adjacent to the maple products department, will offer awards in comb and strained honey divisions as well as packaged to sell. James Fitch is chairman.

St. Pierre is also in charge of the culinary department, where no commercial mixes are allowed and exhibits must include recipe or a list of ingredients to be judged. Winners may pick up premium money either Saturday or Sunday, if not able to pick up, exhibitors

are asked to leave a self-addressed stamped envelope with entry.

All 4-H members are invited to participate in the Cornish Fair arts and crafts division, arts (heritage) division and candy making, clothing, electricity, conservation, entomology, food preservation, food and nutrition, forestry, garden, both flower and vegetable divisions.

Other divisions include child care and babysitting, home improvement, animal equipment, mechanics, natural science, model building, photography, record keeping, rocketry, safety and health and woodworking.

Club exhibits which are promotional or educational are allowed as are such individual exhibits.

The poultry division includes egg exhibits, and raising poultry.

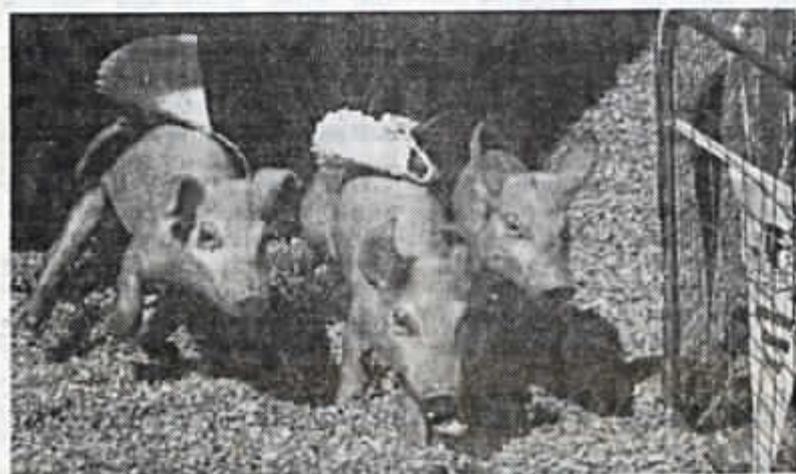
Another division includes rabbits and cavies. 4-Her's involved in this division will hold a show 9:30 a.m. Saturday of the fair.

Hundreds of 4-H youngsters will be involved in livestock fitting,

showmanship and judging contests, which include beef, dairy, goats, sheep and swine.

All exhibits must reach the fairgrounds between 2 and 9 p.m. Aug. 17, and be set up by representatives of local clubs. Exhibits must remain in place until 6 p.m. Aug. 20.

Clubs entering exhibits must register with the County Extension Educator for 4-H Youth Development, 24 Main St., Newport, two days prior to the fair.



## ***Snorting And Grunting***

Cornish Fair horse pull contestants, above, get a workout and a trio of Robinson's Racing Pigs pigs take a turn on their way to a close stretch run. The fair, in its 40th year, runs through Sunday and is Sullivan County's largest.

(Photos by Brad Hills)



**DONATES CAR** — Keith Jones of Cornish Automotive on Route 12A has donated a 1994 Hyundai Excel, to the Cornish Fair Association to use as a fund raiser to help with expenses of its 50th anniversary. The five speed, four-cylinder car is teal green and comes with new tires. Tickets will be available at 12 Percent Solution, Route 12A, Cornish, at Art's Community Market, Cornish Flat and at Meriden Deli, Meriden, both located on Route 120. For more information call Robert Bladen at 542-4622. (Ruth Rollins photo)

*Eagle Times*

*6-24-89*

Valley News

Tuesday, August 22, 1989

## Fair Attendance Down A Bit

By DAN BILLIN  
Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — The 1989 Cornish Fair, which ended Sunday, attracted slightly fewer people than last year's record attendance, but gate receipts for the benefit event still came close to last year's, according to Arthur Bailey, treasurer for the Cornish Fair Association.

Bailey said paid attendance was 15,125, with an additional 1,000 or so exhibitors and volunteers attending for free. Last year's total attendance figure was 17,300, the most the fair had ever attracted, Bailey said.

This year's gate receipts were about \$40,000, Bailey estimated. Last year's total was \$42,000. Tickets cost \$3 per person, with children 12 and under admitted free.

The fair benefits a number of organizations, including the parent-teachers organization, 4-H club, churches, granges and fire departments.

The PTO, which handled ticket sales at the gates, will receive about \$3,000, while the 4-H club should receive about \$4,500 to \$5,000, Bailey said.

Local churches put on suppers and are paid to police the grounds, the granges operate booths, the Claremont

and Newport fire departments operate parking concessions. The Meriden Volunteer Fire Department sold tickets for the rides and earned a commission of \$1,700, Bailey said.

"We had a very good fair," Bailey said yesterday. "We got a little rain on Sunday, but it didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits."

For the first time at the fair, helicopter rides were available.

All of the fair buildings had been freshly painted for this year's event, and a new sheep barn built.

In addition to the traditional pulling contests for horses and oxen, Bailey said, the farm horse event, begun several years ago, is increasing in popularity. "It seems like people really enjoy things that get back to the country flavor," he said.

The farm horse competition involves harnessing a horse against the clock, and then driving it while it performs such tasks as skidding logs.

The fair distributed about \$12,000 in prizes, Bailey said.

# Horseback Rider Dies

## Plainfield Girl Was Struck Along 12A

By ROGER CARROLL  
and CHERYL GERMAN

Valley News Staff Writers

HANOVER — A little girl who loved to ride horses died yesterday, three days after she and her pony were struck on the side of a highway in Cornish.

Cheryl Caswell, 8, of Plainfield died at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. She had been struck by a pickup truck on Saturday while horseback riding along Route 12A just north of the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge. She suffered head injuries, although a hospital spokeswoman said today that the cause of death was undetermined.

Her parents, Ruth Ferland and James W. Caswell, called a press conference yesterday at the hospital to thank people, known and unknown, who came forward to help during the crisis.

"It's really a good feeling to think that everybody can rally together and put out support like that," Ferland said, looking pale and exhausted.

Squinting at first in television floodlights she said were "a little hard to take when you haven't had a lot of sleep," she announced that her daughter's organs would be donated to an organ bank to "give some other little kid a chance to ride a bicycle or see a horse."

She showed a poster-sized collage of photographs, unfinished, that she began putting together the previous night in the hospital. In one photograph, a strikingly sweet-faced little girl with blond pigtails played in the sun; in another, the same girl — older — posed on a russet horse.



Valley News — Medora Hebert

Parents Ruth Ferland and James Caswell offered thanks to people who had supported them since the accident on Saturday.

"What started out as a beautiful Saturday morning turned into a tragedy," Ferland said.

That was all she would say about the accident. She referred questions to her brother, Joe Farnsworth of Windsor.

"If there was a horse activity around, Cheryl was more than ready to go to it and be a part of it," Farnsworth said of his niece. "She could saddle one up and pick its feet up and clean its feet out and do things most grownups couldn't do," he said. "Cheryl had a real love for it."

Connie Walker of Plainfield, the mother of a girl Cheryl's age who had ridden with Ruth Ferland and Cheryl in the past, said the girl was an experienced and safe rider who

had taken riding lessons.

It's still not clear how the accident happened, except that Brownie, the Shetland-type pony on which the second-grader was riding, was in the roadway when it was struck.

New Hampshire State Police Trooper Jerome Maslan said this morning that "the horse was side-stepping" when it went from the dirt shoulder into the southbound lane, where it was struck by a pickup driven by Robert Blanchard, 47, of Sharon. The truck was heading south at the time. Maslan said he is still investigating the cause of the accident, and couldn't say much about the circumstances that led to it. The police have said that alcohol was not

(Continued on page 14)

— ACCIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

a factor.

"I think everyone was intending to be on the side of road," Farnsworth said, "but animals have a mind of their own. Sometimes you'd like them to go left and they want to go a few steps to the right."

But Brownie had been ridden on roadsides before, said Walker. "The little pony she was riding was not a bad actor by any means — it was a little child-safe pony, and it was road-safe."

Farnsworth said he doesn't blame Blanchard: "I don't think that he was doing anything wrong and I don't think that Ruthie was doing anything wrong and I don't think that Cheryl was doing anything wrong. It was just an unfortunate misstep by the pony, and now we've all suffered. Cheryl's suffering is over. Now we have to live with this thing."

But, he added, "There are some lessons to be learned from this. I guess we have thought about this in a lot of different ways. For motorists on the highway — as you approach pedestrians, bicyclists, kids walking on the road, horses, people on horseback, cows — slow down and give them plenty of room."

And for people traveling along the roadside — on foot, bicycle or horseback: "Get as far off the road as you can," Farnsworth said.

Nobody likes to ride horses on the main roads, said Walker, who lives a few miles up Route 12A from Ruth Ferland. "But she has no choice —

to get to any trails or any dirt road, she has got to use that road."

Like Farnsworth, Walker stressed the need for motorists to be more aware of horses. "Some people just whiz right by," she said.

"I think one of most the most important things for motorists to understand is that horses are so unpredictable — you never know how they're going to react," she said. "Even if they look like they're OK, it doesn't hurt to slow down a little bit and give them a little leeway."

Some people do, she said, and riders notice. "I've seen people on horses give those people a wave and let them know they appreciate them slowing down."

A subdued Joan Garipay, principal of Plainfield Elementary School, said today that Cheryl Caswell was everybody's friend. "She was always kind to everyone. People who felt as if they didn't have many friends in the world always counted Cheryl as their friend. She was very happy and bubbly. She was always ready to talk with you. She always had a big toothless smile."

Cheryl was a student in Kathleen Maslan's second-grade class. Garipay said the staff has tried to make sure that all pupils have accurate information about the accident, and that they have had someone to turn to with questions.

She said parents of Cheryl's classmates were told about the accident on Sunday night so that they could

talk to their children about it, rather than having the youngsters hear about it on the bus. The same thing was done yesterday after school officials learned of the girl's death.

This morning, said Garipay, staff members went out of their way to make themselves available. "Many of our staff were out on the playground this morning. We generally have three. This morning there were half a dozen people out there for the kids who needed somebody to talk to."

The school guidance counselor, Nancy Saccani, spent the morning with Kathleen Maslan's class, answering students' questions. "They have a lot of questions about what happened, how it happened, why it happened," Garipay said.

"One of the things the children seem to make good use of is their daily journal writing," she said. "It seems a good outlet for them to express their feelings."

Cheryl Caswell's death has also been difficult for some staff members at the school, Garipay said: "This is the second time in four years that we've had to go through this. It's very hard for many of the staff. Several staff members were on the (rescue) squad that responded."

Garipay praised the work of her staff, especially Maslan, who was at the accident scene on Saturday and who also had taught student Corey Taber for three years before he was hit by a car and killed in 1987.

# Fair directors approve horse barn memorial

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Correspondent

CORNISH, N.H. — The Cornish Fair Association directors have approved a request made by Robin Luther, Sullivan County Extension educator for 4-H and Youth Development, to construct a horse barn on fair property.

The barn would be built as a memorial to 8-year-old Cheryl Caswell of Plainfield who died from her injuries after the horse she was riding was struck by a pickup truck on Route 12A, Cornish, on April 27.

She was a member of the Horse Huggers 4-H Group, which has her mother as a leader.

Connie Walker, Plainfield, has agreed to head up a planning committee to gather costs and provide fund-raising for the structure. Reeder said, "I hope there will be many people interested in helping." A meeting has been set for May 18, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Walker, and any person interested in becoming involved may contact Reeder at the Sullivan County Extension Service office, Newport, for more information. Contributions will be welcomed.

The Cornish Fair Association has set "Happy Days Are Here Again" as the theme for the 1991 fair to be held Aug. 15-17.

At their Monday evening meeting, held at the Cornish Elementary School, directors also approved a proposal to add a Sullivan County Champion Award to the Woodsman's Field Day event.

The proposal was made by Van Webb and Paul Barber, representatives of the Sullivan County Chapter of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, the sponsor of the woodsmen's event which draws large crowds during fair days.

Barber told directors that the cherry picker event would be

dropped this year as their organization had "no loan of a truck" for this use.

Marsha and Greg Clark were appointed as chairman of the 4-H cattle show. They will be assisted by Jim Taylor. The directors approved of increasing prize money for the milk cow classes of the show, by using income from the sale of milk.

It was announced that Arthur Hunt is stepping down as chairman of the horse and oxen pulling events. Anyone interested in running the event should call Robert Bladen. Someone is also needed to run the pig scramble.

Directors approved adding bread and coffee cake categories for youth under 16 years of age entering the culinary exhibit, at the request of Ruth Gray, chairman of the department.

Due to the lack of competition in recent years directors voted to eliminate booth judging this year and it was noted that a raw honey division would be added to the honey exhibit.

Directors voted to sell three-day passes again this year at a cost of \$10. All passes must be purchased by Thursday of fair week.

Doris Boardman was designated chairman of the decorated cake exhibit. Coleen O'Neill, chairman of craft department, was appointed as a director during the meeting.

Wayne and Juan Boardman were present to discuss the upcoming Cornish Classic Multi-Power Show, which is planned to be held at the Cornish fairgrounds on June 16. The event is being sponsored by the New Hampshire Antique Tractor Club and the Fair Association.

Featured will be classic muscle cars, classic trucks tractors, and engines. A flea market will also be among the day's events.



**THIS HORSE BARN** was built at the Cornish Fairgrounds in memory of Cheryl Caswell, 8, of Cornish, who was killed while riding her horse in 1991. Standing, from left, are her mother, Ruth Ferland, sister, Jennifer Ferland, 16, and Connie Walker, who helped with fund raising. (Wayne Carter photo)

# Dedicated to a daughter

## Cornish horse barn built in memory of Cheryl

By **RUTH ROLLINS**  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — When 8-year-old Cheryl Caswell died in a horse-truck accident while riding along 12A in Cornish in 1991, an idea was born.

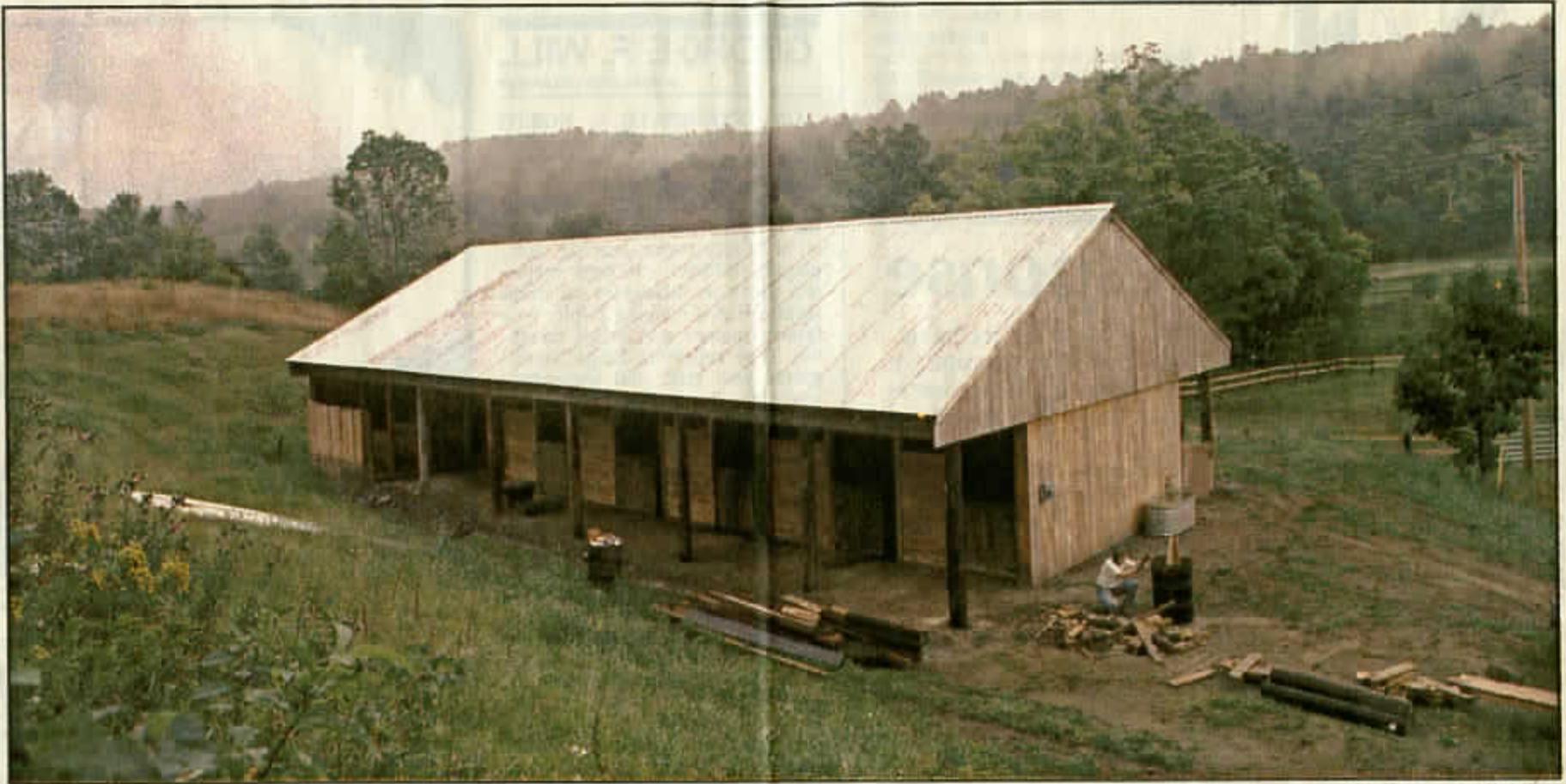
Connie Walker of Plainfield spearheaded a campaign to build a horse barn on Cornish Fair property in Cheryl's memory and, after numerous fund-raising efforts to purchase materials, it has become a reality.

The campaign raised \$10,000 through fund-raising events and donations and a 36-

by-70-foot barn, which has 10 box stalls and nine straight stalls as well as a loft for 4-H'ers to store their gear, was built.

To make this possible, numerous people throughout the community donated their time and effort to work alongside Cheryl's mother Ruth Ferland and her husband, John, who kept the project on track to ensure its completion for the opening of the 1993 Annual Cornish Fair. The fair begins

(Please see BARN- Pg. 8)



Valley News - Geoff Hansen

A new barn at the Cornish fairgrounds will be dedicated to Cheryl Caswell, a Cornish girl who died when a truck struck the pony she was riding.

## Horse Barn Dedication Highlights Cornish Fair

When the 44th annual Cornish Fair opens this weekend, it will have a special meaning for Ruth Ferland. A brand-new horse barn on the fairgrounds will be dedicated to Ferland's daughter, Cheryl Caswell, who died in April 1991 when a truck hit her as she rode her pony, Brownie, along Route 12A in Cornish. She was 8 years old.

According to Ferland, Cheryl's pony sidestepped into the road. In a double tragedy, the truck driver died of complications of diabetes three weeks before he was to go to trial.

"There were three of us out riding that day," Ferland remembered. "Cheryl; my stepdaughter, Jennifer; and myself. Jennifer and I decided if we didn't get back on our horses we would never ride again."

Ferland still owns horses and still rides. She and her husband, John, thought a horse barn at the Cornish fair grounds would be a fitting memorial to Cheryl. "They had a barn for every other animal except horses," Ferland said.

It took them a year to raise the necessary \$10,000, through raffles, auctions and private donations. Then, it took them another year to build the 70-by-36-foot barn, mostly by themselves but with some help from volunteers.

"We just finished it this week," Ferland said.

A dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting will be held on Sunday at 12:30 p.m., and Ferland will be overseeing the barn and its goings-on for the duration of the fair.

"It'll be satisfying this weekend, just to see it full of horses and the kids enjoying it. Because that's what it's all about," Ferland said.

The horse barn will be headquarters for a new event this year, the 4-H Open Youth Horse Show, scheduled to begin on Sunday at 9 a.m.

Other highlights, according to one of the fair directors, Shirley Bladen, include the crowning of the Cornish Fair prince and princess tomorrow evening at 6:30 and the Cornish Fair Queen pageant on Saturday evening at 7:30. Also planned is a parade on Saturday, with bands and floats designed around the theme, "A Salute to Disney."

The Disney theme will also be reflected in a flower show sponsored by the Sullivan County chapter of the New Hampshire Growers Association, to be held in the old schoolhouse next to the town hall.

A popular event that will be repeated this year is the Pig Scramble. After buying their \$1 tickets,



Valley News — Geoff Hansen

Ruth Ferland, Cheryl's mother, spent a year raising funds and a year working on the barn.

contestants join the pigs in a fenced-in area, where they try to catch the unruly animals and put them in large bags. Oh, yes, for an added element of challenge, participants' hands are greased.

"Whoever catches the pigs gets to keep them," Bladen said. "You can't grab a pig if someone else has already caught it."

Other animal contests will include horse, ox and pony pulls, in addition to the traditional best-of-breed

(Continued on page 25)

— FAIR

## Schedule Of Events

Here is a schedule of events for the Cornish Fair, subject to change. For more information, call the fairgrounds at 675-5426.

### FRIDAY, AUG. 20

- 9:30 4-H sheep fitting and showmanship
- 9:30 Spunky the Clown
- 10:00 Horse pulling (under 2,900 lbs)
- 10:00 4-H poultry judging
- 10:00 Farm horse events
- 10:00 Helicopter rides begin
- 10:30 Ellen Ross and her Dancing Arabian
- 11:00 4-H sheep breed classes
- 11:30 Donna Marie & Friends, ventriloquist
- 12:00 Schoolhouse exhibits
- 12:30 The Westernaires
- 1:00 Horse pulling (2,901-3,200 lbs)
- 1:00 4-H sheep breed classes
- 2:00 The Country Cloggers
- 3:00 Horse pulling (3,201-3,600 lbs)
- 3:00 Pig scramble
- 3:00 Ellen Ross and her Dancing Arabian 4:00 Donna Marie & Friends
- 5:00 Spaghetti buffet
- 5:00 The Westernaires
- 5:30 4-H beef fitting and showmanship
- 6:00 4-H beef breed classes
- 6:30 Crowning of Fair Prince and Princess
- 7:30 Horse pulling free-for-all
- 7:30 The Stan Jr. Show

### SATURDAY, AUG. 21

- 8:00 Schoolhouse exhibits
- 8:30 All-day open dairy show
- 9:00 Muzzle loading rifle shoot
- 9:00 Dick McCormick with Arlo Mudgett
- 9:30 Woodsman Field Day
- 9:30 Oxen pulling (2,000 lbs and under)
- 10:00 Helicopter rides begin
- 10:00 Northeast Trickstars
- 11:00 Oxen pulling (2,001-2,400 lbs)
- 11:00 Crossover Band with Tammy Fulton

## Schedule —

(Continued from page 19)

# Volunteer shovelers help at Cornish Fair

1-9-05  
G. Chappell

By **GEORGE CHAPPELL**  
Contributing Writer

**CORNISH** — Members of the Cornish Fair Association applied some preventative maintenance Saturday to save the roofs of a dozen buildings at the fairgrounds from collapsing under the weight of snow.

About 14 volunteers arrived at 9 a.m. with shovels in hand to begin removing a foot and a half of snow and ice compacted on the roof of each building.

Snowfalls of 22 inches in late December and 20 inches in early January worried fair officials that the buildings' roofs might be in jeopardy under the extra weight. On Wednesday, Alden "Buzz" Lord, president of the Cornish Fair Association, began rounding up volunteers to show up Saturday morning at the fairgrounds for a "shovel-in."

"We started at 9 this morning and finished at 1:30 this afternoon," Lord said. "We worked four and a half hours and cleared 12 buildings."

Included among the volunteers Saturday were James Fitch, Bill Gallagher, John Ferland, Dave Clifford, Mel Wadleigh, Leland Atwood, Buzz Lord, Janet Lord, Will reed, Drew Reed, Ruth Ferland, Steve Corliss and Bob Demars.

Fair Association 4-H Club members who took part were Abbie Bennett, Justin Bennett and Jesse Demars.

Held every August, the Cornish Fair raises money for several community organizations. The agricultural fair in 2001 added an art show and sale and a farm museum as major attractions.

Lord said the fair wanted to feature the town's art colony history and the number of artists in residence. Many local artists exhibit and sell their work inside the Old Town Hall building on the grounds and donate part of the proceeds to the Cornish Fair



**PROTECTING THE MUSEUM** — Volunteers on Saturday brave sub-zero temperatures to dig the snow from the roof of the Cornish Farm Museum building at the fairgrounds. About 14 volunteers showed up to remove nearly two feet of snow piled on the roofs of the Cornish Fair Association's buildings. (George Chappell photo)

Scholarship Fund.

The farm museum, built by the New Hampshire Antique Tractor Club and donated to the fair, showcases farm life memorabilia and equipment.

Agricultural groups from the Upper Valley show their livestock at the fair each year.

*George Chappell can be reached by e-mail at [gchap@sover.net](mailto:gchap@sover.net).*



**FUTURE LEARNING SITE** — The New Hampshire Antique Tractor Club has been working on a barn on the Cornish Fairgrounds. NHATC President Dan Moore watches as work is being done to the barn project. (Robert North Photo)

## Museum to open at Cornish Fair

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — The board of directors for the New Hampshire Antique Tractor Club voted to build and operate a farm museum at the Cornish Fairgrounds. Now they're coming together to build it.

"Most fairs have one," club president Dan Moore said. "Our members and many people in general are interested in antiques. We felt it would enhance the fair by having items that go along with the heavy antique equipment shown on the grounds."

The building is being constructed with all volunteer labor. Moore and his grandfather, Bud Blood, did all the excavating.

"The cement was poured on a Friday and a week later tractor club members gathered to frame up the building and place the roof trusses," Moore said. "We even had a couple of volunteers help who are not even club members, but interested."

The club received a large donation of lumber to do the bottom half of the building from R.L. Balla Inc. of Acworth. Norm Beaudry of Charlestown donated gravel and Carroll Concrete of Newport gave five of the 24 yards of concrete needed. Osgood Welding of Claremont donated the time of

one of their employees so he could be in charge of the concrete work. Some other items have been purchased at a discount price.

"The club is especially grateful to all who have helped in any way," said Moore.

The work bees will be continuing to allow the 30- by 50-foot museum to be open during the upcoming fair, which will be held Aug. 17-19. Admission to the farm museum will be free.

"I think it will add a lot to the fair," Moore said. "Later we hope to be able to have the museum open for senior citizen groups who might not be able to attend the fair, if they would like to visit. Also school groups if club members are available to open it when needed."

The building will be owned by the fair but the members of the club will operate the museum and decide on the items to be displayed, Moore said. And the club is looking for items.

"We hope we will receive donations of locally based farming equipment that has been used in surrounding communities," Moore said, "items that were perhaps used locally during the early half of the 1900s."

The club is particularly looking for such donations as horse-drawn equipment, dairy and maple sugaring equipment,

wood cutting hand tools and household items used in earlier years.

The New Hampshire Antique Tractor Club, which is based in Claremont, was organized in 1981 when a group of Claremont and Unity people who owned antique tractors became interested in meeting.

The club has 225 active members and between 80 and 100 of them exhibit their tractors and enter the antique tractor pull at the Cornish Fair annually. Members come from throughout the New England States and "many of the members from Connecticut attend every event," said Moore.

The directors meet when needed before special events and an annual meeting is held for all members. The club has 14 board members and four officers, which include Lorraine Tewksbury, secretary, Harry Ryan, vice president, and Melvin Wadleigh, treasurer.

The club's major fund-raiser is the annual raffle of an antique tractor, with the winner drawn at the Cornish Fair. And this year is no exception. A 1951 John Deere M will be raffled, with tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

# Bladen resigns as Cornish Fair president

By RUTH ROLLINS  
Contributing Writer

CORNISH — Robert Bladen recently resigned as president of the Cornish Fair Association. Bladen had served as president since 1989. He said he had too many business commitments to continue the job.

Buz Lord, who has been filling the vice president slot, will assume the duties as interim president. Dick Baril was elected vice president at the recent Cornish Fair Association meeting.

Robin Luther reported that the 4-H Beef Club would like to do a volunteer project for the Fair. Suggestions included helping with cement work on the barns, painting the stage ceiling and especially weed whacking and mowing the week before the fair in August.

The directors learned that the New Hampshire Tractor Club is interested in constructing a new building to house a farm museum.

Directors approved and said every effort should be made to support the generous offer. Directors decided it was in the best interest of the fair's long-range planning to locate the building on the plateau area above the woodsmen's ring.

Director Leland Atwood has arranged for necessary tents to be provided by Gobin again this year, with an additional tent to house the NASCAR simulator, which will be available at this year's fair.

Directors voted to offer the Cornish Friends of Music a free vendor space to allow them to solicit donations for the instrumental music program to be offered at Cornish

Elementary School.

Fair directors also voted to keep the entire Town Hall space, except for the stage area, which is used by the Sportsman Club, to house a new art exhibit.

No commercial exhibits will be allowed.

Several members of the community are interested in increasing and improving the presence of the arts at the fair and are willing to help directors to implement it. Money derived from the exhibit will be used to increase the Cornish Fair Scholarship Fund.

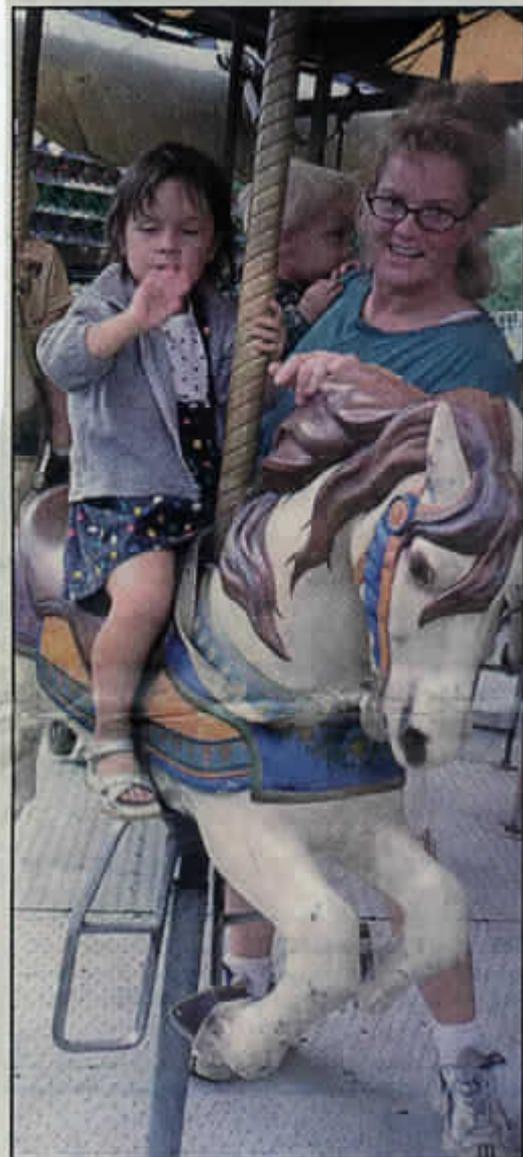
Sponsors for various programs at the fair will result in various types of promotion during the fair, based on the level of sponsorship. Those interested are urged to call 603-675-5426 or fax 603-542-3946.

4-11-2008  
Doris Jones

# Cornish Fair wraps up

Enslé Times    Aug 20, 2001    P.17





There was plenty doing at the 52nd Cornish Fair this weekend. At top, Cornish Elementary School's French Program float won first prize in the parade on Saturday. Above left, Mikhaela Acuna-Stevenson of Cornish enjoys a spin on the merry-go-round with her mom, Jessica Stevenson. At right, Jim Haskell of Washington, N.H., is all smiles after his goat Morning Glory got a ribbon during the Sunday morning judging. See story on Page 2. (Ruth Rollins, Robert North photos)



MONDAY  
August 23, 2004



**Thousands come  
out for Cornish Fair**

The Cornish Fair attracted thousands over the weekend, enjoying horse pulling events, as well as farm horse competition, and the many 4-H animal shows, while others found a shady spot to watch stage shows.

**S t e a d y**  
**Cornish** groups of visitors filed through the elementary school to view 4-H exhibits, that made one stand in awe of what even very young children can accomplish. The 4-Her's take home hundreds of dollars in premiums annually.

The gymnasium, filled with beautiful quilts, fancywork, crafts, culinary delights, vegetables and special exhibits found exhibitors from near and far who also took prize money. A flower show presented by the Cornish Garden Club annually brought excellent remarks.

An exhibit of well dressed scarecrows was a new addition to the vegetable department, one that showed much talent. Among them was a little old lady with a basket of flowers pulling a wagon full of plants. A wood chopper, complete with a miniature chainsaw in hand and a bagpiper in full dress.

Fairgoer's filled the hillside below the school to watch the prince and prince crowning and the queen pageant to begin the evening venue, followed by the band Ransom.

The Saturday parade brought a small attendance who braved the rains, but was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who did.

Past president Buz Lord was recognized and offered a ride in the trick car, Leaping Lena. The Cairo Hillbillies also entertained along the parade route with their outhouse vehicles and snappy looking clowns and 52 members of St. Marys Caviliers Band performed along the route.

Winners in the children's division were Chandler Zullo, Kayleigh Lee, Jonathon Lanou, Tyler Lee, Tom Harban, Lacie



Schver, Dan Byington, Marisa and Brian Lafoe, Frank Radlof, Mark and Travis Cook.

Youth division winners were the Osgood Family float, which depicted fair happenings. Natalie Wilson was calling bingo numbers, Katelyn Belaire was waving as a future Cornish Fair queen and Megan Wilson, Avery Osgood and Julia Belaire were dressed as cotton candy. Great Grandma, Marion Boardman, rode with the youngsters, having memories along the way of long ago fair happenings.

Second place went to the horse Huggers 4-H Club and third to the Cornish Soccer Club.

Adult division winner was

the Sullivan County Farm Bureau, which took first place prize money.

The division for Cornish School classes K-8 found the French Club winning top honors with their float of silhouettes. The French Scholarship Fund group placed second and the Golden Clovers took third place.

Al Johnson of Johnson Oil, placed first in the commercial division. Lenny Pillsbury of Ironhorse Log Trucking and Eric Cooper of Whittleaway Logging shared second place, Keith Jones of Cornish Auto earned a third place in the division.

★ CORNISH ★  
**FAIR**  
 Loc. - Cornish Fairgrounds Townhouse Rd.  
 Entertainment • 4-H • Dairy Show  
 Sat. - Parade 4 A.M.  
 ★ FIREWORKS - Sat. Night ★



DAVID BERGGREN PHOTO

**FAIR TIME, FUN TIME** — Bob Demars hangs a sign advertising the 55th annual Cornish Fair. Demars has been involved in planning the community event for nearly 20 years.

# Community set for another fair

By **ARCHIE MOUNTAIN**  
 Staff Writer

What was once billed as the "Biggest Two-Day Fair" in Sullivan County will take center stage for the 55th time Aug. 20 to 22.

Now a three-day affair, the Cornish Fair continues to bring smiles to the faces of well over 10,000 spectators annually.

"Even on years when money is tight, people have smiles on their faces," said first-year fair president Bob Demars, a Cornish resident and fair director since 1985.

Over the years, Demars, retired from Cold Region Research Laboratory in Hanover, occupied the speaker's booth at many of the annual fairs. That's where he spent some of his most enjoyable summer days, he said, eyeballing spectators as they made their way around the carnival midway.

"Maybe it's the noise of the fair, but one thing is certain, fairgoers are happy people," Demars recalled. "Knowing I was part of it was most enjoyable, especially witnessing the excitement of young children."

Officially billed as the 55th Annual Cornish Fair and

Sullivan County 4-H Fair, the theme line on the promotion card featuring the schedule on the back is "Experience the Fun and Tradition."

New this year, to highlight the 55th, is a fireworks display at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 21.

"We didn't want to interrupt the Saturday night oxen pull," Demars said, explaining the late starting time.

Demars became a fair director 19 years ago quite by accident.

"I went to an open meeting in September to comment on the traffic on Townhouse Road where I live," Demars said.

Before he knew what was happening, Demars was nominated and elected to one of the directorships of the Fair, also located on Townhouse Road.

Demars said the Cornish Fair Association can have up to 20 directors and an individual does not have to reside in Cornish to join the group.

Directors are matched with their particular areas of expertise.

"We try to accommodate a person's request when they volunteer to become a director," Demars revealed.

The group meets monthly and twice monthly as the



## Twin State Standouts

End 7-26-04 See FAIR - Page A10

fair nears to ensure smooth sailing for the three-day event.

Once the Fair ends its August run, plans for the next fair start almost immediately, Demars reported.

"We like to have our budget approved by the first of December," he added.

Over the years, tens of thousands of dollars from fair proceeds have been pumped back into the Cornish community.

Some of the larger contributions by the Cornish Fair Association, a non-profit organization, have included \$20,000 to help the Cornish School add a new gymnasium and \$15,000 to aid with the purchase of land for the soccer field.

The fair association also contributed funds towards building a new town garage and donated a fax machine and a video camera to the school.

It doesn't stop there, however. In the 1990s the fair association distributed nearly \$80,000 to 4H'ers in the form of premium money.

When the Cornish Fair got its start in 1949, one of the goals was to raise funds for the Cornish PTA and to promote agricultural education as well as providing a social event where residents could exhibit their products, produce, and skills.

Now 55 years later, the fair continues to provide the PTA with a percentage of the ticket sales. Approximately 20 to 25 non-profit organizations raise their operating funds at the fair.

The fair has grown to the point where it is maxed-out spacewise, according to Demars. Located on land adjacent to the Cornish School, there's hardly any space left to be used, Demars noted.

Much of the plot is occupied by amusement rides from the Sam Pino firm of Somerville, Mass. That company has been a Cornish Fair regular.

"It has a good selection of kiddie rides," according to Demars.

Last year, attendance went over 13,000. The record of 17,000 was set in 1990 when singer Jeannie C. Riley was the lead entertainer.

Entertainment this year will be shared by Sergio Espinoza, Jimmy Lehoux, the Fox Brothers, Double Vision, Paula Teebow and Perfection on Wheels.

Since the outset, the fair association has continued its tradi-

tion of presenting a clean, old-fashioned country fair where no drinking or dogs are allowed.

The fair began as a penny jamboree to raise funds to purchase architectural drawings in anticipation of building a consolidated school to replace one-room schools in Cornish.

Twenty-five years ago, Monica Rastallis of Grantham, 18-years-old at the time, was crowned Miss Cornish Fair of 1979. She went on to capture the Miss New Hampshire title in 1983 and represented the state in the Miss America Pageant.

Now Monica (Rastallis) Cashin, she recalls attending many fairs as a little girl where her father did a lot of judging in the lumberjack events.

"I always got very excited when I saw the fair queen," she recalled. "That made it a lot more special to be part of the queen competition later on."

The Cornish Fair Association also derives some of its revenue by maintaining the lawns of town-owned land and the baseball and soccer fields. One-half of that revenue goes into the scholarship fund and the remainder is used to maintain the mowers and purchase gasoline, Demars stated.

"Work at the Fairgrounds is never-ending," Demars said. The entire electrical system has been serviced and updated over the last 10 years. "It never stops but we just keep plugging along."

This year, Demars said the Cornish Fair Association wants to earmark some of its proceeds for the construction of a handicap ramp for the Little Town Hall, one of the original one-room schoolhouses in Cornish.

"We're inviting everyone to help celebrate the 55th and welcome back veteran fairgoers," Demars said.

He suggested the Fairgrounds will be the best place to view the fireworks on Aug. 21, as they will be fired off on the hill to the south.

Corporate sponsors for the 2004 fair include Townline Equipment, The Eagle Times, West Lebanon Supply, City Auto Sales, Pinnacleview Equipment Inc. and RN Johnson.

Admission will be \$8 with children 12 and under free. Kid's Unlimited Ride Bracelets will be sold for Friday and Sunday of the Fair. Parking is free.

For further information call (603) 675-5426 or log on to [www.cornishnhfair.com](http://www.cornishnhfair.com).



Tom Spaulding, left, and his grandson Joshua, 9, install a divider in the dairy cattle tent at the Cornish Fair. Below, John Goodhew repairs a wheel on a ride that was damaged in the trip north from Massachusetts at the Cornish Fair.

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE



The Cornish Fair, in full swing yesterday, as seen from the passenger seat of John and Danny Scibelli's 1966 Bell 47 helicopter. CHRIS BERTELSEN PHOTOGRAPH

# The Fair From the Air

Wentley News  
Aug 22, 2010

By Bob Hookway

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH** — The view from high above Cornish yesterday was this: Trees, hills, trees, trees — sudden burst of swarming humanity, all gathered in one spot, evidently an outcast tribe dropped into the middle of the wilderness to fend for themselves with only fried food to sustain them as they battled wildly colored lights and loud music — trees, hills, trees, trees.

"It's amazing. They tell us we're cutting all the trees down," veteran helicopter pilot John Scibelli, of Lebanon, said as he circled the hills.

The sweeping view of thick green foliage afforded by the big bubble that is the windshield of the Scibelli brothers' 1966 Bell 47 was interrupted only occasionally by a glimpse of home, swimming pool or driveway below.

"I see deer and moose from up here all the time," said

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**"To me, this is the way  
flying was meant to be."**

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John Scibelli, helicopter pilot

Scibelli, 56, as he whirred back over the Cornish Fair once again.

For the past dozen years or so, Scibelli has worked for Sharkey's Helicopter Services at Lebanon Municipal Airport, where he's a pilot and instructor. He has corporate clients and sometimes such passengers as NASCAR personnel who want to get to New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon in a hurry for Sprint Cup Races.

But Scibelli clearly relishes the time he can spend in his old copter, the one without the jet engine, that he and his younger brother, Danny bought at auction in 1991. It

was already 25 years old then, and they put in their bid after a new sheriff took over in Marion County, Florida, in Ocala, and decided to do away with the airborne portion of his department's crime fighting effort.

"To me, this is the way flying was meant to be. I do this as much as I can because I love it so much," he said.

On the ground, fair President Wayne Gray was a happy guy late yesterday, as well. The weather was beautiful and he expected 15,000 people to come through the gates by the time things end tonight. That would be quite a contrast to last year's rain-ravaged disaster in which volunteers spent much of their time using tractors to pull fairgoers' vehicles from the mud pit that had once been the parking lot.

"It's much better this year," Gray said.

Scibelli was happy with the fair weather, too. He said there's no real ground rule, such as a certain wind speed, at which he'll refuse to take passengers up for their five-

*See CORNISH—A8*

## Cornish Fair as Seen From the Air

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

minute tour of the area. "No. Actually, the helicopter likes the wind. It helps with lift." But when things look like they'll become uncomfortably rough, he said, "We don't go. Giving rides, we don't want to scare people."

When not doing short stints at the fair, the vintage Bell can reach 85 mph with a decent wind behind it, and three hours of fuel is usually good for a couple of hundred miles of travel. It burns about 20 gallons per hour of aviation fuel at a cost of \$6 per gallon. The Scibellis do all their own routine maintenance, including changing the engine's 15 quarts of oil, and a certified aviation mechanic gives the copter a thorough going over after every 100 hours of flight time.

"This is a nice little fair," John Scibelli observed as he viewed the scene on the ground shortly before landing.

He and his brother should know about fairs. It was at "The Big E," the Eastern States Exposition, the large agricultural fair in West Springfield, Mass., where the brothers, as youngsters, took that first helicopter ride that would chart much of their course the rest of the way.

Then they became the guys giving the copter rides at the fairs. And, Danny, of Southwick, Mass., not far from Springfield, acknowledged yesterday things got a bit out of control for him, before he cut back on his schedule.

"I was doing 36 fairs a year. It was crazy." But the lure is still there. After Cornish, he and his son, Chris Scibelli, are headed for Fryeburg, Maine, to take passengers above the traditional last fair of the year in northern New England before cold weather settles in.

Meanwhile, his brother certainly was not scaring any fairgoers yesterday when he took them up, including young Kayla Thibodeau of Springfield, Vt., who was with her dad and stepmom, Mark and Sara Thibodeau of Claremont.

"It was really cool! We could see the fair, and trees. This was my first time," Kayla said.

The Thibodeaus waited for the helicopter to land again, this time it contained Kayla's grandparents, Russell and Cheryl Magoon, of Claremont.

"It's the first time I've ever been in my life," said Russell Magoon. "That's why I wanted to do it," said the truck driver. He was accompanied on the flight by his wife, a licensed nursing assistant at Valley Regional Hospital.

The Scibellis expect to be back in the air by mid-morning today. Flights cost \$25 per person for adults, \$20 for children 12 and under, and the same price for seniors. The fair is scheduled to run until 7 p.m.

*Bob Hookway can be reached at  
bhookway@vnews.com, or 603-727-3223.*

# Cornish Fair's President Works to Keep Country Charm

Valley News Aug 15, 2010

By KATIE BETH RYAN

Valley News Staff Writer

**CORNISH**—The dog days of August may mean that summer will soon be drawing to a close. But no summer in the Upper Valley is complete until the Cornish Fair, with its ox pulls, Tilt-A-Whirl and the Cornish Fair Queen pageant, has come and gone.

When the fair gates open at 7 a.m. Friday, visitors will be able to enjoy everything from ox pulls to bluegrass performances to a hypnotist — in addition to 4-H competitions like sheep blocking, beef fitting, and the rabbit show (the fair doubles as Sullivan County's agricultural exhibition).

For the third year in a row, the president of the fair is Wayne Gray, 44, a Cornish resident of 16 years and a fair director for 15. Growing up in Ascutney, it was the ox pulls that kept Gray coming back year after year.

Now he's working behind-the-scenes, year-round to make sure that the fair goes off without a hitch, with the help of a team of volunteers who include his 11-

year-old twin daughters.

"They have to work at some of the booths, they help set the fair up," he said. "At the end, they help tear things down. So they know how other things go into operating the fair."

After last summer's heavy rains drenched the 2009 Cornish Fair, Gray and other fair directors are hoping for cloudless skies for the 61st annual fair, which will run Aug. 20-22. Gray spoke with the *Valley News* about the work that goes into running one of New England's few remaining agricultural fairs. Following is an edited transcript:

**Valley News:** Do you have any memories of past Cornish Fairs that stick out to you?

**Wayne Gray:** Not really. I can remember a bunch of them. I looked at it a lot different then than I do now, just because then, I was a little kid, the rides, looking at the animals and all that.

Now we're looking at the portion of keeping everything running and making sure things are going smooth and stuff like that. It's a total opposite way of looking at it.



WAYNE  
GRAY



Wayne Gray, of Cornish, is president of the Cornish Fair.

VALLEY NEWS — JENNIFER HAUCK

**VN:** How do you think the fair has changed?

**WG:** One thing I can say about the Cornish Fair (is) the Cornish Fair has stayed more of a country fair. We're not totally commercialized, like some of the other

fairs. We still are trying to keep this thing as a small country fair.

**VN:** There are still a decent number of agricultural fairs in New England, like the Tunbridge World's Fair and the Frye-

See O&A — B5

# Q&A: Wayne Gray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

burg Fair. What do you think sets the Cornish Fair apart?

**WG:** Cornish is a much smaller fair than any of those. Overall, they're all set up the same. They all have rides, they all have cattle and horses and ox pulling and stuff like that. I think our fair, with it being small, it just brings more people from the community. It's like an Old Home Day, where everybody from the community all comes to it, gets together and visits and has time together.

**VN:** What time of year does preparation for the fair begin, and what does it involve?

**WG:** With the fair directors, we actually go year-round. We start in September and go right through until fair time. We meet every month.

Committees have meetings to set up things for the following year's fair. The fair takes a lot of people to run it. We have a lot of dedicated volunteers that work this fair. I have 20 directors, but the volunteers that I have — I probably have another 100 people that volunteer their time to make this thing really happen.

**VN:** Do you ever feel that the focus of the fair has shifted away from its agricultural roots? It's still called the Sullivan County Agricultural Fair, but you've got rides, you've got entertainment, lots of other things going on.

**WG:** We try to stay still agricultural based on the fair. Yeah, we have rides and stuff, they help bring the people in for the kids to do things, but

we still really concentrate on the animals, the farmers, and ... on school exhibits with the 4-H groups.

**VN:** What makes this year's fair different from the fair last year? What do people have to look forward to this year?

**WG:** We're hoping three good days, not three days of rain like we had last year.

This year, we had to try to keep this thing plain and simple, because of

bad days last year. I mean, we're still having the horse shows, we're still having entertainment, everything like normal, but we just had to watch what we did on cutting things back, on what we've spent to do things. So hopefully we can have three good days and be able to get people back in, get things up.

*Katie Beth Ryan can be reached at 603-727-3242 or at kbryan@vnews.com.*



GLYNIS HART

Children laugh and families look on as Victor Kent with the Kent Family Magic Circus gives them instructions at the Cornish Fair, just before they take part in an interactive hoop-jumping performance with Bella the Wonder Dog and her smaller sidekick.

*East Times Aug 20, 2018*

# A trip to the Cornish Fair

By BILL CHAISSON

**CORNISH** — Many town fairgrounds are laid out on flat places, river flood plains, old glacial lake bottoms, or on fallow ag land. Not so the Cornish Fair, which is tucked between two steep north-south trending ridges in a valley that climbs away from the Cornish Town Hall on Town House Road.

The parts of the fair are laid out on flattened plateaus separated by steep cart tracks. The competitions — ox, pony, and horse pulls, ax throwing and tree chopping — are furthest west; the vendors trailers and some food trucks are furthest north and highest; and then the bulk of the fair stretches

down to the road.

On Saturday it was full of well-behaved, immaculately groomed cows and slightly less well behaved and creatively groomed human beings enjoying a break from the rain in spite of the humidity.

If you enter the fair through the entrance closest to the parking area, you will pass the Cornish Elementary School.

In the gymnasium there was a student art show, a quilting exhibit and competition, tables laden with picture-perfect vegetables and preserves, and sewn and crocheted crafts.

All of these had been judged on Friday morning and the winners were hung with blue, red and yellow ribbons.

The youngest age cat-

egory in the art show was for 6 to 8 year olds, and their entries were predictably adorable.

Much of the work by the adults was quite accomplished. One wag entered his photo of a glistening spider web in the "architectural" category.

Late Saturday morning there was a good crowd filling the bleachers for a performance by the Kent Family Circus in spite of the warm sun and mugginess.

There were actually fewer people gathered to watch the ax-throwing competition, although they seemed to watch more closely.

Contestants stood 20 feet from a tree round with a bulls-eye painted on it cocked a double-

bladed ax over their backs and launched it end over end at the target.

There is a hole drilled at the bull's eye into which is shoved a can of tonic. It explodes with gratifying spray when a thrown ax splits it.

The ox-pulling competition is perhaps a surprise to those who think of oxen as mellow, castrated bulls. These teams of two were prancing, obstinate, visibly muscled animals.

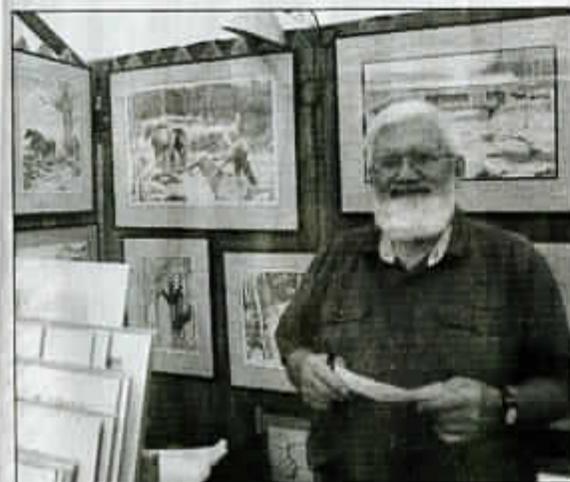
Half the battle of each trial was to convince them to back up to the sledge, so that the line attached to their yoke could be looped over a hook on the sledge.

A "full pull" required the animals to move the load the length of the sledge, which was laden

See FAIR - Page A



GLYNIS HART PHOTOS



The Cornish Fair offers a wide variety of agricultural events, arts, and entertainment. Clockwise from top left, Gabby Bowie rides Tullip; several local competitors take the horse-pulling event very seriously; artist Gene Matras displays his ink drawings, and Kent Family Circus Ringmaster Victor Kent, father of seven and self-described "geek," shows his fire-swallowing talents to a group of spectators on Friday afternoon at the fair.

## FAIR FROM PAGE A1

with increasing numbers of concrete blocks in progressive rounds.

Watching the animals pull was fascinating, but watching the fair workers increase the weight on the sledge was to see poetry in motion. A Kubota front loader operated with deftly dancing hands picked up the concrete blocks after steel pins on chains hanging from the bucket were inserted into pipes emerging from either end

of a block. It was lowered into place guided by economical hand gestures from a man whose eyes never left the descending load. He then took an iron pike and tucked the huge block snugly into place with two quick levered lifts and drops.

Down the hill on the flats below are the rows of stalls where the animals, mostly cows on Saturday, waited to be judged. Around noon the finalist

in the heifer contest were being selected as they stood in a remarkably straight and calm row. An Ayrshire owned by Tyler Woodman took first place and was described as so pretty she was "standing in her wedding clothes."

You can hear the sound stage as you walk among the vendor and food booths, but it doesn't drown out the murmur of the cows, the creaks of the carnival rides, or the

voices of friends hailing one another through the midway crowd.

Shana Stack and her band were entertaining a good-size crowd with country-rock covers and the volume is directed into the steep hillside upon which the audience sits and watches as seven folks line dance expertly in front of the stage.

There is another art exhibition in the town hall building, but these

are for sale. The walls are filled with oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, and there were prints and mixed media pieces.

Much of the work can't help but be inspired by the natural and built landscape in which the artists work, but there are surprises; people obsessed with 19th century Japanese prints or making visual puns that involve fossils and fossil fuels.

As you leave the Cornish Fair you pass the bingo tent with a game in full swing. Back up at the parking lot the mud is getting slippery. The Live Free or Die Riders have been directing traffic there all day.

One biker calmly instructs a Ford Taurus driver to back up ... a little more ... now come forward with a little speed and you'll make it. And they do.



VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS — AUGUST FRANK

Above: Poodles from "Michelle's Magical Poodles" take a break from their performance to jump into the lap of Sophie Martin, right, and Anna Ondre, as Maggie Ondre attempts to usher the poodles back to the show. Summer Lee and her hen Snowcone look on at the Cornish Fair on Saturday. Below: Madison Newton, 12, left, of Hanover, and Zoë Smith, 14, of Benton, N.H., groom their sheep Briar and Fidgit. Bottom: Jerry Gingras, left, of Bethel, Maine, and Calvin Willard, of Barnet, Vt., participate in the woodsmen's field day. The fair continues to day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Valley News aug 11, 2018

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# 'Here for the Agriculture'

# Cornish Fair Tries to Keep To Its Roots

BY GABE BRISON-TREZISE

Valley News Correspondent

**CORNISH** — In the middle of the Cornish fairground, between intimidatingly named rides like Pharaoh's Fury, an art show housed in Town Hall, an ox-pull ring and a plateau crammed with trucks and RVs parked for the weekend, stands the dairy tent. Its central location is no accident.

"The one thing about the Cornish Fair is we're here for the agricultural," organizer Marcia Clark said. "That's what makes a fair." The fair's 225 registered cows make it the largest dairy show in New Hampshire, she said.

Clark is a dairy farmer herself. With her family, she owns about 130 head of cattle, 65 of which she milks. She's traveled as far as Madison, Wis., and Louisville, Ky., to show her cows. Yet the Cornish Fair retains a special significance.

"It's part of us," she said, noting her husband had shown cows there as a kid.

Seventeen-year-old George Gowdy, a rising high school senior, was among those vying for a ribbon on Saturday. As he waited to show his Jersey calves, he offered some keys to success: "You need to have good genetics. You need to have strong feet and legs." Feeding the animals a proper diet helps, too.

The calves were assigned to different classes based on breed and age. Clark served as emcee while a judge studied each animal and praised those with good "dairiness" and "angularity."

Tina Christie, of Langdon, N.H., was on hand to support her daughter Haley, who was set to show some Jerseys of her own.

"This fair is awesome," Christie said. "It's really by far the best fair we go to."

The biggest event on the Christies' schedule is the Eastern States Exposition, held each September in West Springfield, Mass. Often called the "Big E," it draws exhibitors from up and down the East Coast. Gowdy is also planning to make the trip south next month.

Acworth, N.H., resident Scott Luther-Houghton is considering it, too, after his daughter Griselda qualified to participate earlier in the summer. The timing is of some concern, though. "I think we're headed there,"



he said, "but that would involve a couple days out of school."

Despite never having shown cows himself, Luther-Houghton has encouraged his daughter's interest in 4-H. "None of us has been involved in farming, but it seems to be something she's taken quite an interest in, so it's kind of neat to see her taking ownership of that," he said.

Introducing young people to the dairy trade, and rewarding those who've worked hard at it, brings Clark back year after year.

"Yeah, we need the rides to draw people in," she conceded, "but we want to make sure that our youth are recognized."

Many entrants in the Cornish show spent months preparing.

"It takes a lot of work and hours before you come to the fair," Clark said. "Every person who wants to do well needs to work with their animal every day. ... You've gotta have that drive."

The show also represents an opportunity to celebrate a declining tradition. "Our dairy industry is getting

smaller and smaller," Clark said. "You don't want to lose it."

Clark is one of roughly 100 people who plan Cornish's annual fair, a task she's been undertaking that typically begins in October.

"We meet every single week," said director Glenn Thornton, who manned the fair entrance on House Road. "It takes an enormous amount of time to make three days happen."

Thornton described the fair as a symbolic gateway to agriculture. "The fair is usually an indicator of summer, and then the kids go to school."

Given the work required to execute the weekend-long event, Thornton called it disappointing — "when weather in the year, rain depressed the turnout to a few hundred."

On Saturday, an early start for another slow morning. The fairground place was abuzz by the time the sun had shone through around 11 a.m.

Other fair attractions include a merry-go-round, a jeeps ride, a bingo tent staffed by the Cornish Volunteer Fire Department, and fried food aplenty. Organizer Gary Hamel added to the fun with a Town Hall, where Windsor Barton had displayed an impressive collection of hand-woven reed baskets.

The Cornish Fair continues from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are purchased on-site for \$10.

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