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**EXETER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 141  
EXETER, ME 04435-0141**

**NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2002  
VOL. 3, NO. 6**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:  
SINGLE - \$8 / FAMILY - \$12  
DUE ANNUALLY  
TEL. 285-7903 OR 379-2449**

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We held our Annual Fall Rummage and Bake Sale on Saturday, September 21st at the Masonic Hall. It was a great success, and we will decide at our next meeting when to hold our spring sale.

Exeter Harvest Day was held on Saturday, October 19th at the Masonic Hall, with activities inside and outside the hall. There was a good turnout, even though the weather was cool and damp. The historical society ran a couple of tables in the hall during the day, and we were kept busy, answering questions and selling our wares.

On Sunday, October 20th, we attended the quarterly meeting of the Mid Maine Association of Historical Societies. This was hosted by the Abbott Historical Society, and was held at the Abbott Town Hall. There were about 15 in attendance. We went through a complete orientation of the Maine Memory Network. This is a web site where we can submit photos,

with descriptions, and also documents. The site is free for people to view. It is run by the Maine Historical Society.

We received some wonderful donations and loans during the last two months. Louise Leathers donated three original books from the Holy Trinity Church at Exeter Corner, dating from 1874-1951. These include a members register, births, christenings, marriages, and deaths.

Errol Cleveland of Bangor donated 21 old photos of Exeter as well as two school souvenirs and history papers. He donated these in memory of his parents, Lewis R. & Mildred (Smith) Cleveland. We received some old news clippings from Beverly Blackwell of Corinth. We also had several old photos and documents loaned to us for scanning from Dorothy Pratt of Orono. We would like to extend our thanks to all of these folks.

A very special thank you needs to go out to the Eaton Family. They held their family reunion on August 17 of this year. At their reunion, they held their family reunion auction. All the money raised from the auction was donated to the Exeter Historical Society. A great big thank you goes out to this family.

New members: Carl & Pat Trask of Exeter and Kenduskeag; Debbie Christo & Jason Field of Exeter; and Darrell & Dorothy Pratt of Orono.

## EXETER FAIR

The first Exeter Fair was held in 1853 and went for twelve years at a location unknown. It is known that there used to be an annual fair at the Avery Farm on the Cider Hill Road, but it is unsure if these were the same fairs that began in 1853, because no years are given for the Avery Fairs.

The current fairgrounds site, consisting of 18-1/2 acres, were laid out by the West Penobscot Agricultural Society in 1867. At the same time the half-mile race track was constructed.

At this site, an annual event, for more than three quarters of a century, attracted attention throughout northern and eastern Maine. From 1867, through the gay 90's, and the roaring 20's, towns for miles around were abandoned for three days in September, when everyone headed for the Exeter Fair.

People would come with home furnishings, pitch a tent, and stay the entire three days. For the fairgoers there was music, horse racing, "homebrew", agricultural exhibits, and dances & fireworks were held nightly.

In the early 1900's midway rides were introduced, and even later, airplane rides were offered.

One man was usually deputized to see that order was maintained on the grounds. Francis W. Hill was general manager of the fair for about 50 years, and he would be

seen riding his horse about the grounds, as "marshall" of the fair.

Many days before the opening of the fair, long processions of fair concessions lined the back roads leading to Exeter. People would watch the slow parade of wagons carrying booths, signs, animals, and utensils to the fairgrounds.

The "electric car" carried many people from Bangor to Corinth, and special barges were run to aid in transporting them to the fair. Hotel Hill at Exeter Corners also offered free carriage service to and from the fairgrounds, and dances were held in the hotels' ballroom on the evenings during the fair.

A special band was organized to entertain, and a bandstand was erected near the raceway.

Between 1878 and 1884, the former Exeter Cheese Factory, at East Exeter, was dismantled, and then rebuilt at the fairgrounds, to serve as a hotel and cafe', which ran for many years. Another cafe' was operated for many years from the farmhouse on Route 43 adjacent to the fairgrounds entrance, known to many as the Buswell-Jackson Farm. An evening at Buswell's was something to talk about.

Before electricity was introduced, the fair did not keep after sunset, for kerosine lighting on a large scale was much to dangerous.

Horse trotting was a big event.

Men from all over New England brought their horses for the races.

Merry-go-rounds, operated by gas engines, were used, and later on, ferris wheels, chairplanes, vaudville, and fireworks, were added.

During the 1880's the admission to the fairgrounds was 25 cents. Some boys tried to sneak in, and if they were caught they were charged \$1.00.

The fairs continued until 1925 when the Penobscot and Piscataquis Fair Association was formed. The fairs continued sporadically until WWII when they were discontinued. In 1945 the New Exeter Fair Association started the fairs up again, but they only lasted until about 1950. They never gained the popularity as the original fairs.

At this time the race track was leased out by the Exeter Fair Corporation to Exeter Speedway, and the track was converted for stock car racing. These races lasted from 1952, sporadically, until about 1967, when Speedway 95 opened in Hermon. This is when many of the cars and fans switched from Exeter to the new Hermon track. During that racing period there were several owners of the track: the Gudroe's and Wyman's of Dexter, Shirley Brooks of Charleston, and the Wiggins and Bean families, along with Kenneth Buzzell, all of Corinth.

Later on the track was used for a couple of years during the winter for

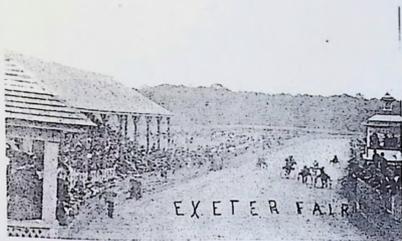
snowmobile racing.

In 1978 an outdoor rock concert was held at the fairgrounds. Billed as "Festival '78", the event featured several bands, headlined by 70's rock legend "Steppenwolf". The concert ran from 10:30 AM until 8 PM and was attended by about 2,000 people. The promoter was John Wiggins of Corinth.

The old fairgrounds was the site for many years of the Red Garter Dance Hall, a bottle club owned by Shirley Brooks. When this hall burned in October of 1979, Brook's moved his business to St. Albans.

FESTIVAL '78 Presents  
**STEPPENWOLF**  
JAMES MONTGOMERY-PETER GALLWAY REVUE,  
*And a host of Others*  
**IN OUTDOOR CONCERT**  
**AT EXETER RACEWAY, EXETER, MAINE**  
JUNE 17  
Entrance Road Opens 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY MORNING  
**RAIN OR SHINE**  
*No glass containers allowed on premises*





EXETER RACEWAY



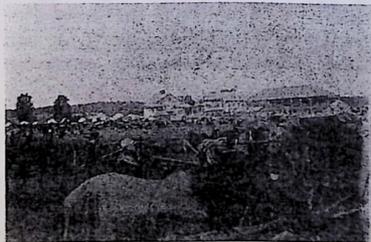
HORATIO PERKINS AT EXETER FAIR



JOSEPHINE DOWNING AT EXETER  
FAIR



EXETER FAIRGROUNDS



EXETER FAIRGROUNDS



MIDWAY, EXETER FAIR

Goodyear---Wilder Tire & Battery Co., Bangor, Maine

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## EXETER FAIR

Exeter, Maine, presents it's 86th Annual Fair this year. It makes no claim of being one of the larger fairs but its cordial welcome to visitors and old friends draws people from all parts of the State. Here one can relax and enjoy clean entertainment, meet your friends and enjoy the old fashioned hospitality for which Exeter Fair has long been famous.

*Make yourself at home folks.*



The Car Without

a Price Class

**WEBBER MOTOR CO.**

499 HAMMOND STREET

BANGOR, MAINE

*Watch The Fords Go By*

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It is my earnest desire that every person attending Exeter Fair  
have a good time—F. W. HILL

Today's Official  
**SCORE CARD**  
**EXETER FAIR**  
**1939**

Clyde Smith, President  
F. W. Hill, Superintendent  
M. A. Peabody, Treasurer  
C. R. Smith, Clerk

R. W. Burrill } Judges  
C. J. Worthen }  
D. K. Maxim } Timers  
N. H. Whitten }

JOSIAH STEWARD, Starter  
KATHERINE MILLS, Marshal

Races called at 1:30 D. S. T. Sun sets at . . . . . E. S. T.

**DANCING EVERY NIGHT 8 to 12**  
Auspices of the American Legion  
**Uncle Ezra and his Musicians will be there**  
Upper Hall in Exhibition Building  
Excellent Floor

FOR  
**GOOD USED CARS**  
SEE  
**HARDY USED CAR SALES**  
KENNETH E. HARDY, Prop.  
HAYMARKET SQ. BANGOR, ME.

**Go To PARSHLEY'S,**

DEXTER, For Bargains in Carriages—Selling at FALL PRICES. The Celebrated Daisy Road Cart is the Best Rider and Best Wearing cart on Earth. Sold by H. G. PARSHLEY, Dealer in All Kinds of Carriages.

AUGUST 11TH, 1891.

**HOTEL HILL, Exeter, Corner,**

FREE CARRIAGE TO AND FROM THE FAIR GROUNDS.

H. S. RICHARDS, PROP'R.

**SCORE CARD.**

**3 Minute Class.**

	1	2	3	4	5	Time
Bay Harry, b. s., G. H. Dyer, Ochoho, blue and crimson						
Mona S., b. m., N. I. Edminster, So Etna, red and white						
Dirigó Jr., b. s., A. N. Burrill, Skowhegan, crimson and red						
Winona, b. m., Steve Penny, Skowhegan, red and blue						
Golden Fearnought, Park Turner, Skowhegan, blue and crimson						
Mystic Withers, b. s., Dr. I. P. Tash, Fairfield, old gold and black						
Lady Hamilton, b. m., F. H. Wiggin, Etna, scarlet and blue						
Ripley Boy, b. s., A. K. Libby, Hartland, scarlet and crimson						
Gen. Jackson, ch. g., Ed Davis, Oldtown, blue and white						
White Nose, blk. s., J. L. Ellingwood, Bangor, blue and black						
Jannette, gr. m., C. L. Abber, E. Exeter, black						
Trenton, bro. s., Lyman Leighton, Exeter, blue and cardinal						
Alry Belle, b. m., N. F. Woodcock, Ripley, black and red						
Judge W., g. g., F. E. Buker, Hartland, black and white						
Mermald, b. m., S. D. Blaisdell, Augusta, red and white stripe						
Tom Knox, b. s., Isaiah Crowell, Canaan, blue and white stripe						

**2.40 Class.--Trotting and Pacing**

Nick Erwin, b. g., R. W. Burrill, Skowhegan, old gold and red						
Bess, blk. m., A. N. Burrill, Skowhegan,						
Kitty B., b. m., Charlie Burrill, Skowhegan, red and blue						
Dinah, bro. m., Stan Nay, Skowhegan, blue and crimson						
Ervin M., bro. s., E. B. Melvin, Exeter, old gold and crimson						
Uncle Josh, b. g., Dr. I. P. Tash, old Gold and black						
Gray Terror, g. g. A. K. Libby, Hartland, scarlet and crimson						

**2.40 CLASS CONTINUED.**

	1	2	3	4	5	Time
Rustic Joe, blk. s., A. K. Libby, Hartland, scarlet and crimson						
Hortense, b. m., H. L. Williams, Hartland, blue and crimson						
Aggie Morse, g. m., C. W. Morse, So. Newburgh, red and white						
Midgett, ch. m., E. B. Ireland, Stetson, scarlet and blue						
Charlie B., b. g., G. F. Davis, Etna, blue and white						
Ned B., b. s., A. K. Libby, Hartland, scarlet and crimson						
Harry S., bro. g., Dr. F. Southard, Lincoln, crimson and white						
Leonard, bro. g., Allie Pierce, Bangor, blue and white stripe						
Grace M., b. m., Lyman Leighton, blue and cardinal						
Double Header, blk. g., J. A. K. Hilton, N. Anson, black						
Gen. Jackson, ch. g., Ed Davis, black and red						
Gladstone, bro. s., C. F. Robinson, Ellingwood's Corner, red and white stripe						
Judge W., g. g., F. E. Buker, Hartland, black and white						
King Pin, gr. s., C. E. Lane, Brooks, red and blue						
Edmund, b. s., Appleton Webb, Waterville, brown						

**OPEN TO ALL.**

Oliver D., b. g., G. H. Dyer, Eddington, blue and white						
Van Belmont, blk. s., Dr. I. P. Tash, old gold and black						
Lilly Mack, b. m., A. N. Burrill, crimson and red						
Gray Terror, g. g., A. K. Libby, scarlet and crimson						
Ned B., b. s., A. K. Libby, "						
Black Crook, blk. s., J. L. Ellingwood, Bangor, blue and black						
John M., b. g., D. E. Clement, Levant, black and white						
Mountaineer, b. s., Appleton Webb, brown						
Bird, blk. m., H. B. Tozier, Gardiner, blue and crimson						
Frank S., bro. s., R. B. Pillsbury, Unity, old gold and crimson						
Maud M., b. m., H. C. James, Waterville, red and white						

F. W. HILL, J. T. BROWN, F. C. BARKER, H. G. PARSHLEY, J. T. FOGG, TRUSTEES.

**PARK HOUSE on the Fair Grounds--C. E. LOUGEE, Prop'r**

There will be a Dance at Hotel Hill, Exeter Corner, this Evening.

**Exeter Fair September 29, 30 and October 1st.**

# PENOBSCOT AND PISCATAQUIS FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Exeter, Maine

# 74th ANNUAL EXETER FAIR

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Sept. 13, 14 and 15, 1927

**PREMIUMS OPEN TO PENOBSCOT AND PISCATAQUIS COUNTIES**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th--1:00 P. M.

Pulling Horses, open to State of Maine

Pulling Horses, 2800 Lbs. and Over. ....	Purse \$50.00
Pulling Horses, Under 2800 Lbs. ....	Purse \$50.00
Purses divided: \$25.00, \$15.00, and \$10.00	Entrance Fee: Free

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th--1:00 P. M.

2:16 Class, Pace--2:13 Class, Trot. ....	Purse \$200.00
2:22 Class, Pace--2:19 Class, Trot. ....	Purse \$200.00
2:26 Class, Pace--2:23 Class, Trot. ....	Purse \$200.00

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th--10:00 A. M.

Free For All Pulling Horses, open to State of Maine. .... Purse \$200.00

Purse divided: \$100.00, \$50.00, \$35.00, \$15.00

1:00 P. M.

Free For All Pace or Trot. ....	Purse \$200.00
2:20 Class, Pace--2:17 Class, Trot. ....	Purse \$200.00
2:17 Class, Pace--2:14 Class, Trot. ....	Purse \$200.00

### PRICES OF ADMISSION EACH DAY

Gate, Adults. .... \$ .50	Children under 10 yrs. admitted free
Automobiles. .... \$ .50	Grandstand. .... \$ .50

GRANGE EXHIBIT--First prize, \$50.00. Second prize, \$40.00. Third prize, \$35.00. Fourth prize, \$30.00. Fifth prize, \$25.00. Sixth prize, \$20.00

Kenduskeag Valley Jersey Breeders Association will exhibit.

Grand Calvacade of all Premium animals on the track in front of Grand Stand, Wednesday and Thursday.

Pine Tree Amusement Company will furnish Merry-Go Round, Ferris Wheel and other rides. Horse Pulling Tuesday.

Horse Racing Wednesday. Horse Pulling and Racing, Thursday.

Music by the Corinna Band.

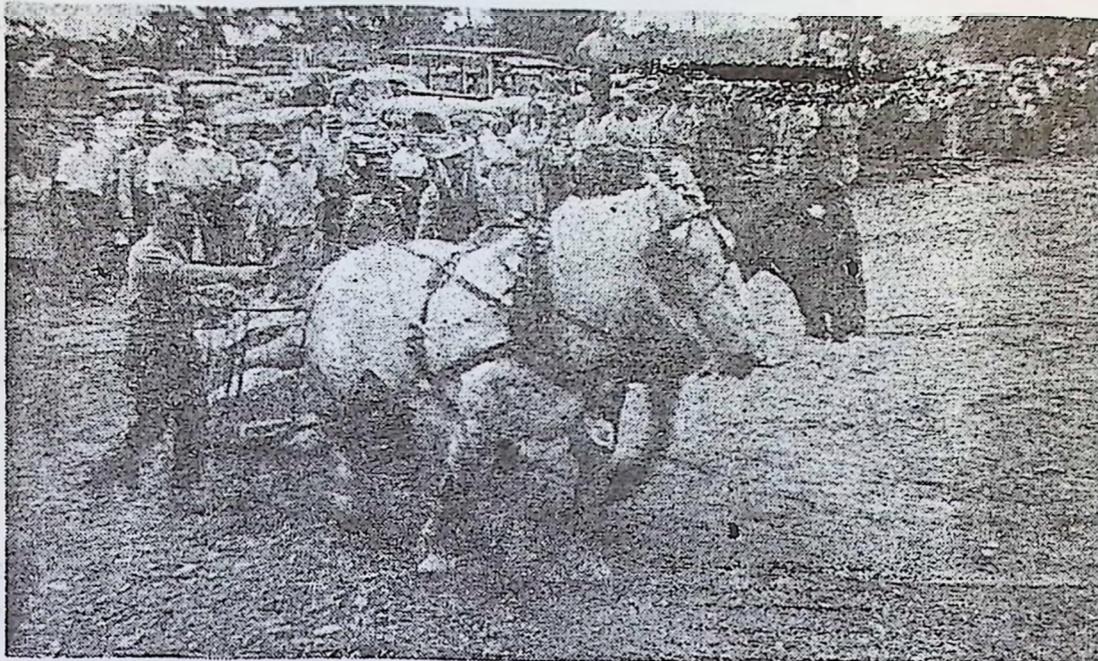
All premiums open to Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties, entries for premiums to be made with Carl R. Smith, Secretary, Exeter, Maine.

Entries for the Horse Racing, close Sept. 3rd., and should be made with F. W. Hill, General Superintendent, 64 Third Street, Bangor, Maine.

C. J. Trickey, President, Corinna, Maine; Maurice A. Peabody, Treasurer, Exeter, Maine; Carl R. Smith, Secretary, Exeter, Maine; C. R. Buswell, Supt. Draft Horses and Live Stock.

C. J. TRICKEY, Corinna )	} Directors
C. R. BUSWELL, Exeter )	
F. W. HILL, Bangor )	

F. W. HILL, 64 Third Street, Bangor, Maine. General Superintendent of Grounds and Race



Hundreds of spectators from towns throughout Maine gathered at Exeter Fair Grounds Saturday to witness three classes of horse-pulling. Shown above are "Hap" Robinson and Charles Robinson with their team which participated in the opening contest. (Staff photo by Landry)

## Leighton Of Stetson Horse-Pulling Winner

BY HORACE P. LANDRY

Exeter—Beginning their Independence holiday days early hundreds of recreation seekers gathered at the Fair Grounds Saturday to witness some of the greatest horse-pulling contests ever staged in Central Maine. Don Leighton of Stetson took first money in the opening class of 2 pounds of rock to a pound of horse, when his team dragged the load 767 feet and 11 inches in the allotted time.

Under the direction of Raynor Crosman, 25 teams took part in the first horse-pulling class, 14 in the 3200 class and five teams in the sweepstakes. Warren Strout of Hudson and A. E. Tracy of Garland took first money, respectively, in these classes.

Homer Gordon's sound system of Dexter carried a round-by-round description of the contests to the throng in the grandstands and midways.

The program was highlighted in the evening by one of the most fascinating displays of fireworks ever shown on the grounds. Powerful colored sky rockets shot high into the dark night for more than an hour. Rosario T. Sabetta was in charge of this event.

## Exeter ConTRAPtion Snares 40-Lb. Bruin

BY MRS. A. E. GRINDELL

Lester Palmer of Exeter, a successful truck gardener, had his fondest dreams come true up in the Lily Bay section of the state when he trapped a 400-pound black bear in a home-made trap.

Mr. Palmer, who for years has never given up hope of some day bagging old bruin, informed this writer that he had tried every kind of trap that is on the market without success. He said it was more in the act of desperation that he constructed this "Booby Trap" that has enriched Mr. Palmer's sister with a beautiful set of furs.

The Palmers are a trapping family. Only a few months ago Mr. Palmer's eldest daughter, Edith, came into the news by trapping enough beaver to purchase her wedding trousseau.

After looking at Palmer's trap, we asked him if he planned on obtaining a patent on the contraption and Lester smiled saying, "That would be a good idea, but I'm afraid I couldn't make another one. I forgot how I made that one!" On a second look we agreed with him. Yes, Sir. The Palmers are a trapping family!

### EXETER

Mr. Eugene Walker of Woodfords was a guest at the Lyman Leighton home during the week of Exeter fair. Saturday, Sept. 20, Mr. and Mrs. Leighton, Mrs. Florence Bassett and Mr. Walker motored to Plymouth where they visited their cousin, Mrs. C. E. Parker for the day, leaving Mr. Walker to return to his home later.

Mrs. Mattie White is in Plymouth, where she is principal of Plymouth High school. Mrs. Pearl Snow her sister, is teaching in Corinna.

Several Exeter citizens attended the fair last week at Kendusken.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Brockway motored to Hartland last week to attend the fair.

A sermon of unusual interest was given at Exeter Mills Hall, Sunday p. m., Sept. 24th by Rev. B. F. McIntire, who is a pleasing speaker and brings many scriptures to his home to each one. Services will be held each Sabbath at 7:30 a. m. until further notice. He was accompanied by Mrs. McIntire, Mr. and Mrs. Hurdick of Exeter.

The September parish meeting was postponed until the last Wednesday in October which will be the annual election of officers.

Special music was given at the church services Sunday p. m. by C. E. Tibbetts and Mrs. Warren Lucas, accompanied by Cella Tibbetts, piano and Warren Lucas, violin which was greatly enjoyed by the congregation.

Mrs. Cedric Ticey of Boston is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Eaton for a few months while her husband is taking a course of study in Dayton Ohio.

Parishington Normal school. Several Miss Jeanette Buswell is attending East Corinth and Corioth students are attending the school.

Mrs. Edna McLaughlin and children have gone to Bangor where they will



EARLY AFTERNOON arrivals at "Festival '78" at Night Owl of Portland. [Gazette photo - Shank] the Old Exeter Raceway were entertained by

## Guilford man dies of stab wound after apparent fight 5-3-92

GUILFORD - A local man was stabbed to death Friday night, apparently following an altercation with his estranged girlfriend, state police said.

Piscataquis County sheriff's deputies discovered the body of Joey M. Farnham, 29, in the first-floor apartment he shared with Sharon L. Crocker, 33, on North Main Street. Crocker had called police shortly before 8 p.m. to report a fight with Farnham, said state police Detective Sergeant Barry Shuman.

Farnham died of a single stab wound to the chest, apparently from a knife, said Deputy Chief State Medical Examiner Kristin Sweeney. No arrests have been made.

Police obtained a search warrant for the apartment and interviewed neighbors.

The investigation should be finished by midweek, Shuman said, and will then be turned over to the Attorney General's office.

Farnham and Crocker moved into the multi-family house little more than a week ago, Shuman said. Farnham moved out a few days later.

## FESTIVAL '78 PRESENTS

**BILL CHINNOCK**



**JAMES MONTGOMERY**

FESTIVAL '78 Presents

# STEPPENWOLF

JAMES MONTGOMERY-PETER GALLWAY REVUE,

And a host of Others

## IN OUTDOOR CONCERT

### AT EXETER RACEWAY, EXETER, MAINE