

First Penn National State Fair opens Friday

GRANTVILLE — It's now just a matter of a few days before the big top is raised for the Penn National State Fair as it begins its 10-day run on Friday, May 26 thru Sunday June 4.

The actual location of the fair is on 42-acres of land adjacent to Penn National Race Course near here at Exit 28 off of Interstate 81.

There will be exhibit areas for farm machinery and implements, as well as a barnyard area which will house all manner of domestic animals. Following this is the 4-H and Future Farmers of America area. Next is the commercial and industrial exhibit area, where exhibitors will display for the purpose of sale and marketing research new products of some of our country's leading companies, as well as Penn's Agri-Women will sponsor the barnyard during the fair. (See separate story elsewhere in this issue.)

The tent display will feature a variety of farm and barnyard animals, as well as educational agriculture displays.

The family-style fair will feature the James E. Strates Show, an NTPA Sanctioned National Tractor Pull contests offering over \$24,000 in prizes monies, Joie Chitwood's Automobile Thrill Show and a Professional All-American Rodeo.

In addition to thoroughbred horse racing the fair will be highlighted by entertainment provided by country and western star Johnny Paycheck, Vic Genre and the Stone Mansion Band, the gospel singing of the Thrasher Brothers and the U.S. Navy Band "Country Current."

An added feature of the fair, which opens at 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and 12 noon on weekends and holidays is that there is no admission charge.

This year's Penn National State Fair is the first ever, and plans are being made to have one every year hereafter. "We have wonderful plans for it," says Dick Hargraves, who is in charge of directing and organizing the activities.

This year, for example, more than 500 linear feet of exhibit space will be devoted to the exposition of agricultural equipment. In future years that may be expanded.

"We sincerely feel that 1979 will have a fair share of animal shows and larger displays of the domestic arts," Hargraves explained. "We're working with all we have to prove we're here to stay. We're designing an old fashioned family fair in every sense of the word," he concluded.

Following is a detailed schedule of events and activities at the first ever Penn National State Fair.

Friday, May 26, 1978 High School Band and Grads. Day

3:00 p.m. Official Opening Ceremonies James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

3:15 - 5:00 p.m. Penn National High School Band Festival.

7:00 p.m. Johnny Paycheck Show - Grandstand.

7:30 p.m. Thoroughbred Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

9:00 p.m. Johnny Paycheck Show - Grandstand.

Saturday, May 27

Grange Day

12 noon James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

12 - 3:00 p.m. Penn State Grange Talent Contest, Festival - Grandstand.

5:00 p.m. Gospel and Country Showcase - Grandstand; A. Thrasher Brothers, B. Vic Genre & Stone Mansion Band.

7:30 p.m. Thoroughbred Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

8:00 p.m. Gospel and County Showcase.

Sunday, May 28

12 noon James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

1:30 p.m. Thoroughbred Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

7:30 p.m. Auto Racing - Grandstand.

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day

12 noon James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. NTPA Sanctioned National Tractor Pull Session - Grandstand.

1:30 p.m. Thoroughbred Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. NTPA Sanctioned National Tractor Pull Session - Grandstand.

Tuesday, May 30

3:00 p.m. James E. Strates Shoe Open, Exhibits Open.

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. NTPA Sanctioned National Tractor Pull Session - Grandstand.

7:00 p.m. NTPA Sanctioned National Tractor Pull Session - Grandstand.

Wednesday, May 31

Merchants Day

3:00 p.m. James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

4:00 p.m. Professional All-American Rodeo - Grandstand.

7:30 p.m. Thoroughbred Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

8:00 p.m. Professional All-American Rodeo - Grandstand.

Thursday, June 1

Senior Citizens Day

3:00 p.m. James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

3:00 p.m. U.S. Navy Band "Country Currents" in concert - Grandstand. FREE ADMISSION and Senior Citizens promotions.

7:30 p.m. Joie Chitwood Thrill Show - Grandstand, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Chevy Day.

Friday, June 2

Senior Citizens Day

3:00 p.m. James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

3:00 p.m. U.S. Navy Band "Country Currents" - Grandstand.

7:30 p.m. Joie Chitwood Thrill Show - Grandstand, Lebanon, Pennsylvania Chevy Day.

7:30 p.m. Thoroughbred Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

Saturday, June 3

12 Noon James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

2:00 p.m. Joie Chitwood Thrill Show - Grandstand, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Chevy Day.

7:30 p.m. Thoroughbred Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

8:00 p.m. Joie Chitwood Thrill Show - Grandstand Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Chevy Day.

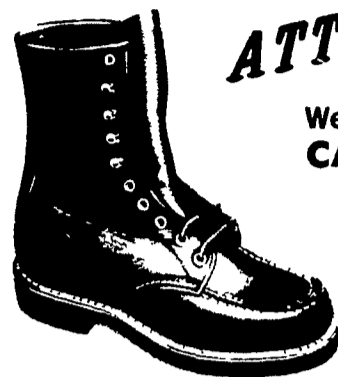
Sunday, June 4

12 Noon James E. Strates Show Open, Exhibits Open.

1:30 p.m. Thoroughbred

Horse Racing - Clubhouse.

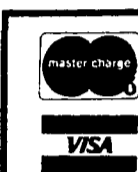
7:30 p.m. Auto Racing - Grandstand.



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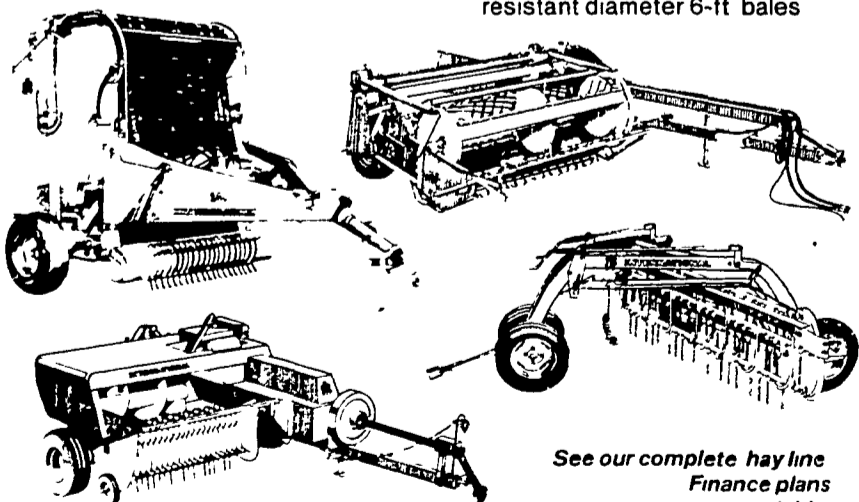
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