

Things That Make The Fairs Go 'Round

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mal evening balls with guests dressed in gowns and top hats allow visitors to revisit the past.

A Conestoga wagon was also on display, and sitting in front were Tom Grasso and Linda Funk. As members of the Conestoga Area Historical Society, it was their intention to acquaint fairgoers with the society and help them visualize the activities of a bygone era.

A collection of hit-and-miss engines and antique farm equipment was displayed in front of the sheds that housed Grandpa's and Grandma's Old Things.

"Each year we change categories," Jason Miller said of the vintage paraphernalia. This year, canning jars and funnels, berry pails, pie boards, and advertising pencils were featured and prizes given.

According to John McMichael, judges select the winning objects based on condition, rarity, and age.

A crowd favorite is watching one of the hit-and-miss engines used to make homemade ice cream. Actually, the crowd probably enjoys eating ice cream more than watching it being made, but it is one of the fascinating demonstrations that merge the past with the future.

Ephrata Fair is billed as Pennsylvania's largest street fair, but in the park several blocks from the street event is Tent City. This is the big attraction, with animal shows, a petting zoo featuring exotic animals and farm animals. Pygmy goats are a recent addition and a crowd pleaser.

Ephrata held its 25th annual pig race and a rooster chase was held for children under seven years of age.

Squeels, greasy muck, and lots of energy are expended during the pig race.



Best of the Show goes to these pom-pom dahlias entered by Mervin Weaver and admired by his wife.

Andrew Gerhart, 11, won this lamb from the Lamb and Wool Growers Association. The 2-month-old Hampshire named Lucky ("because I'm lucky to win") helped Andrew clinch a reserve title at the Ephrata Fair. Andrew raises about 25 head Suffolks on the family's Reinhold's farm. Andrew said that he always preferred Suffolks because the breed hold themselves proudly, but since he won the Hampshire, he is impressed with the breed's mellow, friendly disposition. "Whenever I went to the pen, Lucky was always the first to greet me," Andrew said.



Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr., left, accompanies Chris Herr, deputy ag secretary, and his son Ryan, 4, to the Ephrata Fair Sheep Show.



Tom Grasso admires a restored corn wagon that belongs to the Abram Hess family of Pine View Acres. Lampeter Fair had an extensive display of antique farm equipment, which intrigued fairgoers.



Lloyd and Maxine Flory of Lititz follow the fair circuit to watch their grandchildren show sheep. Now in their 70s, the couple recall sheep shows of the past. Maxine had showed the champion market lamb and pen at the state Farm Show for two years. It brings the couple great pleasure and a bit of nervousness to watch their grandchildren Jen and Jimmy Zimmerman carry on the family tradition. "I think I ought to be in there (show ring), telling them what to do," Maxine said of the long wait for the judge's decision.



As part of the Conestoga Area Historical Society, Tom Grasso and Linda Funk drew Lampeter fairgoers' attentions. A covered wagon is in the background. Two buildings with displays of Grandma's and Grandpa's Old Things were entered by community members and ribbons were awarded based on rarity, age, and condition.



Bob VanderPlate and son Jordan, 13, were recruiting for the Civil War Re-enactment Encampment at Lampeter.