

Dallas's Vanished Fair Was Magnet For Excited Throngs In Long Ago

Town Boomed Lustily Every Fall When Buggies Brought Farmers' Families Into Dallas For Fair

When the sun slants low on these autumn evenings, burnishing the leaves and the harvest stubble, they say you can hear, if you listen carefully, the blurred drumming of horses' hooves and the faint roar of an excited crowd on the weed-grown tract which used to be Dallas' fair ground.

It's the ghostly voice of the past, say the old men who sit in the cooling sun and talk of long ago September, when the air was filled with the dust thrown up by buggy wheels carrying families into town for the big fair.

The Dallas Fair Association was formed back in the middle 1880's. Most of the old records have been lost or destroyed, but the few old-timers still alive place the year of the first fair as 1886.

For weeks before the fair, Dallas braced itself against the invasion, and then, spic and span, it saw the first of the shiny buggies rolling in with Tuesday's dawn, loaded down with folks big and little and all ready for their holiday.

For five days the town would give itself up to the yearly seizure of the carnival spirit. Homes were jammed with guests. Phil Raub's hotel would overflow and the taproom and broad porch under the great elms would be crowded with loose-jointed, brown-cheeked farmers, swapping rural gossip.

Perennial Prosperity

Frantz's and Reese's and Ryman's stores would do a banner business and Ed Van Campen could scarcely handle the number of customers who came in for haircuts. Wall's restaurant became a feverish, frantic place, where hard-pressed waiters strove in vain to breast the tide of hungry patrons.

When rigs had been packed along Main Street, hub to hub, they began to park them in vacant lots and behind buildings, until every inch of space was occupied. B. F. Mott's livery stable was filled early in the week, and farmers were hard put often to find places for their teams.

On Saturday the fair would end and, one by one, the tired, happy visitors would depart, leaving the town strangely lonely and quiet, and with little to talk about but next year's fair.

Now the old fair grounds in East Dallas are overgrown and desolate. The half-mile race track, "best in the country," the oldest recall, has disappeared under the brush and weeds.

The old grandstand (seating capacity 500, but capable, somehow, of holding twice that many) has been torn down.

And nothing is left of the exhibit building—200 feet long and 50 feet wide—or the horse and cattle barns or the old farmhouse.

There are people living in Dallas today who don't know that Dallas ever had one of the biggest fairs in the State.

Lives Only In Memory

The first directors put in enough money to purchase the fair grounds and erect the buildings and race track. Each year the profits of the event, which sometimes were a considerable amount were turned back into improvements to the grounds and other fair expenses.

Nobody is quite sure who made up the first board of directors. But among those who served in the early years of the fair were the late Jeff Honeywell and P. T. Raub, Will Conyngham and his brother, John, the late J. J. Ryman and John T. Hildebrandt. William K. Goss, after whom Goss Manor was named, was active in the Fair Association, as were the late Tom McKeel of Lehman and Penn Kirkendall, Charles D. Gregory, Sr., grandfather of the present Charles, Dwight Wollcott, Zura Hess, Ira Shaeffer and many others.

Sometimes as many as 1,000 exhibitors entered the fair, bringing in load after load of farm produce and scores of fine cows and bulls, sheep and horses and other farm animals.

One of the most prominent horse racers was the late William Bulford, whose horses were driven to

HIMMLER THEATRE

DALLAS, PA.

MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY AT 3

THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

"Andy Hardy Meets Debutante"

with Mickey Rooney
First Chapter—"Adventures of Red Rider"—Cartoon

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

★ DOUBLE FEATURE ★
"Lucky Cisco Kid"

with Cesar Romero
— and —
"I Was An Adventurous"

with Richard Greene

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

"Dark Command"

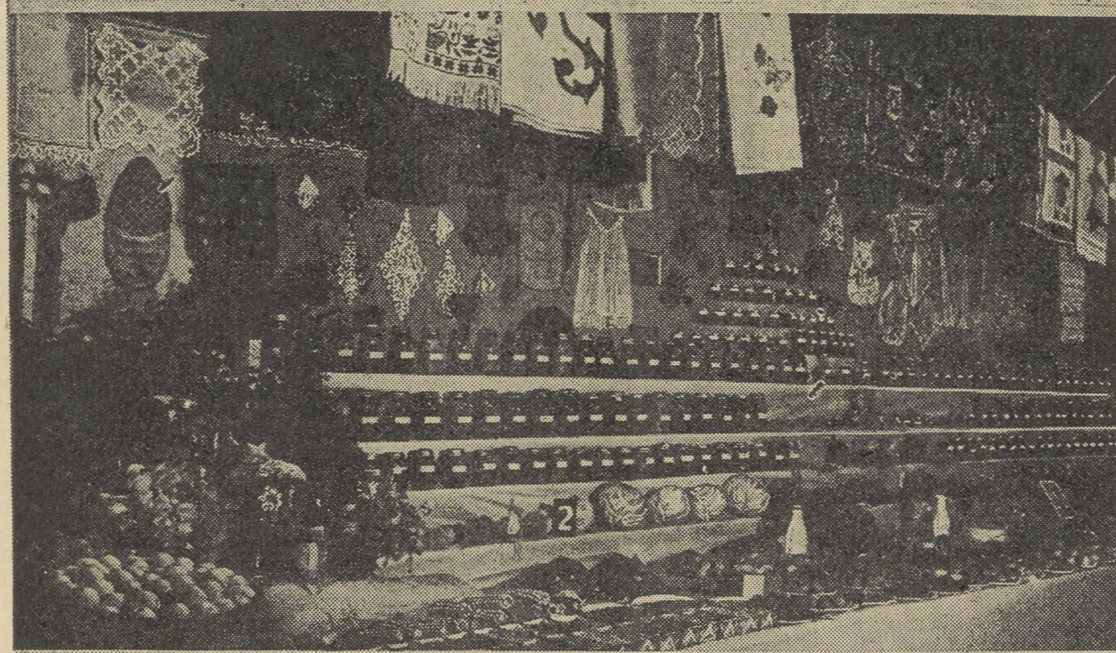
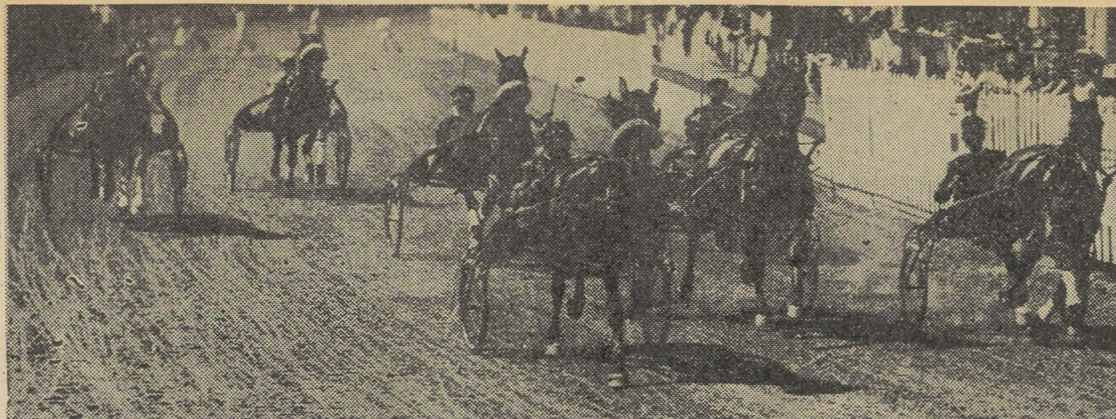
with Claire Trevor and Roy Rogers
Three Stooges Comedy—Fox News

NEXT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

"Maryland"

with Brenda Joyce and John Payne
Cartoon—Serial

"Heigh, Ho! Come to the Fair"



In many Pennsylvania communities the traditional county fair is under way during the late summer and early fall season. Above you see a snappy harness racing scene. In the centre a display of hand-made articles, fruits and jellies—the pride of the housewife. Below a cattle judging scene.

DATE WHEN NEW ROAD WILL BE DONE RESTS WITH WEATHER MAN

How soon Dallas's new \$750,000 boulevard will be finished rests entirely with the weather man.

That's the best answer the State Highway Department and contractors can give to the curious.

Operations have proceeded at creditable speed so far but cold weather could delay completion of the road until next year, since the actual paving cannot be carried on when the temperature drops below 32 degrees.

All efforts will be made to complete the contracts as quickly as possible, but if unseasonable weather delays operations parts of the road may not be paved until next spring.

New Road Is Part Of Vast Program

\$2,000,000 Being Spent On Highways In County

The \$750,000 boulevard which Pennsylvania is building in the Dallas area is a part of a construction program which is giving Luzerne and Wyoming Counties well over \$2,000,000 worth of new concrete roads this year. Norman Johnstone, secretary of Wyoming Valley Motor Club, pointed out yesterday.

That is more than \$700,000 more than the State received from Luzerne County last year for auto registrations and drivers' licenses. There are 24.59 miles of concrete under construction in the two counties now, Mr. Johnstone said.

In addition the State Highway Department has been improving roads in this section, cutting away brush on the curves, erecting new direction and danger signs and repainting the old ones, repairing guard rails and improving highway visibility.

Victory year after year by Marvin Riley, one of the finest horse trainers and racers of his day.

Drew 10,000 Persons

The crowds visiting the fair, which was a five-day affair, lasting from Tuesday through Saturday night, grew steadily each year. Often, daily crowds reached to nearly 10,000.

In its closing years, just before the World War, the Dallas Fair enjoyed its greatest prosperity. One of the last crowds recorded came to well over 9,000 persons. The last Dallas Fair was held in 1918. That year a handful of directors bought out the rest of the stock and sold the grounds to a firm of realtors. It would be difficult to determine exactly what that deal cost Dallas in prestige and business over the last 22 years.

John Frantz was secretary of the last board of directors, which included the late W. B. Robinson, William Bulford, D. P. Honeywell, E. G. Stevens and John Conyngham.

Times play hob with human nature. It used to be that the young blades took their gals for a hay ride and sparked from the right side. Now they "pitch woo" from the left, or wheel, side.

Walter Rau Will Teach At Federalsburg, Md.

Walter Rau, 33 Lake Street, Dallas, has left for Federalsburg, Md., where he will teach fine arts and industrial arts in the Federalsburg high school. Mr. Rau was graduated from Millersville State Teachers' College and also attended Pratt Institute.

Voters Can Register In Town Hall Tuesday

The County Commissioners have fixed next Tuesday as the registration day for Dallas Borough and Dallas Township. Clerks will sit in the borough building on Mill Street to register new voters or to record changes in registration.

Michael Dalachasky

Michael Dalachasky, R. D. 1, Trucksville, died Sunday in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, where he had been a patient since Wednesday.

Pole On Spring Street Broken Off In Crash

A pole of Luzerne County Gas & Electric Corp. at Spring and Machell Streets, Dallas, was broken last Thursday night when it was struck by a car operated by Darwin Roberts of Dallas. Although the automobile was badly damaged, none of the occupants were injured.

THE WYOMING NATIONAL BANK OF WILKES-BARRE, PA.
PERSONAL LOAN SERVICE
\$25 to \$1000
Payments On \$100—
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BLOOMSBURG FAIR
Sept. 23 through Sept. 28

DAY AND NIGHT
40,000 EXHIBITS
GIGANTIC MIDWAY
FREE VAUDEVILLE
SPECTACULAR NIGHT REVUE
EAST'S GREATEST CATTLE SHOW
HORSE RACING—TUES., WED., THURS., FRIDAY
2—THRILL DAYS—2
Tuesday, Sept. 24—Lucky Teter and His Hell Drivers
Friday, Sept. 27—Jimmy Lynch and His Death Dodgers

Auto Races Saturday, September 28
Don't Miss the Barnum of 'em all
ADMISSION 50c DAY—25c NIGHT
PARKING ON THE GROUNDS, 25c
TAX FREE

— Bloomsburg Is The Fair That Grows On Its Merit —

THE GREAT ALLENTOWN FAIR 25¢ Admission
AMERICA'S GREATEST COUNTY FAIR

Spectacular NIGHT REVUE
World's Finest VAUDEVILLE
Thrilling HORSE RACES
Saturday AUTO RACES

Order Your Grand-stand Seats By Mail
WED.-THUR.-FRI.-SAT.
75¢ \$1.00 \$1.50
Mail Orders Filled in Order Received

"ECHOES OF BROADWAY"
with Gae Foster's Roxettes
Elaborate Song and Dance Spectacle..... Every Night
35¢ 50¢ 75¢

LUCKY TETER AND HIS HELL DRIVERS
Friday, Sept. 20

SEPT. 17-18-19-20-21
DAY AND NIGHT

Consult us about your Feminine Needs

ASK FOR **Lanteen** YELLOW

IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS
TRAINED PERSONNEL TO SERVE YOU

- Hot Water BOTTLES 44c
- Douche SYRINGES 89c
- Combination SYRINGES 79c
- Reinforced RUBBER GLOVES 29c
- TAMPAX 29c
- Queet Deodorant Powder 23c
- Mercerex SHAMPOO 45c

LANTEEN
DIAPHRAM SETS and Lanteen Refills
— at —
MINIMUM PRICES

BERT & CO.
CUT-RATE STORE
Next to the postoffice
DALLAS, PENNA.

AUTUMN'S COLORFUL FAIRS AS AMERICAN AS BEANS AND HAM

It's County Fair time in Pennsylvania this month and Grandma is getting out her most beautiful crocheted table cover and her most delicious jar of strawberry jam to vie with many others for blue ribbons and compliments. The State Department of Commerce says that approximately 90 fairs are scheduled to take place this year in every part of the State.

Many families make the fair their annual vacation because it takes several days to see all the displays, races, cattle and poultry judging contests and various other things. Besides, time must be allowed for repeated visits to the midways so that children and adults can ride the merry-go-round and have their fill of pink lemonade, cotton candy and sticky apples.

Much of America is going "back to the farm," and gentlemen farmers of the "station wagon set" and tourists join practical farmers for a gala time at these fairs.

Visitors mustn't miss exhibits of vegetables, fruits, canned goods and handiwork proudly displayed by farmers and their wives. Neat rows of labelled jars of preserves, embroidered doilies and hand-hemmed aprons are carefully watched over by busy women who spend the time talking over domestic happenings with last year's Fair friends. Husbands are busy discussing crops, cattle, and new farm machinery, but manage to get excited over the harness races, too. And there are always hired "acts" of trapeze performers and expert automobile drivers who run cars through flaming hoops to thrill the customers.

And boy usually meets girl at the

POLL OF EDITORS GIVES WILLKIE SLIGHT MARGIN IN SMALL TOWNS OF U. S.

Fifty-two per cent of the rural communities in the United States favor Wendell L. Willkie for President, according to a survey completed this week by The American Press, an organization of small town newspapers.

The editors themselves were even stronger for Willkie than are their readers. Sixty-three per cent of the editors like him, but they granted him only a bare majority of 52 per cent of the votes in their communities.

In Pennsylvania, the editors estimated, 75 per cent of the rural vote will be for Willkie. Four years ago Landon received but 52 per cent of Pennsylvania's rural vote. Ninety per cent of the State's small-town editors favor Willkie.

Fair. He buys her a little bird hanging on the end of a stick, or a cane or wind-wheel which will hang in her room all year to recall memories of fun with the folks from the other part of the county.

SATURDAY Last Day

IT'S THE STORE BEHIND THE SALE THAT COUNTS!

POMEROY'S

1940 SEPTEMBER 1940

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Savings 11 12 13 14

Sale

4 GREAT BARGAIN DAYS

The Greatest Savings Event Of The Fall Season

Six Floors offering hundreds of values in BRAND NEW MERCHANDISE for the home and your family.

- ★ Save Time
- ★ Save Labor
- ★ Save Clothes
- ★ Save Money

With a New **ALLIED SUPER WASHER 40**

YOU SAVE \$20.00 **39.95**

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And \$20 isn't all you save! The oversized 8-pound enameled tub takes extra clothes to help cut washing time. Self-emptying tub and anti-splash rim save work on after laundry clean-up. Gentle Surligator washing action saves clothes, washes faster. Self adjusting wringer helps prevent laundry wear and tear. Oiled for life motor.

• PAY ONLY \$3.95 DOWN
Allied Washers—Fourth Floor