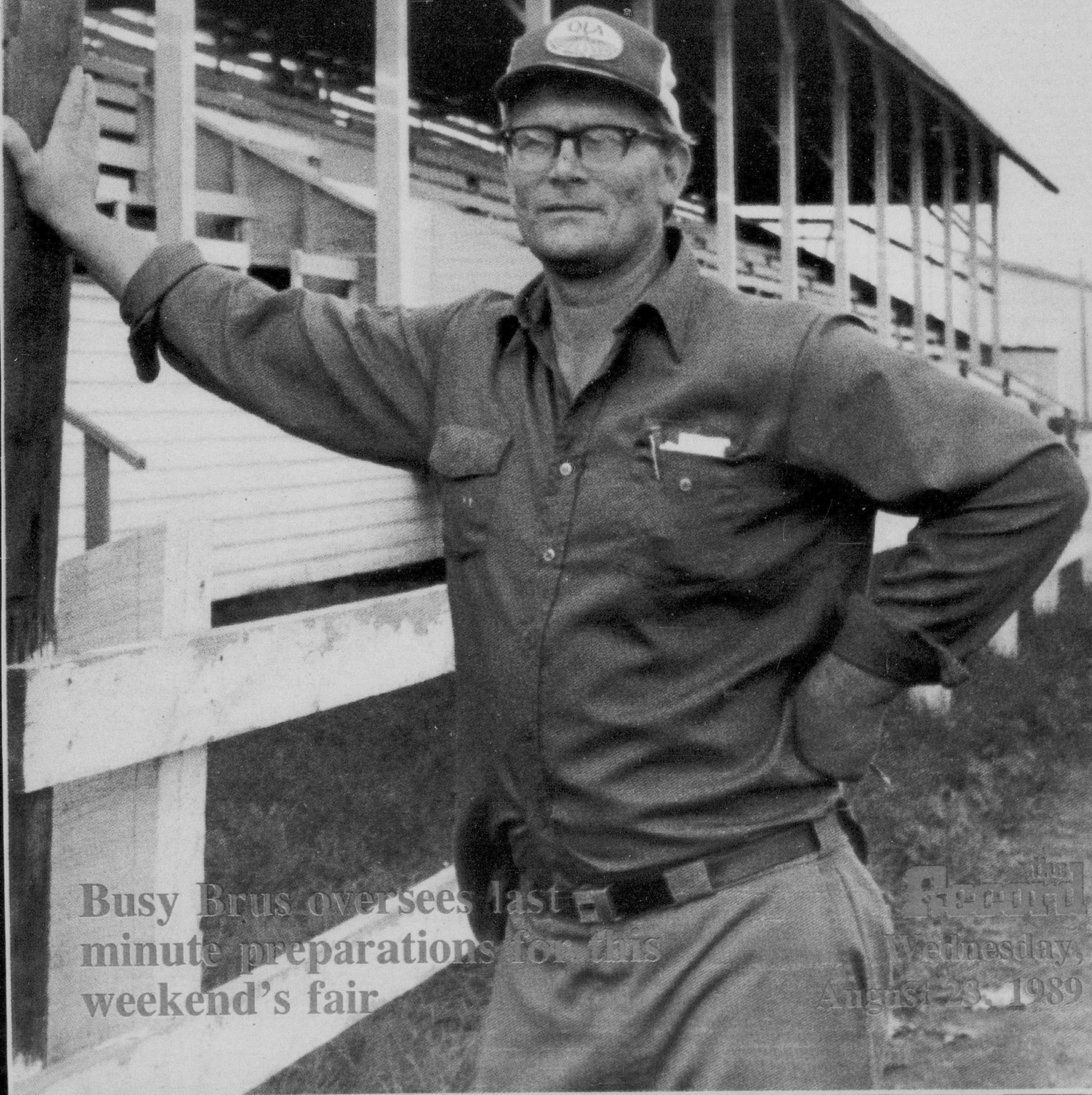


PHOTO/CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

144th Stanstead County Agricultural Exhibition



Busy Brus oversees last minute preparations for this weekend's fair

The Record
Wednesday,
August 23, 1989

'That's right, betting windows'

Low-cost fun and entertainment in store at Ayer's Cliff Fair

By Claudia Villemaire

AYER'S CLIFF — "I feel confident this will be the best fair ever," Stanstead County fair president Steve Brus said, and a look at the program backs up his statement 100 per cent.

Organizers have pulled all the stops this year for the 144th exhibition that began so humbly out on Stanstead Plain so long ago. Today the fairgrounds stand resplendent with brilliant whites on buildings and fences contrasting sharply to the lush green expanse of lawn that is tended all summer by volunteers.

But the new buildings didn't spring up overnight or arrive on the grounds through wishful thinking. "We have an outstanding bank of volunteers and generous friends who have donated uncounted dollars, materials and thousands of hours working at reconstructing almost the entire fairgrounds during the past six or seven years," Brus emphasised. And all the goodwill has paid off.

IMPROVEMENTS

Today, the Expo Centre stands

proud almost in the middle of the grounds, surrounded by improvements that vary from new lighting equipment in front of the grandstand, new fences to ensure better security and crowd control, shelters for Saturday's special guests, the standardbreds, spiffy facilities and completed horse barns that will barely hold all this year's entries in that division.

"We've painted the grandstand seats from one end to the other," Brus added proudly, showing me the results of work done by an energetic group of volunteers, "and we've made a new entrance to the grounds, re-routing traffic to eliminate congestion and speed up movement."

But the big news is in the bang of hammers and whine of saws as they tell the story of a new and exciting event scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

"We are building 12 cashiers windows. That's right, betting windows. Saturday we'll have a regular racing card with eight classi-

fied races and Pari-Mutual betting, the first time the Ministry of Agriculture and the Loto Perfecta people have attempted a kind of road show."

RACE TRACK

The town is buzzing. Folks are scratching their heads and race track fans, long deprived of regu-

lar racing anywhere in the Townships, are honing up their horse-sense skills in preparation for this outstanding event.

Rumors are running wild. "Could it be they're thinking finally of bringing regular racing and pari-mutual betting back to the Townships. Or maybe it's a test to

see if this type of well-regulated racing could be equipped and moved about in the region during the summer racing season?"

No one knows for sure, but the folks at the Cliff have their instructions, entries have been pouring in, and by Wednesday noon, screening

See SOME, page 3



Steve Brus, fair president, Leslie Webster and Maurice Roderigue take a break from their work during fair preparations.



Kids' Costume and Pony show is one of the favorite attractions with young and old during Ayer's Cliff fair.

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For the first time:

Some horse races and betting add spice to this year's party

Continued from page 2.

and classifying, getting the racing program organised and printed was well started.

So regular horse racing comes to the Stanstead County Expo this year, a guaranteed drawing card. Competitors will travel in from all over Quebec, putting on display

some of the finest and fastest horseflesh ever seen here. The president encourages folks to come out early, "I'm sure this grandstand will be full to bursting," he added.

SPECIAL TREAT

But there's so much more too. Those folks out there have tried to think of everything. "Saturday

night, we've a very special treat planned. The Carleton Show Band is the evening show. I think just about everyone knows them and they haven't been around for a while. So we're expecting a large crowd out for that too," Brus said.

Entertainment is the key this year with yet another surprise in

store — the return of the Hell Drivers on Sunday evening. "They always seem to bring great crowds too so we'll have them close the fair again this year."

There's another new event that has opened the fair for three years now. The Ladies Jello Wrestling is scheduled for Thursday evening in front of the grandstand and the order is in for gallons of the sticky stuff for the annual dunking. It's all in good fun with lots of encouragement from the stands and helps get the fair off to a rousing start.

BILLY LAVERS

Country music is the theme, and Billy Lavers with his show will be giving his best every day of the fair. A little bird has whispered that Beebe's Doug Davis of recent Haskell Opera House fame in Derby Line will be around to entertain too so C&W fans should have no complaints.

Another rumor tells me Minister of Agriculture Michel Pagé will be on hand for the official opening on Friday evening at 8 p.m. And yet another story has the minister circulating around the fair on Satur-

day, perhaps trying his hand at the betting windows too. Officials from every corner of the fair region have been invited to attend Friday and organisers are promising an impressive evening and an auspicious opening.

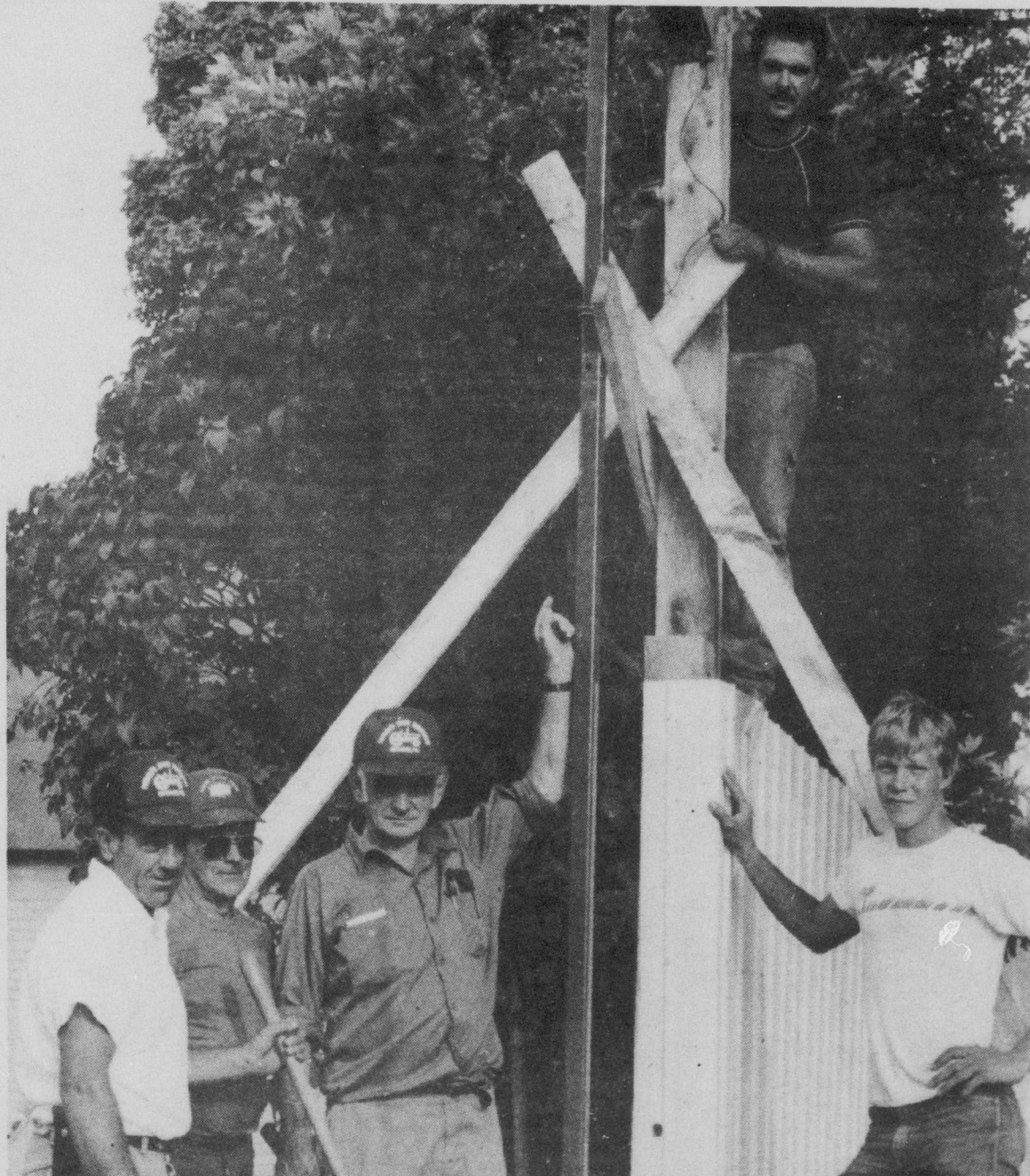
The BIG news is the cost of all this fun and frolic. "We have one admission price and that's it," said Brus. "It will cost \$4 to get on the grounds, park your vehicle and choose whatever entertainment suits you. There's no extra charge for any of the big shows such as the racing or the Carleton Show Band. That \$4 does the trick. People can spend money on food or games of chance, but midway rides are included in the admission price too."

"Actually we feel that's the best price any fair can offer. I don't think you could find this kind of entertainment, information and good old-fashioned hospitality anywhere else at that price," Brus emphasised.

Even better news is the cost of a weekend pass. For \$8, folks can come and go as they please from Thursday through 'til Sunday. "Now that's hard to beat," the president added.



All in good fun, women's Jello Wrestling comes back for more at this year's Ayer's Cliff fair.



Some of the busy people getting grounds ready for Ayer's Cliff fair: Hubert Smith, Jimmy Bellows, Richie Harrison, Tom Bellows and Ted Brus.

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'We won a championship with this one'

Goat breeder Susan Sarrasin: It's a business that takes heart

By Claudia Villemaire

WATERVILLE— You follow the Coaticook river for a while as it winds through Huntingville. But watch out, we're looking for McVetty Road, right near the old covered bridge that leads off to the hills on the left. This is where we turn right, climb a sharp hill past farmsteads, take a quick look at the panorama that's unfolding behind us and — we're at the gate.

Today we'll visit Susan Sarrasin and her kids. Well, that's partly right — they are kids, but not what you're probably thinking. These are the four-legged variety that can't seem to take two sedate steps in a row without giving a twitchy

little leap and a plaintive bleat or two.

That's right. We're talking about goats and their babies, winsome creatures that any soft-hearted person would be hard put to part with. As a matter of fact, they're almost like members of the family at the Sarrasin farm.

HARD HEARTED

"We have over 60 right now," Susan pointed out. "I only raise kids for market, what you'd call a commercial meat operation although that sounds much too hard hearted for me. The kids go to market with hardly a taste of grain — they are raised to market weight on their mother's milk and if

there's some left, it goes to Bobby's (Susan's husband) calves or my lambs," she said.

"We try to keep the business side separate," said Bobby. "Susan even has a share in the haybine — I do her haying for her, and the goats and sheep are her babies."

"It's the only way to keep accurate records of what is happening in such a mixed farming operation," Susan explained.

The Sarrasins run a dairy herd of Holsteins, a few sheep, the goat flock and five geese, they tell me with a smile.

"Most days I wish I could figure out a way to get rid of them," Sue said laughing, but there is a serious

side to keeping those talkative geese around. "We got the first pair when we brought in the first two goats. People told us they made good watch 'dogs' and you know, they were right."

GOOD WATCH DOGS

When the Sarrasins pastured the goats across the road from the house, the geese were never far away and anyone who has encountered a watchful gander in the dead of night can tell you they are indeed very good watch 'dogs'.

Most goat breeders agree it takes an average of seven does to equal the production of one average Holstein cow. But they are quick to add that goats, like cows,

vary in both their production of milk and the fat content of that milk. And anyone can figure out that a high-producing doe that gives good, rich milk will raise her kids faster and better than one with a lower yield.

"A good average is a couple of gallons a day," Bobby said. "And there are several breeds to choose from, depending what you want to do with them."

Susan seems to favor the Nubian, a fairly large animal with long, droopy ears. "They are pretty quiet, good mothers and producers. But we keep quite a variety," she said, pointing out pure Swiss,

See BETWEEN, page 5.

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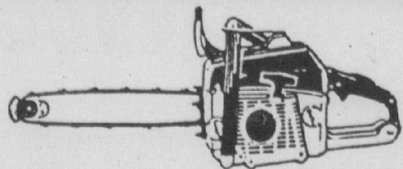
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A commercial meat operation may sound hard hearted, but goat breeder Susan Sarrasin considers the animals she breeds her pets.

'It sure makes it harder to part with them'

Between goats and geese, raising this kind of kid can be fun

Continued from page 4.

Toggenburg and Saaenen.
RESULTS SHOW

The flock is treated royally at the Sarrasins and the results show in their sales of production stock and the ribbons and trophies they've collected through the years at exhibitions in the region.

"We won a championship with this one," Sue said, stroking a slick black doe that didn't mind the attention at all. "This is Bewitched and here's Blaze another prize winner."

They all have names and the older does know them well. "This year I'm using flower names, next year it will be something else. But

names are important as every kid is fed by hand. When you have this type of operation where the kids stay with the mothers until market day, you probably will have trouble handling your animals. They're just not used to people. This way, I handle them from the moment they are dropped and every one is a pet. I think they do better, but it sure makes it harder to part with them."

Susan uses the sponge method of bringing on and controlling the heat cycle. "Goats are like sheep. They only accept the buck when the daylight hours begin to decrease in the fall. So, I leave the lights on all the time in November

and December, then I shut out the lights gradually until their daylight time is very shortlived. That brings them into cycle and I can breed with the Christmas market in mind. Using sponges and bringing on the estrus cycle with hormones in the spring means I can have kids ready for the Christmas rush — and that's the best market."

DEMAND EXCELLENT

All the kids go to St. Hyacinthe through the regular ranks of auction and slaughter. "Demand is excellent and prices have risen constantly the past years," Bobby admitted.

Apparently goats are something like real estate. The doe you paid \$40 for two or three years ago will sell for three times that amount if she's still in reasonable shape now. Prices of purebred and replacement stock have rocketed to nearly \$300 sometimes — incredible when one remembers you couldn't give a goat away not so long ago.

Susan added there's quite a demand for them as pets too. "And the old taboos about smelly billy goats is gradually decreasing.

"It's true that some breeds seem to be smellyer than others and I admit a buck has some kind of strange and rather perverted habits that don't help matters any," she explained. "But keeping them in top physical condition helps too. I clip every animal all over, keep a

close watch on their health every day and clip their hooves twice a month. They are wormed four times per year and every goat is inoculated against white muscle disease. In other words, if you take care of them as you would any other animal, they'll produce milk and kids for up to 12 or 15 years while you have a good time with them too."

This week will bring just a short rest for the Sarrasin flock. By Thursday, they'll be preened and shining, poking their heads through the slats in their temporary home at the Ayer's Cliff Fair, forever curious and always friendly. Just be careful if you're wearing a straw hat and want to whisper sweet nothings in their ear. They love to nibble.



Susan Sarrasin loves her pet goats but she also has her mind on business.

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'We can realize a profit with some careful management'

Local association turns goat breeding into success story

By Claudia Villemaire

WATERVILLE — Susan and hubby Bobby Sarrasin have turned a hobby into a profitable business, helped found an association that groups other breeders in the East-

ern Townships and have played an important role in bringing their caprin (goat) operation into public view through their home fair, Stanstead County Expo at Ayer's Cliff, as well as many others.

What started out as an experi-

ment turned into a profitable adventure for the Sarrasins, namely Susan who lays claim to the goat operation. This type of production could be feasible for almost anybody interested in animals who is stopped dead by the high cost, strict regulations and production controls in more common agricultural productions such as milk, pork or poultry and eggs.

CAREFUL MANAGEMENT

"We can realize a profit with some careful management," admitted Susan Sarrasin. "And lately, I've been experimenting with getting three kid crops in two years. The Christmas market is especially good, so, by aiming the largest production in that direction, we are able to realize a nice profit selling market weight kids. That's right around 30 pounds," she explained.

Bobby attributes the increasing demand for kid and goat meat to an influx of immigrants from Third World countries where this type of food has been a major part of their animal protein diet. "They even ask for older goats, saying they like them better and believe me, that's fine with us," he laughed.

But make no mistake, this is a serious business. At one time, some producers wanted to explore the possibilities of dairy products. They worked hard to find, finance and equip a goat's milk and cheese operation. But the producers themselves found the equipment too cos-

tly compared to the returns, so the idea faded away along with many breeders.

HARD WORK

"We felt there was a market for meat, and by dint of hard work and promotion, we've been able to get fairly well established as meat producers. That means we don't need all the fancy equipment, the cost of producing meat is much less than milk for the table trade and as a result, the demand for replacement stock has helped keep prices for animals on the rise," Sue said.

So, they found other breeders — now fast friends — who agreed there was a future in goats and they formed the Eastern Townships Goat Breeders Association. They're a keen lot who love and care for their animals as though they were family members. And for many, a high point of the year is getting out to one or two exhibitions where interest in these ingenious little beasts has won the hearts of fair visitors.

"Last year there were 67 goats and kids at Ayer's Cliff Expo and they expect more this year. The Association sort of homed-in on the Cliff fair and took it upon themselves to clean-up and dress up their little corner," Susan told us.

HOSPITALITY BARN

Apparently the sheep and goat stable is now known as the Hospitality Barn where friendly exhibitors greet visitors quite often with welcome smiles and a bit of refres-

hment as they introduce their animals. Imaginations run rampant all summer long dreaming up decorations for this jolly corner and the whole family gets involved with astounding results.

"We have a variety of classes for children and kids and of course the more serious fair classes. But a great showing pleaser has been the costume class for kids and kids (baby goats, that is) where anything goes. As a matter of fact, the class has become so popular we'll be holding it this year in front of the grandstand on Sunday at 12:30. That change has given us a tremendous sense of importance, being considered interesting enough to show right up front. That's pretty Big Time stuff!"

And they've taken out the buck classes. That means no smelly 'billy goats' in the stable putting a damper on everyone's fun.

"We're also trying to improve our animals' image. Exhibitors have started trimming their show flock, clipping carefully both coats and hoofs. A little careful sculpting around the tail and head gives a new view to the lowly goat and admiration is growing as each year brings more visitors to our showing and stable," Sue added.

The welcome mat is out at the Ayer's Cliff fair. Judging is Friday, the costume class for kids and kids is Sunday at around noon, and there's a warm welcome in the Hospitality Barn all weekend.

Welcome to the Ayer's Cliff Fair!



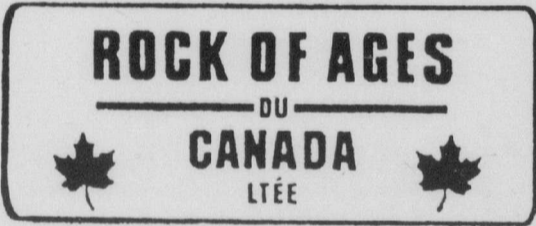
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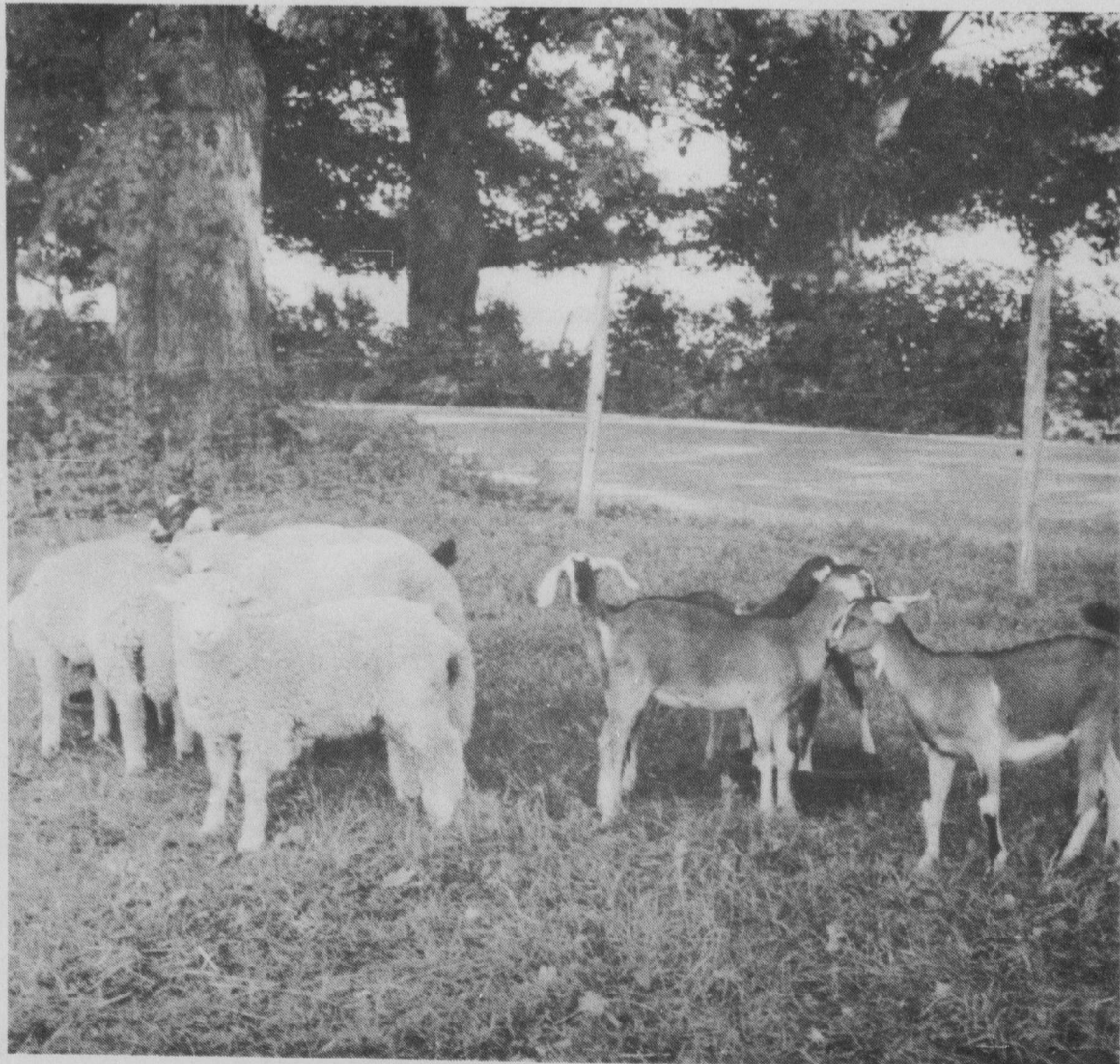
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Goats make it Big Time with centre ring show at this year's Ayer's Cliff Fair.

'I have learned a great deal talking to other fair people'

Stanstead agricultural group keeps afloat with busy beaver

By Claudia Villemaire

AYER'S CLIFF — They say if you want to get something done in a hurry, the best method is to find the busiest person around and give them the job.

That's what the Stanstead County Agricultural Society did when they chose Janie Webster as their secretary.

Everyone knows Janie. If there's music in the air, you'll probably find Janie at a piano, willing to sit for hours and tickle the ivories, playing those golden oldies along with current favorites, and pleasing one and all.

The Webster reputation as a cook is also known far and wide. As a matter of fact, Janie's first appearance at the Ayer's Cliff Fair was in the Ladies Department and Horticultural Society side of things.

PLAYING WITH FIGURES

"They didn't take long to figure out how much I liked playing with figures and doing that all important book work. First thing I knew they had handed me the official title of secretary for the Horticulture Society," she said.

And that was only the beginning. Janie has been behind the fair secretary's desk for two years now and loves every minute of it.

"But there sure is lots of work," she laughs while husband Leslie nods quietly in the background. This year, with plans for the first-ever pari-mutual racing program, the secretary has had to shoulder more forms to be filled, more telephone calls and more people stopping by to ask just about the same questions over and over again.

The Websters are dyed-in-the-cloth fair people. "When we're not busy here," (Leslie always seems to turn up when volunteers are needed and often even brings along Maurice, his own employee) "we're never at home. That's right, we love to get on the road and visit other fairs as far away as our budget will take us," Webster laughed.

BIG E

Their travels have taken them to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto several times, the BIG E in Springfield and odd and sundry county and regional exhibitions in-between.

"I have learned a great deal talking to other fair people," Janie admits. "I guess we shop-talk quite a bit but that helps folks from outside the region too. Lots of times, we meet people who've never heard of Ayer's Cliff and believe me, we soon fill them in on where we're from. Quite often, folks we meet from other corners of the Townships and even across the border turn up at the fair and that's what promotion is all about really."

"I'm still taking entries and it's a wonder to me where committee chairpeople are putting everybody. I know there are 190 horse stalls and I also know I've accepted 225 entries and turned away at least 50. And that's not counting the standardbreds that will be here for the races on Saturday," she added.

ENTRIES ARE UP

Cattle exhibits are bursting facilities as well with nearly 250 Holsteins registered in that division alone. Beef cattle entries are up over last year along with goats and

poultry.

"Entries are still coming in for the flowers and vegetables and the Ladies Building with their excellent show of handwork and crafts is also filled right up" Janie said.

But the Websters do find time for other things. They raise beef on their mountainside farm near Beebe, Leslie promotes and sells farm tractors and machinery for Dave Picken Enterprises in Waterloo and they are cat and dog lovers with a variety of pets at home to prove the point.

Although Janie's family were town people, going to the fair was a must every year, while Leslie followed his father and the family horses to fairs for years.

"It got into my blood at an early age," Janie says, "and I never got over it. You know we think fairs are important. They bring folks from all over and every walk of life together for a good time. I know lots of folks who wouldn't miss going to the fair for any money."

Leslie agreed underlining the importance of a fair to the farming community. "We were talking about promotion a while ago. Well, this is where the farmer gets his or her chance to show off what they do and compare their work with other producers. There's no way either the participants or the visitors could get more for their money," Leslie said.

"I met Leslie (or maybe he met me) one night at a dance where I was playing the piano. Two years later he caught me (I think he thinks that). That was 1965 — a lot of busy years ago."

The Websters are a team. Leslie

and his man Maurice will be on the grounds all this week, helping wherever they're needed. Janie is hidden away in the new office where forms in duplicate and triplicate, ledgers, judges books, exhibitors' cards, trophies and prize ribbons vvy with each other and the piles of fair books and programs for a bit of space.

But this lady is cool. "I love fairs and I love my job. I don't have time for mischief, but that's not so bad and somehow, everything get's

done," she said.

We talked on Tuesday over a supper of chicken and things. Time flew by unnoticed until Leslie said rather pointedly, "I know that dog back at the house needs to go outside and we'd better get home soon. He don't answer the phone worth a damn or I could ring him up and tell him to hang on."

That pretty well ended the visit and everyone got back to their priorities.

Welcome to the Ayer's Cliff Fair

Ron & Linda Smith, prop.

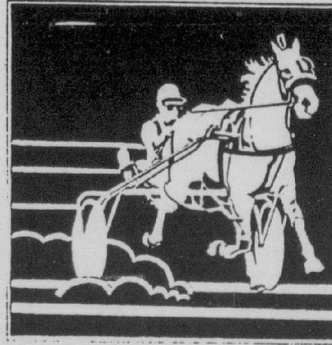
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Janie Webster is the busy secretary for the Stanstead County Agricultural Society.

It's becoming an important tradition each year during the theatre season.

Piggery Theatre holds sixth Country Arts and Craft Show

By Claudia Villemare

NORTH HATLEY — The Piggery Theatre here in the hills that tumble down to Lake Massawippi is putting on a country craft fair this weekend — a kind of summer celebration that brings out arts

and crafts of every description to this annual event.

"You know, it's the ideal occasion for folks who want to make a well-rounded out weekend to tell their friends about," Joan Drinkwater, chairman of the orga-

nizing committee and president of the Piggery Theatre Association said in an interview this week.

"There's the great Ayer's Cliff Fair, going on all weekend, our craft show all day Saturday and Sunday, and all the little events and stopping places between that put the cap on a super weekend," she added.

The Country Craft Fair, now in its sixth year, is part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Piggery Theatre and fast becoming an important tradition each year during the theatre season.

FILLS COFFERS

This weekend's display of arts and crafts will cover everything from soup to nuts, Drinkwater said, pointing out the importance this fundraising event is to the Theatre's coffers.

"Every penny we raise goes to the Piggery," she said.

The group charges \$2 admission and combined with the table rental for the event

"We are able to add quite a nice little nest egg to the Theatre funds," she said. "We get some government help, but much of the fund raising is up to us so we try very hard to bring a wide and different variety of artisans and craftsman out each year."

This year, about 65 per cent of the participants are new.

"We are a juried event," Drinkwater added. "That means we choose who comes out with their wares and now we find people requesting a chance to come to this show with their work."

That means there's a definite standard or quality that is consistent every year — and that makes for satisfied customers all around, Drinkwater said.

FOLK ART

So, for folks out scouting those rambling hills, looking for a little treasure to take home or perhaps thinking ahead to the Christmas rush — it's not that far away — there will be quilts by the Wintles, pottery and ceramics, wooden toys and folk art and even a snack counter featuring homemade goodies to help visitors relax and enjoy.

"The event also gives first-time visitors a look at the theatre where they'll find locally made pottery on display and an art exhibition by Antonia Mitchell in the theatre lobby," Drinkwater added.

"We have wonderful support from the community. The Piggery was designed to introduce theatre to folks in the region at the same time encouraging amateur and aspiring actors and actresses to join

See CRAFTS, page 9.

BEST WISHES TO THE AYER'S CLIFF FAIR

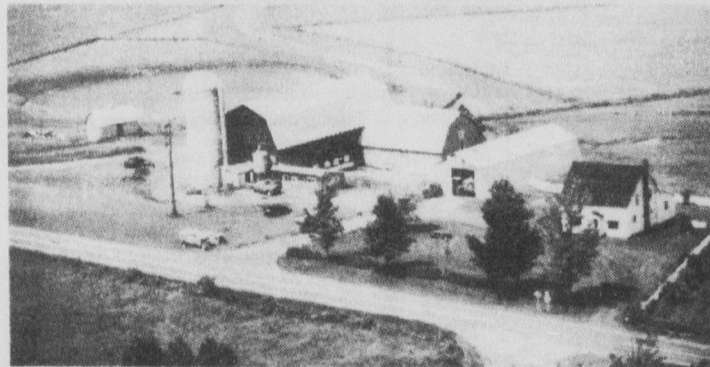
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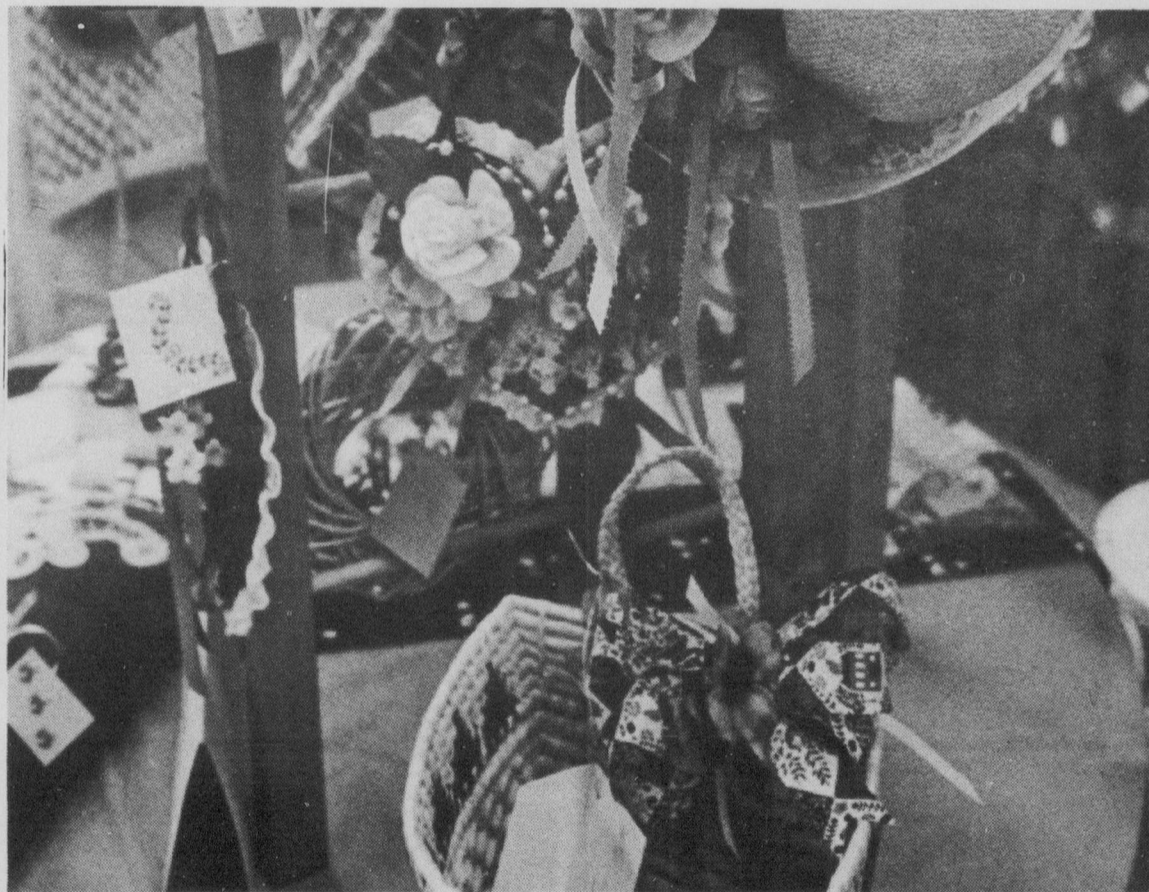
WITH BEST WISHES TO THE
AYER'S CLIFF FAIR.



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From pottery to pot pourri and ceramic to folk art the Piggery show has it all.



Piggery board members Joan Drinkwater and Patricia Norris fill in details on country arts fair.

'We are able to add quite a nice little nest egg to the Theatre funds'

Crafts fair helps local summer theatre fill its coffers

Continued from page 8.

the troupe. We have evolved into almost professional theatre — we're presenting highly acclaimed

plays with good revues and great attendance and support for this theatre has gained slowly through the years," she added.

The crafts fair will be set up in the building close by the theatre and hours begin in the morning and close at 5 p.m. Saturday and

Sunday.

So, if you're in an exploring mood and there are a couple of hours which could be spent following Eastern Townships byways, why not meander over the hills, enjoy the beautiful farming region that supports the Stanstead County

Fair at Ayer's Cliff and wind up in North Hatley at the Piggery where a different kind of surprise is waiting.

That's the Country Arts and Craft Show at the Piggery Theatre this weekend, Saturday and Sunday.



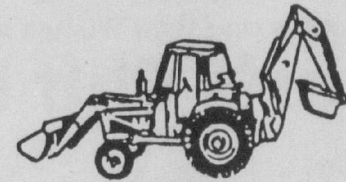
A different kind of surprise is waiting for you at the Piggery's crafts fair.

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Best Wishes to the Ayer's Cliff Fair



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From jello wrestling to the 4H Pee-Wee parade

There's plenty of fun for everyone at Ayer's Cliff fair

By Claudia Villemaire

AYER'S CLIFF — There's no place like a busy fair when you just can't decide what to do for excitement.

Ayer's Cliff expo organisers

know this and their program is filled from dawn to well after dark with a variety of activities, sights to see and entertainment to enjoy.

They get right down to the business of having fun by persuading

brave and daring local damsels to jump into a jello bath, (that's right, wiggly, squiggly jello,) and wrestle.

This is the third year the event is scheduled and so far, fair president Steve Brus usually gets just a little too close and finds himself taking a jello swim too. It's all in fun with losers not any worse off than winners when the final bell rings. This event gets underway Thursday evening at 7:30.

Friday is the first real fair day with heavy and light horses making their first appearance in the showing at 9 a.m.

BREAK TIME

Noon is break time and Billy Lavers, a one-man country music band begins his stint as main entertainer for the duration.

Friday afternoon, the traditional Wool Queen contests begins at 1. Contestants in this event must be dressed in garments that give an idea of the versatility of sheep's wool and are accompanied by a sheep on a lead line. Costumes are up to the contestants and variety is the name of the game.

Then local youngsters get a chance to prove how fleet-of-foot they are in races and games planned just for them.

The 4H Pee-Wee parade follows with winners from the tots classes showing off their animals and ribbons.

At 3:30, it's tug of war time and everyone is urged to form their teams early. The afternoon tug is for boys and girls and there's another for the adults at 8:30 in the evening.

Agriculture Minister Michel Pagé will officially open the fair at 7:30 after touring the grounds. Then heavy horse classes and the men's and women's tug-of-war is on. Music and dancing goes on all evening in the beer tent, just a stone's throw from the grandstand.

Saturday is the big racing day at Ayer's Cliff fair.

PARI MUTUAL BETTING

There are eight races on the card and pari-mutual betting will be available for the first time. That means a full afternoon of racing for Eastern Townships fans of the sport of kings.

Of course, sandwiched in-between heats there'll be Billy Lavers and his music, the 4H calf club parade and at 4 — a special farm hitch called the unicorn as well as the four-horse hitch competition.

Then another big feature at the '89 expo is the appearance of the Carleton Show Band, those Irish balladeers so well known from their years on the *Pig and Whistle* show as well as frequent appearances at local events.

Sunday afternoon is a favorite for thousands as the Coatcook Majorettes lead off the cattle, horse and farm machinery parade. Then Ayer's Cliff Fair puts on their unique obstacle course competition for heavy horses hitched to farm wagons.

Last week at Cookshire, teams slithered and slipped around sharp corners, reluctantly back wagons through the mud into a narrow wedge and thundered across the finish line, mud and water flying, teamsters leaning into wind and rain and keeping spectators glued to their damp seats in the excitement. It's a great event, a favorite with the contestants and the spectators.

FINAL CURTAIN

Then, as the sun slowly goes down a third day on the fair, so does the final curtain. But not without all the thrills and daring of the Hell Drivers Show. Other years, this act has put on their death defying stunts for a packed grandstand.

It's been a while since they have closed the fair with their usual verve so this year, they'll be back.

Should be fun to see them again as they tear around the track on two wheels and methodically land on or leap over a mountain of total wrecks with an air of both professional precision and daring-do. The show starts at 8 p.m.

We haven't mentioned a word so far about the judging that takes place in various corners of the grounds as well as the Expo Centre.

The judging program begins in the Ladies Department, fancy work and arts and crafts in the main building at 10 a.m. Thursday.

However there's another important event that must not be missed.

SOME COOKING

On Friday — same time — cooking, maple and honey products, field crops, vegetables, fruits and flowers, 4H Pee-Wee competitions, goats, poultry and rabbit judging gets underway. Entries in all these categories are well over last year's so be sure to visit early before flowers wilt and the homecookin' gets sold out.

Swine and sheep start off the afternoon program followed by the 4-H Judging Competition at 2 p.m.

Saturday is the busiest judging day for cattle and 4-H clubs.

Before supper, calf clubs, Ayrshire, Holstein and Jersey dairy cattle along with all the beef breeds will have received their awards.

Judging is done in the Expo Centre where the weather doesn't matter. They've put up some barricades and fences in the new building this year, improving the safety of both spectators and competitors. Lighting ahs also been improved in this ultra-modern addition to the fair facilities where no support posts obstruct the view from any corner.

See PARI-MUTUAL, page 11.

SUCCESS TO THE AYER'S CLIFF FAIR

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In the traditional Wool Queen contest contestants must dress in garments that give an idea of the versa-

tility of sheep's wool. They are accompanied by a sheep on a lead.

With eight horse races on the card

Pari-mutual betting makes debut at 144th annual Ayer's Cliff fair

Continued from page 10.

HORSES AND MORE HORSES

Then Sunday, the heavy and light horses finish off their judging beginning at 9 A.M.

"The farm machinery display is bigger than ever this year. Everyone who came last year will be back plus a few more," fair president Steve Brus said this week. "And the Main Building will have some surprises for the youngsters too," he added.

When the gates open at 6 p.m. on Thursday, that will be the signal that the giant BINGO, planned for the dining hall is about ready to get started. The game officially begins at 7 but it's probably best to get there early as officials expect a full house competing for the generous money prizes.

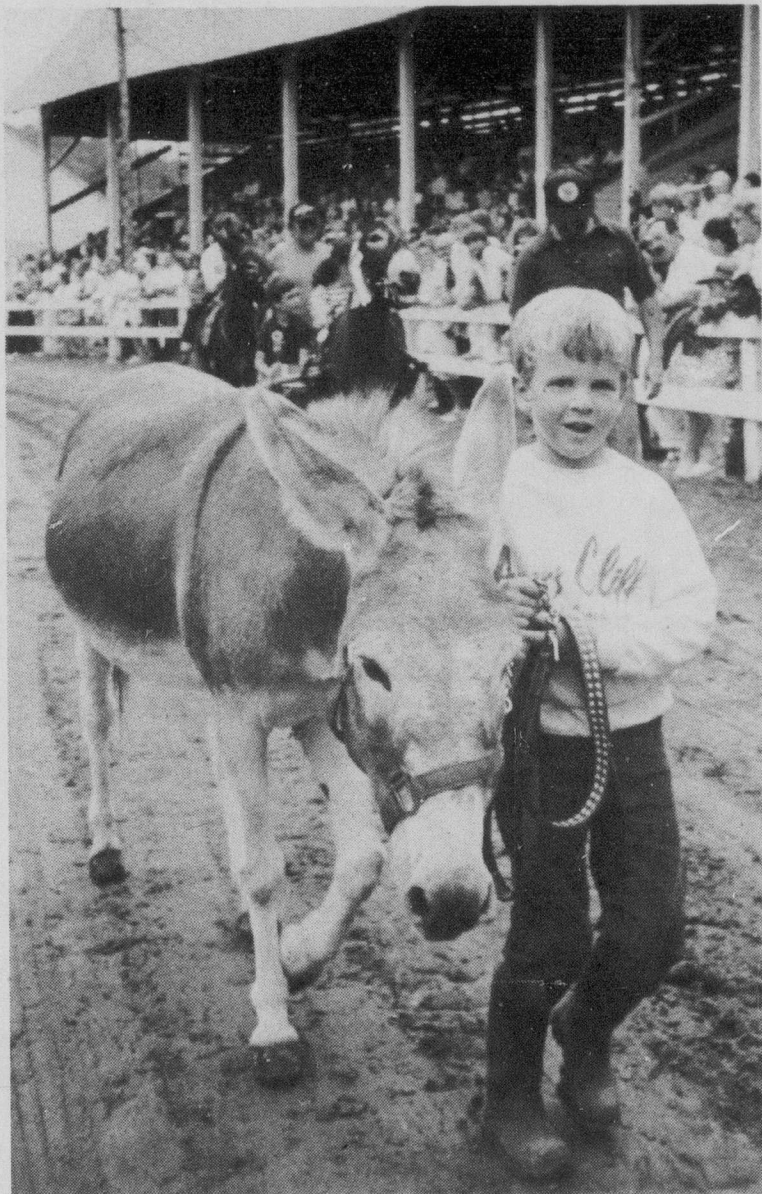
Amusements National were partially set up by Monday evening, "they are bringing as much, maybe a little more midway this year," Jim Bellows explained.

We could see the Zipper sections being hauled off the trailer van as we spoke and already the cook-house was almost ready to steam up supper.

The Expo Centre Committee is in charge of the beer tent this year. They promise music every evening and a warm welcome to one and all.

PAY OFF DEBTS

"All the profits from this venture are going to the Expo Centre this year to help pay off more of the debt still owing on the Expo building," Jim Bellows explained. "So far, the support we have received for that particular project is overwhelming and there's no way in the world we could thank everyone properly."



A boy and his donkey show up for last year's traditional cattle, horse and farm machinery parade Sunday.



With eight races on the card pari-mutual betting will be available for the first time at the 144th edition of the Ayer's Cliff fair.

"And don't forget to tell folks about the price," admonished Leslie Webster and Jim Bellows almost in unison.

"Admission is \$4 and that's all

folks have to pay for, outside of food or games. And even better," they almost shouted. "An \$8 pass gives entry for the entire weekend."

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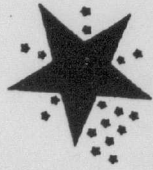
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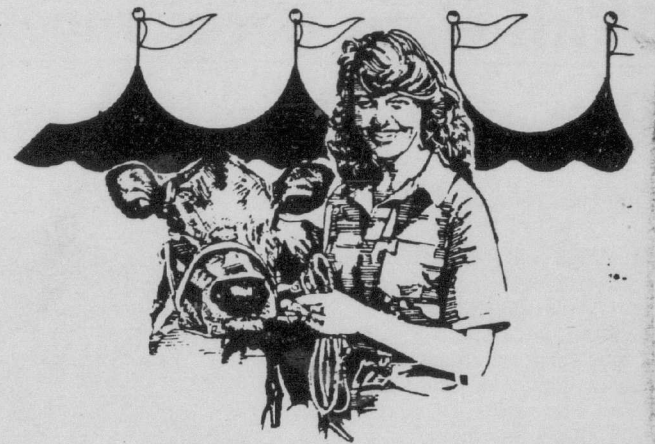
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144th



Stanstead County Agricultural Society AYER'S CLIFF - FAIR AUGUST 24-25-26-27



GRANDSTAND

Thursday evening

7 h 30: Ladies jello wrestling

Friday morning

9 h 00: Heavy and light horse classes

12 h 00: Billy Lavers

Friday afternoon

1 h 00: WOOL QUEEN CONTEST

1 h 30: Boys and girls games and races - All children welcome

1 h 30: Parade of 4-H Pee-Wee

3 h 30: Tug-of-war for boys and girls

Friday evening

5 h 30: Special horse show classes

8 h 00: Official Opening

8 h 30: Tug-of-war - Teams welcome, contact: 838-5912

Saturday morning

9 h 00: Heavy and light horses

12 h 00: Billy Lavers

Saturday afternoon

1 h 30: Harness racing - Loto Perfecta

2 h 30: Billy Lavers

3 h 30: 4-H calf club parade

4 h 00: Special farm hitch - Unicorn and 4-horse hitch

Saturday night

8 h 00: Carlton Show Band

Sunday morning

9 h 00: Light horses

12 h 00: Billy Lavers

Sunday afternoon

1 h 00: Coaticook Majorettes following the costume goat class at 12 h 30

1 h 30: Cattle, horse and machinery parade

3 h 00: Horse obstacle races

Sunday night

8 h 00: Hell Drivers

BILLY LAVERS will fill in during the 3 days.

FREE AT ALL TIMES

AYER'S CLIFF - FAIR GROUND

Gates are opening at 6 o'clock Thursday August 24th.

Fee: \$4.00 which include all attractions, shows, grand stand and free parking on the grounds.

A HUGE BINGO on Thursday evening the 24th in the dining hall at 7:00 P.M.

Complete exhibition of **FARM IMPLEMENTS** and numerous business exhibits.

Fun and games for the kids in the main building.

Save by purchasing a **PASS** for the four days at only **\$8.00**.

Music in the beer tent every evening.

JUDGING PROGRAM

THURSDAY	10:00 a.m.:	Ladies department, fancy work, art
FRIDAY	9:00 a.m.:	Heavy and light horses
	10:00 a.m.:	Cooking, maple and honey products, field crops, vegetables, fruits flowers, 4-H Pee-Wee calf, goats, poultry, rabbits
	12:00 a.m.:	Swine
	12:30 a.m.:	Sheep
	2:00 a.m.:	4-H judging competition
SATURDAY	9:00 a.m.:	4-H inter-club calf exhibits, heavy and light horses
	10:00 a.m.:	Ayrshire, Holstein and Jersey cattle
	3:00 a.m.:	Beef cattle
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.:	Heavy and light horses

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