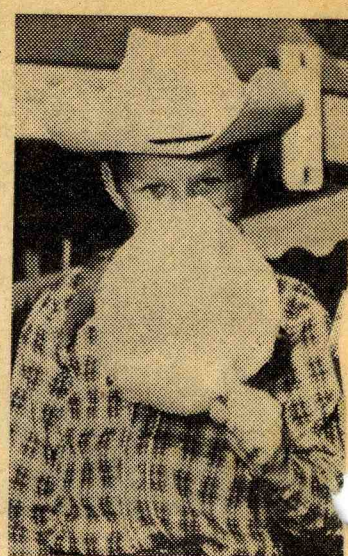
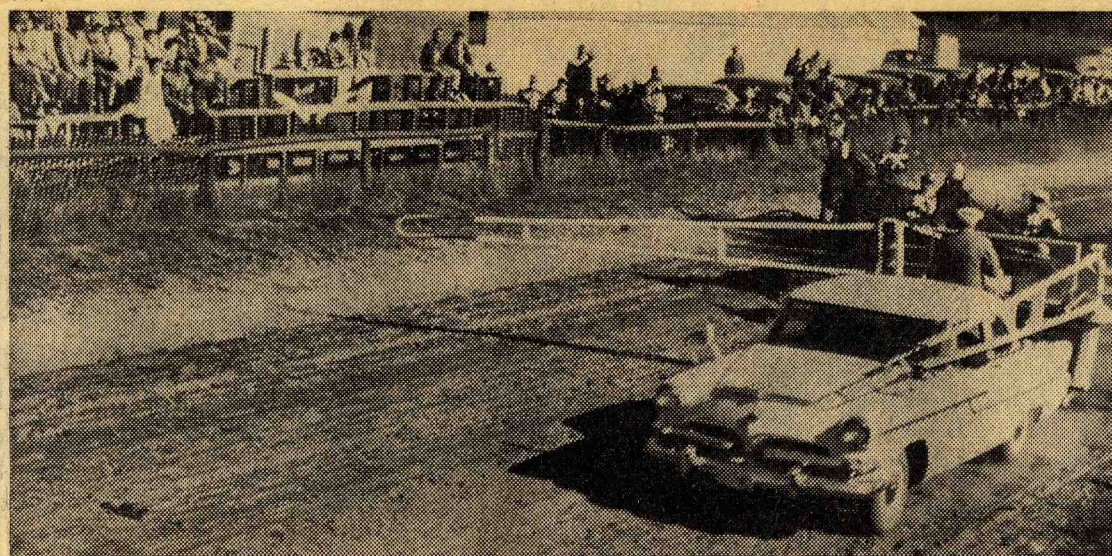




COMED, READY FOR THE RING—Jean McPhail, age 8, of Station, holds this well-groomed Hereford heifer in readiness for the judging ring at Wallace-town Fair on Friday afternoon. The head of cattle were entered in the Regional Hereford and the Beef Cattle Show held at the fair, and farmers flocked to the grounds in large numbers to view the cattle.



Single pony in harness, Allan Burke, first and second.
Saddle pony, Betty Caldwell, Shedden.
Special pony race, Gloria Wrightman, Jim Campbell, Betty Caldwell.
Calf race, Bob Patterson, Jamie Campbell, Bruce Murray.

Sheep

Lincolns, H. M. Lee, Highgate; John Mitchell and Sons, Glencoe; James Locke, Strathroy.
Suffolks, Philip Campbell, Iona Station; Ernest Ford and Sons, Dutton; O. H. Smith, Iona Station.
Cheviots, Philip Campbell, Iona Station.
Southdowns, Clarence Knight, Mull; W. E. Gates, Glencoe.
Best pen of three ewe lambs, H. M. Lee, Highgate.
Poultry, Norman Collins, St. Thomas; Norman Welch, Wallace-town; J. C. Brown, Fingal; David Small, Wallace-town; Stuart McWilliam, Dutton A. D. McTavish, Dutton.
Handicrafts and art, Jack McLean, West Lorne; Mrs. D. J. McKillop, Dutton; Mrs. Gordon Agar, Iona Station; Mrs. Betty Henderson, Dutton; Mrs. Ed. Down, Shedden; Mrs. E. L. McColl, Shedden; Mrs. R. L. Prevett, West Lorne.

Ladies' Work

Mrs. D. J. McKillop, Dutton; Mrs. Betty Henderson, Dutton; Mrs. Harley Lashbrook, West Lorne; Mrs. Gordon Agar, Iona Station; Mrs. Ruth Bedford, Wallace-town; Don McDonald, Dutton; Mrs. Ron Campbell, Iona Station; Mrs. John Sloan, Fingal; Mrs. Mary Johnston, Dutton; Mrs. Dave Bennett, Dutton.
Home department, Mrs. John Sloan, Fingal; Mrs. Mary Johnston, Dutton; Mrs. Dave Bennett, Dutton; Mrs. Ron Campbell, Iona Station; Rena Garbutt, West Lorne; Mrs. V. Ripley, Wallace-town; Mrs. D. Leitch, Dutton; Mrs. Russell Campbell, Iona Station; Mrs. John Pearce, Wallace-town; Mrs. W. H. McAllister, R. R. 1, Dutton; Mrs. A. C. McMillan, Dutton; Mrs. Allen Norman, Dutton; Mrs. Bessie Malcolm, Dutton.

AGRICULTURAL FAIR GREAT FUN AT WALLACETOWN — Fall fairs throughout Elgin County bring fun and excitement to all who attend, and the Wallace-town Fair, held on Thursday and Friday, was no exception. The thrill of the races as the horses come tearing down the track and the starting gate, upper left, swings open brings a cry of "They're off!" and the eyes of the

spectators eagerly follow their favorites. For the youngsters there is always the midway with its rides, hot dogs and candy floss, and Jerry Jeffrey, age 10, upper right, of West Lorne, seems to be enjoying his wad of fluff. In the lower picture, coming down the home stretch, are the mounts and their riders of the pony race, one of the novelty races full of exciting moments. — (T-J. Photos).

No Rain in 21 Years Is Wallace-town Boast As 96th Annual Fair Is Successful Event

WALLACETOWN (Staff). — A fair which has not been rained out for 21 years closed another successful two-day stand Friday evening bathed in the beams of a waning harvest moon.

One of the few truly agricultural fairs left in the district, about 3,500 people crowded the grounds for the 96th Wallace-town fall fair. One of the most varied programs to be presented in one day sent patrons home happy.

Again this year the keynote was on livestock and horses in the two-day fair presented by the West Elgin Agricultural Society.

The livestock shows indicated that West Elgin is dedicated to the rearing of top quality beef cattle and the enthusiasm with which

the horse show was received was proof that the mechanical age is still new on farms.

Bleacher stands were used for the large audience which watched the judging of the beef in two rings. This was in addition to the packed grandstand watching the harness racing and light horse show on the track and the heavy horse show in the infield.

These, with a safe driving competition, a big 4-H show, a Regional Yorkshire Show and dozens of other attractions, were the boast of Wallace-town, too small to be a police village.

The fair was opened by James A. McBain, M. P. for Elgin, and Fair President Stuart McWilliam.

Heavy Horses

The heavy horse show, disappearing from the smaller fairs, proved a big hit. The Percherons, Clydesdales and Belgians, in halter and in harness, single or double hitch, were a picture of poetry in motion.

Tom Hardy Sr., of Melbourne, showed the best Clydesdale mare on the grounds and the best agricultural brood mare.

Orville Bestard, of Thorndale, showed the championship heavy horse on the grounds with Calvin Glassford, of Ridgeway, exhibiting the best span of horses, express. Mr. Hardy had the best span of Clydesdale agricultural horses, and Mr. Bestard the best span of draught horses, Percheron or Belgian.

Jack Bobier, of Wallace-town, was one of the other top exhibitors in the heavy horse class.

Light Horses

Dan Lerch, of London, showed the championship light horse at the fair, with Allan Burke, Port Stanley, showing the reserve

Saddle horse, Dan Lerch, London; J. W. Underwood, Northwood; Harry Brodie, Melbourne.

Span of roadsters, Jack Donaldson, Ailsa Craig; Alden Craven, Ailsa Craig; George Bennett Sr., Mossley; W. M. Deadman, Byron.

Single roadster, Jack Donaldson, first and second; George Bennett Sr., Alden Craven.

Span of carriage horses, C. R. Pincombe, St. Thomas; George Bennett Sr.

Single carriage, C. R. Pincombe, first and second; Harvey Moore, Ridgeway.

Gentlemen's road rare, George Bennett, W. M. Deadman, Alden Craven.

Lady driver, Allan Burke, Port Stanley, entries first and second; Mrs. Harvey Moore, Ridgeway.

Gentlemen's single turnout, Allan Burke, C. R. Pincombe second and third, Wayne Powers, R. R. 5, St. Thomas.

Tandem hitch, Allan Burke, C. R. Pincombe.

Pony team in harness, Allan Burke.

Turn to RAINLESS FAIR—Page 19

West Elgin Fair Draws Large Beef Cattle Entry

WALLACETOWN (Staff).—Close to 150 head of prize beef cattle paraded before the judges here Friday, the closing day of the 96th Wallace-town Fair sponsored by the West Elgin Agricultural Society.

Headlined by the Regional Hereford Show, cattle were also entered in the Elgin County beef cattle show. This was broken down into the Shorthorn, Aberdeen Angus and the commercial classes.

Top exhibitor in the regional show was Carmen C. Lyons, of Wallace-town. Winning 13 first prizes, he showed junior, senior and grand champion males and junior, senior and grand champion females.

He won the bull class, the senior yearling bull, the junior yearling bull, the summer yearling bull, the senior bull calf, the two-year-old female and the senior yearling heifer classes in addition to the

Hugh A. McPhail, of Iona, won first prize in the bull calf competition and the get of sire class. In addition he received several seconds and thirds.

Earl Zavitz, of Alvington, showed top female, over three years of age, and Dr. D. A. Monteith, Shedden, had the third place animal in the summer yearling bull class and third and fourth in the junior bull class. Elliott Leeson, of Ridgeway, received a second prize with his senior yearling bull.

Shorthorns

H. M. Lee, of Highgate, showed the grand champion bull and the grand champion female in the open Shorthorn class. Ernest Ford, of Wallace-town, showed the top bull, one year and under two, and H. M. Lees showed the best herd.

Another top exhibitor was Mack Sturgis, of Dresden. Don Edwards, of Watford, swept

Lambton Wins Challenge Cup

WALLACETOWN (Staff). — Earl Zavitz, of Alvington, one of Lambton County's top Hereford breeders, was awarded the Challenge Trophy on Friday afternoon at Wallace-town Fair.

The beautiful silver cup, valued at \$50, was donated last year by James Page, of Northampton, England. It was for the best four beef steers on the grounds, grade or purebred, and must be won twice to be retained by the exhibitor. The trophy was awarded first at the 1955 fair, Carmen C. Lyons, of Wallace-town, being the winner.

Mr. Page used to live at Tyrconnell and was a prominent Hereford breeder before moving back to England. The cup, simple in

Wallacetown Fair Has Big Increase in Attendance

Residents Feel Rewarded for Efforts in Rearranging Fair 1937 Grounds; Big Program Friday Afternoon

WALLACETOWN, Oct. 2 (Staff reporter).—Wallacetown Fair differed this year from most rural fairs throughout the province in that its attendance was away ahead of the records for the past two or three years. With gate receipts up appreciably, residents of the Wallacetown district, whose community efforts in the interests of the fair make much for its success, felt rewarded for the hundreds of hours of hard work they have contributed to the task they undertook throughout the summer months in rearranging the grounds, laying out a new race-track, moving buildings and promoting the fair as the county's best.

The grounds are entirely revamped and are now looking little like they have for years gone by. The old drill shed and the "hall" are still in the same place. But the race track, now a full half-mile, alters the appearance of the grounds with the grandstand at the east side of the track instead of the west, the starter's stand in a new position, and a new section for the midway and booths. The stables have also been moved to the east of the track at the rear and to the south of the grandstand. The Fair Board purchased some \$350 worth of new land to the south of the grounds, taking in over three additional acres. But the cost of the work done on the grounds was kept at a minimum, residents of the district working in dozens of "bees" during the summer to refit the park.

The infantile paralysis threat seemed to have kept few away, although there were comparatively few children on the grounds. Despite enlarged parking area within the grounds, space was taxed and village streets throughout the neighborhood were lined with cars that could not be accommodated inside.

The fair, which got under way on Thursday with judging of drill shed exhibits, did not attract the crowd until the "big day," Friday afternoon. Then the Fair Board had arranged a program that had something doing every moment. There was sulky racing in two classes, greyhound racing for the first time at any rural fair in this county, hurdle jumping by well-trained hunters, an exhibition of colts by the Dunwich Township Boys' Colt Club, jointly sponsored by the St. Thomas Kiwanis Club and the Fair Board, a fine showing of horses, the exhibition of calves by the members of the Boys' and Girls' Calf Club sponsored by the Fair Board alone, and the excellent showing of beef cattle in the Elgin County Beef Cattle Show, held in conjunction with the fair.

Grand Stand Performance

Featured on the stage before the grand stand was the talented Pressey Transport Band from Sarnia, composed entirely of boys and girls living in Sarnia under the age of twenty. In addition to the band of fifty instruments, the troupe included acrobats, singers, warbling cowhands and dancers.

The drill hall was packed to the doors during the afternoon and exhibits there were well worth seeing. Of particular interest were the displays by Women's Institute branches of Cowal, Iona, Iona Station, Dutton and Wallacetown, which were awarded prizes in that order. Cowal taking first prize for its exhibit, named Health House, constructed entirely of farm produce. Another interesting exhibit was that of the Wallacetown Institute, which was a display of house lighting units used in the years since pioneer days.

Mrs. D. Warwick, London; Mrs. Orval Walters, Dutton; Harold Ripley, Wallacetown; Miss J. McColl; Mrs. Peter G. McCallum; Mrs. J. Johnston Dutton; D. J. McKillop; Mrs. Eugene Hockin; Mrs. David Fraser, Dutton; Mrs. D. A. Campbell; Mrs. James Bennett, Dutton.

Fine and Decorative Arts

Mrs. D. Warwick; Mrs. G. E. Ross; J. S. Robb; Miss J. McColl; Mrs. Peter McCallum; Mrs. D. A. Campbell; Mrs. D. Atkinson, Fingal.

Flowers and Cut Plants

Mrs. G. S. Robb; Ernest Pearce; Norman Page; Stuart L. Pearce, Wallacetown; D. J. McKillop; Miss J. McColl; William McArthur; W. J. House; Mrs. James Bennett.

Boys' and Girls' Calf Club

(Sponsored by Wallacetown Fair Board)

Pure Bred Calves—Ernest Pearce, Wallacetown; M. W. Small, Iona Station; W. H. Ford & Sons (third and fourth).

Grade Calves—Ernest Pearce (first and third; Littlejohn Bros.; M. W. Small.

T. Eaton Special—Ernest Pearce.

Light Horses

Vernon Hales, Dutton; W. J. House, Port Stanley; M. B. McColl, West Lorne; C. W. Kent, Embro; Alex. Lamont, Rodney; K. McIntyre, Shedden; McAlpine Bros., Dutton; N. Collins & Sons, St. Thomas.

Heavy Horses

J. D. McMillan, Dutton; M. B. McColl, West Lorne; Nichol Norman, Rodney; Grant Summers & Son, Aylmer; James Sutherland, Melbourne; Angus Millar, St. Thomas; McNeill & McNeill, Dutton; C. W. Kent, Embro; Robert Campbell & Sons, Iona Station; Neil A. Campbell, Glencoe; Clark Francis, Highgate; Albert Archibald, St. Thomas.

Track Program

The results in the track program are as follows:

2:28 Trot or Pace
Laura Bell, owned by J. W. Saunders, Tillsonburg, driven by Saunders 4 5 5
Great Peter, owned by Pine Ridge Stables, London, Smith 5 3 3
Peter Pat Grattan, R. Bogart, Shedden L. Bogart 3 4 4
Red Grattan, McWilliam, Bros., Dutton, McWilliam 2 2 2
Frank R., Red Lynn, Dutton Lynn 1 1 1

2:18 Trot or Pace
Bay June, W. Gore, Petrolia, Simpson 3 3 3
Betty Grattan, Fraser Bros., Dutton, Henderson 1 1 2
Miss Oliver, Red Lynn, Dutton, Lynn 2 2 1
Vester Bars, Alex Belore, Mount Elgin, Belore 4 4 4

Running Race
Louise, M. McAlpine, Dutton 2 2 3
Merry Thought, M. McAlpine, Dutton 1 1 1
Lady Tattoo, M. McColl Crinan 3 2 2

Hurdle Jumping Contest

Alex. Lamont, Rodney; Jack Pincombe, St. Thomas; Harding & Bell, St. Thomas.

Officials—Dr. J. A. Hafele, Dutton, starter; Archie McRae, J. Bentley, Harry Dromgole, J. D. Fraser, D. G. McCallum.

Please turn over

WEST ELGIN FAIR

The following was sent from the trenches by a well-known Wallacetown boy:

There's a little place in Elgin,
Which doesn't seem small to me;
It's where I was born and went to school,
And it's there I should like to be.

Where the sunshine is the sunniest,
Where the foliage is most green,
Where the maples are the shadiest
Of any I have seen.

Where the melons are the biggest,
Where the peaches are so sweet;
Where the cherries are the reddest:
To live there can't be beat.

Yes, it's only a little hamlet,
But noted far and near;
For its great big Fall exhibit
Of what Elgin holds so dear.

The sheep, the horse, the cattle,
The breeding from many lands;
The flowers, the grain, the vegetables:
A credit to the owner's hands.

Not least is the work of the women,
In the drill-shed with their array—
Of the bread, the pies, the honey,
The fancy-work—some display.

The mid-way always exciting,
To old and young, the same;
Not to speak of the heated races,
Without which would be tame.

It is always an "Old Boys' Reunion:"
From all parts of the map do they come,
Just to see and to talk to old faces,
To enjoy once again a day's fun.

As a boy I had not missed any,
Until this awful war;
And when it and peace terms are settled,
I'll be there just the same as before.

—CRUSADER.

C.M. KEILLOR

TIMES-JOURNAL August 1 1952

AND ALL HAD A GOOD TIME

St. Thomas Had a Fall Fair 80 to 90 Years Ago With Judge Hughes a Showman

First Fairs Were Called East Elgin Riding Society's Exhibition; Bayham Had Fair in Old Vienna In Those Days

From time to time in the last 15 or 20 years, there have been agitations to re-establish St. Thomas as a fall fair centre, with Pinafore Park favored as the locale; but the move has never got past the suggestion stage.

St. Thomas had a fall fair, held in early October for many years—a fair that operated under various names. Yarmouth Township also had its fair, but after incorporation with village status, a century ago, St. Thomas was identified with a fair of its own. It was first called the East Elgin Riding Society, with the fairgrounds in the east outskirts. A few years later the name was shortened to the East Elgin Show. By 1872, it had begun to lose in attendance and entries, while the West Elgin Fair at Wallacetown was attracting thousands to its horse show.

St. Thomas had a real show in October, 1866, with 577 entries, and 143 entries in grade cattle alone.

The interesting part is that leading business men of the town like Charles Roe and Sam Day were leading livestock exhibitors, and County Judge D. J. Hughes had winning entries in Leicester sheep. The area around St. Thomas must have been great sheep country in those days, for at that bang-up 1866 fair, there were more than 200 entries. One doesn't see that many at the major fairs today. In Leicester sheep alone, besides Judge Hughes, here were the exhibitors: James Scott, Jekial York, Thomas Futcher, E. M. Yarwood, J. L. Pearce, Wallacetown; G. W. Boggs, A. Pollard, George Axford, Charles Roe, S. Day, Thomas Dawson, John Paddon, and D. P. M. Mann of Richmond.

GREAT EXHIBITOR

For many years, Dr. Mann was a leading exhibitor of sheep and Durham cattle. He continued after others discontinued.

In Merino sheep Messrs. Clutton of Malahide and York of Yarmouth were the principal exhibitors at St. Thomas. James Armstrong took many of the honors in Cotswolds.

The only exhibitors of purebred Devon cattle at the 1866 show were W. J. Locke and James Locke, those good men from Devonshire, England, who helped to settle the Edgeware Road district of North Yarmouth. Exhibitors of Durham cattle at

St. Thomas and elsewhere were John E. Couse, Thomas Pearce, G. W. Boggs, Thomas Futcher, E. M. Yarwood, George Axford, Edward Rogers, Sam Day and Dr. Mann.

James McIntosh thrilled the fair attendants with his beautiful buggy horses. He showed a team in 1866 that had just taken first honors at the Provincial Exhibition in Toronto, the forerunner of the Canadian National Exhibition.

The report of the 1866 fair in St. Thomas had these comments to make: "The grounds are sufficiently large for the present purposes of the East Elgin Riding Society and capable of being handsomely laid out and ornamented to any extent that may be deemed desired. It is very desirable that the directors should issue instructions for the planting of the grounds with shade trees."

THE OTHER FAIRS

The other fall fairs held in this local district 80 to 90 years ago were the aforementioned Wallacetown Fair; the Bayham Fair in Vienna; the Dunwich and Southwold Agricultural Society's Fair; the Malahide Fair at Aylmer; the Yarmouth Agricultural Society's Exhibition; and the beginning of the Rodney Fair first at New Glasgow and Centreville.

The newspaper report of Wallacetown's 1872 fair declared it to be the best of the year in Elgin although there were few competitors in cattle. In later years, Wallacetown became noted for its beef cattle exhibits, a reputation which it still maintains. Samuel D. McColl, Thomas Pearce, Angus McColl, Hector McPherson, Duncan Leitch and John Blue were the leading exhibitors and winners in beef cattle 80 years ago.

In those days, Wallacetown was in gala attire for fair day with "the main street spanned with arches and flags and bunting freely displayed."

The report added: "During the afternoon, several thousand were crowded around the horse ring to witness the equestrian display."



Taken at a fair board banquet

Back row)
C. Taylor, P. McPherson,
S. McWilliam, Baron

Front)
John Conol, Wm McKillop
(Pres)
J. Carrol (centre)
Head of agricultural fairs

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