

Two-century-old fair retains much of its old-time flavor

Modern programs and shows keep it lively and upbeat

BY SUSAN VARNEY Correspondent

ions and tigers and bears, oh my . . ." like The Wizard of Oz film of 1939, the 200-year-old Skowhegan Fair has had its share of wild animals over the years, including camels and elephants. However, times have changed and wild animals have been mostly replaced by trucks, motorcycles and laser guns in more recent renditions of an event that this year hits the two century mark.

Two hundred years ago the fair began in Skowhegan as the Somerset Central Agricultural Society, attracting "the largest crowds ever to have assembled in Somerset County," according to fair history unearthed at the Skowhegan History House and from other sources.

The early days of the fair were two- to threeday affairs attended by folks within easy driving distance by horse and buggy. There was the train in 1858 and people could stay at the Tavern Hotel. It was the automobile and good roads that allowed for growth.

Maine was still part of Massachusetts until 1820 and the fair was a place for information on improving the breeding of horses, cattle and other livestock, including swine and sheep, of course. This goal has been maintained through the years; farm animals remain a staple of the fair.

In 1856, the current fairgrounds were acquired and have expanded over the years as need and land became available. The fairgrounds are used throughout the year for agricultural events including horse shows and community interest events, such as the Artisan Bread Fair, Maple Festival and Halloween Haunted Hayride.

People have flocked to the marvels and spectacles over the years—from the latest farm machinery, transportation, automobiles, planes, bicycles, motorcycles, telephones, to today's electronics, cell phones and computers. And don't forget the "Hoochy-Koochy" shows and the excitement of the midway rides.

The fair was the best way of disseminating information on the latest farm equipment, methods, breeds, crops and pests, before there was an agricultural college or extension service. The University of Maine was not established until 1865 and the Cooperative Extension Service came in 1914. Children's programs, such as 4-H, were formed in 1924 with the clover emblem. The Farm Bureau and Grange were early farm organizations developed to represent farmers and help to maintain food security.

In 1920, women won the right to vote. World War I was two years over then, and the



Great Depression was yet to come. A majority of drivers learned on the Ford Model T—it was cheap, easy to repair and people began to travel.

Maine was still an agricultural state with draft horse and oxen pulls, and women learning and sharing the latest homemaking skills, as the fair balanced agricultural information with the lure of the midway, harness racing and stage shows.

The 1923 fair program had some interesting items, such as Cow Racing—no one seemed to know how that happened, saying the only time they had seen cows running was when they got out of the barn in spring. There were ads from breeders of Barred and Partridge Rocks, Regal Dorcas and White Wyandottes; eggs were available in season. How about printed butter paper, or spruce butter tubs from Greenville and jewelry from Russakoff's? Season tickets for

four days cost \$2. General admission was 50 cents; children, 25 cents.

In 1934, the Grandstand burned and was replaced in 1935. Arson took it again in 1999, along with Constitution Hall. New, metal buildings were built in time for the fair that year.

In 1942, the fair became the Skowhegan State Fair while World War II raged on in Europe, Asia and the South Pacific. Bingo, harness racing, demolition derbies, thrill shows, 4-H shows, livestock demonstrations, sheep, beef, steer shows were part and parcel of the fair experience and continue today.

In 1948, the Saturday Evening Post featured a Norman Rockwell painting of the 4-H Building with families and exhibitors. The 4-H Building is still in use for 4-H exhibits and programs. Sunday is 4-H Day with a parade at 11:30 a.m. and livestock demonstrations at 1p.m. Most days have

4-H events scheduled for livestock, such as dairy cattle, beef Heifer and steer show, beef cattle, sheep show and horse show.

The 1950s saw expanding exhibitions and more performers. Exhibitors come from all over the state, nation and Canada. Was this when the Grandstand no long had usherettes or cigarette girls?

In 1961, "Miss Maine in Vacationland" was selected. The events and fun change and one never knows what will be added to the standards—like a horse race in 1929, or a football game between Skowhegan and Madison, or a show of 53 midgets in the '40s. And where did the Doll Carriage Parade go?

In 2001, the Eames Flower Building was built, named for long-time supporter Don Eames. A water fountain graces Hight Park in honor of Walter Hight's wife. In 2002, a

History

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new Race Paddock was built, named Forest "Bud" Stevens Memorial Paddock. In 2004, a second horse barn was built to replace older barns.

In 2003, a camping area was added to the grounds, accommodating 200 campers, plus small tents; water, electric and sewer are available at some sites. Also there are sites for the workers traveling with the shows.

An Antique Power Show opens at 10 a.m. daily and all exhibition halls open at noon to carry on a tradition that has endured 200 years.

Meanwhile, as it has for more than a century, the midway opens at 1 p.m. and tractor pulls take place in the grandstand area. Doodlebug Pulling is held in the Coliseum and the more modern events, such as wrestling and laser tag, have been added to the midway show area.

Music is now a standard in Midway Park, and the noise-filled Demolition Derby is a relatively-new addition to the grandstand area.

So, with a history that remains unbroken, the Skowhegan State Fair will

break loose again this year with 10 days of exciting events, shows, music, animals, tractor pulling, children's barnyard, pig scrambles and people everywhere, each looking for their own brand of interest.

That could be education or entertainment, competition or promotion, art or distraction, curiosity or glitz and glamour, funk, photos, flowers, vegetables, quilts, canning and cookies; there is something for every taste,

including a women's fry pan toss and a men's hammer toss.

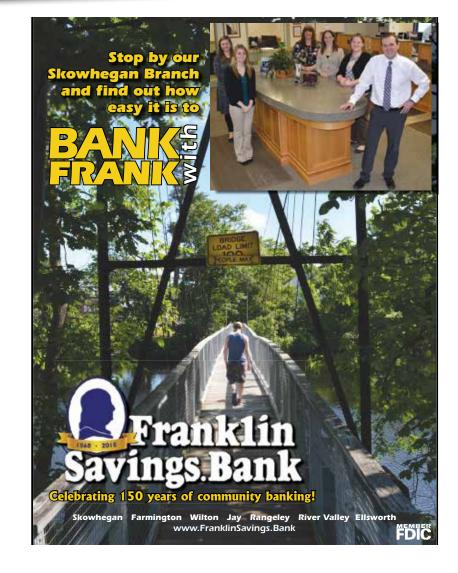
The fair even provides a great place to people watch if a person can find a quiet corner to sit and observe.

In our hearts, however, there will always be "lions and tigers and bears, oh my. . . " and thoughts of Judy Garland and The Wizard of Oz!









Fearless Flores Family performs on "Globe of Death"

Demolition derby, harness racing and \$5,000 grand prize on tap

BY VALERIE TUCKER

Correspondent

everal new events are expected to draw crowds to the 200th Skowhegan State Fair this year.

Over the 10 days of the fair from Aug. 9 to 18, the Fearless Flores Family Thrill Show will perform each afternoon, with three shows on both Saturdays and on Sunday.

On weekdays, the performers will offer two afternoon shows. Show times are listed on both the printed and online program. Included in their performances, feature attractions will be the Wheel of Destiny and the Globe of Death, according to Ricardo Flores. His nephews, Giovanni and Victor Flores, race their motorcycles up, down and around a specially-built metal globe made of steel. He said their ancestors have been performers for generations.

His grandfather passed his trick riding skills to his children, Frances and Ricardo, who now perform with their own children.

"We bring state-of-the-art lighting, sound and pyrotechnics for great family entertainment."

RICARDO FLORES, SECOND-GENERATION OWNER

The Spinning Wheel of Destiny performance features Frances, who balances 30 feet above the ground, performing inside and outside a wheel that spins while it also rotates in giant full circles. Frances will be blindfolded during part of the performance, Ricardo said, and audiences always are mesmerized by her balance and skill.

"The Globe of Death is a 14-foot diameter steel cage, and the Flores riders race motorcycles at top speeds, missing each other only by inches" Ricardo said. "It's not something audiences should try at home."

The family has performed on ESPN and at amusement parks, state fairs and other venues nationwide and internationally, according to Ricardo Flores, a secondgeneration owner.

"We bring state-of-the-art lighting, sound and pyrotechnics for great family entertainment," he said. The family competed in America's Got Talent with the stunt, earning them rave reviews from the judges. Each performance includes an opportunity to meet the team and get autographs and take photos.

Meanwhile, this year's fair offers plenty of chances for people to come home with prizes. Children ages 10 years and under can attend for free. There are two Senior Citizen days, with half price admission for those 62 and older on Tuesday and Thursday, Aug. 13 and 16..

Walter Hight said he and his family have collected and restored dozens of antique cars over the years and will bring them to the fairgrounds this year for a magnificent display of automobile history. Restoration is a painstaking labor of love, but he and his Hight dealership family members enjoy the hobby. They'll have 12 Mustangs in the show, including a 1965 model, some Mustangs and some antique convertibles.

The Hights' collection spans the decades of the 20th century, and the display will be a chance for both car and history buffs to see the changes and improvements throughout the past century. Family members will drive all 70 cars a few at a time to a big tent on the fairgrounds. During the week, someone will be available to answer questions for viewers.

One popular annual event, the daily bike giveaway, has been a tradition for the past decade, according to Tom Dillon of T. R. Dillon Logging. Local businesses sponsor each of the days' giveaways of five girls' and five boys' bikes. The youngsters have

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Fair

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to be present at the fairgrounds to win and take their bikes home with them. The tickets are available at the entrance gate. This year's newest sponsors are Heavy Equipment and the Skowhegan Rotary Club.

The fair committee and area businesses also sponsor the nightly cash sweepstakes drawings at 8 p.m. at Midway Park, starting on Aug. 9. Organizer Chad Partridge said there will be a final drawing at the grandstand for a \$5,000 cash prize at 8 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 18.

"People can enter once a day, and the winners don't have to be at the fair to win," he said. "We'll put all the tickets together for the drawing for the grand prize.'

Drop boxes for entries are at Constitution Hall and the Maple Sugar House.

Steve Spaulding, Commander of Skowhegan American Legion Post No.16, said he and dozens of volunteers help organize and run the annual Bingo games at the fairgrounds. They open the doors at 2 p.m. on all 10 days and keep the games going well into the evening. This year, the winners of the daily 7 p.m. Blackout Bingo game will take home a 32-inch, flat-screen television. If there's a tie in any game, Spaulding said the two winners must draw from a pack of cards, and the highest card

"We all volunteer to do this every year because we put our share into supporting the community, including our veterans, our seniors and our young people," Spaulding said. "We contribute to veterans' families during hard times, and we support the kids' sports programs and all sorts of things like that."

At one time, the Skowhegan State Fair organizers thought interest in Bingo games was declining and decided to discontinue them. Spaulding said they had so many inquiries from fair-goers who missed the get-togethers, the committee asked the American Legion members if they would bring their equipment and volunteers to keep the games going. Days are long, but members say it's worth all the work.

"We can play as many as 100 games a day, but a lot depends on whatever else is going on at the fair," Spaulding said. "If everyone clears out early, we send our volunteers home.'

The fair has provided them with an airconditioned building, he said, so on these hot summer afternoons and evenings. everyone can stay comfortable. The atmosphere is very sociable, but games move quickly. They play with the traditional Bingo cards and wooden pieces instead of the stamps. Many of the older players bring the children and grandchildren to make it a family night of fun. The games are open to ages 16 and up.



FAIR HIGHLIGHTS:

At the grandstand, plans include truck pulls beginning at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 11 and Aug. 18, and demolition derbies at 7 p.m. Aug. 10, Aug.13 and Aug.17.

Harness Racing at the grandstand is Aug. 12, Aug. 13, Aug. 17 and Aug. 18 with a post time of 1 p.m. Harness racing also will be held Aug. 14, Aug. 15 and Aug 16 with a post time of 7 p.m.

On the midway, Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons will continue daily shows at 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. and North Atlantic Wrestling Association (NAWA) matches will be held daily. G-Force Laser Tag is also returning to the fair as a daily event at the Midway Show Area.

Photo contributed

Each afternoon, from Aug. 9 to 18, the Fearless Flores Family Thrill Show will perform exciting feats of daring and skill in the Globe of Death and the Wheel of Destiny. Shows will include opportunities to meet the performers and get photos and autographs of family members who have appeared on ESPN and America's Got Talent.



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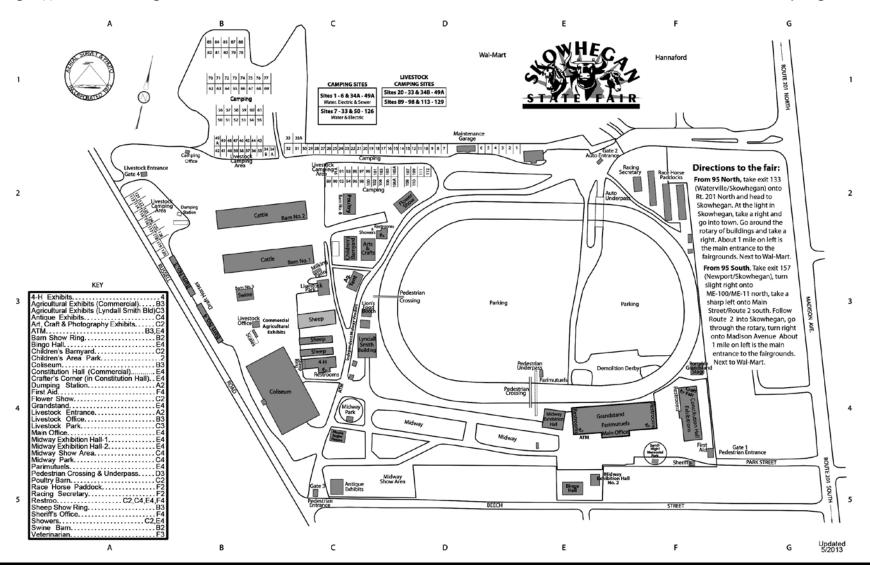


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SKOWHEGAN STATE FAIR DAILY PROGRAM - subject to change without notice

	Thursday August 9	1:00 PM	Midway Opens	4:45 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)
	FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing	1:00 PM	Tractor Pull - Free for All & Pro Farm (COL)	5:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH)
	Co-Sponsored by: Skowhegan Savings Bank	1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)
	& Skowhegan State Fair	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall - Open 2 to 10 (BH)	6:00 PM	Dana Seavey Memorial Farmers Draft Horse Pull (COL)
7:00 AM	Gates Open	2:15 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	7:00 PM	Sandy River Ramblers (MP) Bluegrass, Maine Songs
10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	3:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH)	7:00 PM	Demolition Derby (GRA)
10:00 AM	4-H Horse Show (COL)	3:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)		Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply
10:00 AM	Poultry Show (PSB)	4:15 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)		& Motor Supply
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	7:00 PM	Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH)
12:00 PM	Bingo for Charity-Longerberger® prizes (BH)	6:00 PM	Garden Tractor Pull (COL)	8:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP)
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)	6:15 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)		Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm
1:00 PM 1:00 PM	Midway Opens 4-H Working Steer Show & EST (BSR)	6:30 PM	Truck Pulls (GRA) Sponsored by: Randy's Auto Repair	Tuesday Avenuet 14	
1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	7:00 PM	Misty River (MP) Classic Rock & Country	Tuesday August 14 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing	
2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow (MP) Dj Music	7:00 PM	Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH)	Co-Sponsored by: Redington Fairview General Hospital 8	
2:00 PM	Bingo Hall - Open 2 to 9 (BH)	8:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP)	00 Op	Skowhegan State Fair
2:30 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	0.00	Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm	7:00 AM	Gates Open
3:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)		, , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens
4:45 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)		Sunday August 12	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open
5:00 PM	Doodlebug Pulling Competition (COL)		FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing	12:30 PM	4-H Dairy Cattle Show (BSR)
5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	Co-Spo	nsored by: Kyes Insurance & Skowhegan State Fair	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)
6:00 PM	Children's Bicycle Drawing (SHP)	7:00 AM	Gates Open	1:00 PM	Midway Opens
	Sponsored by: Skowhegan Rotary Club	10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	1:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 3000 lb., 3100 lb. & 2900 lb. (COL)
7:00 PM	Borderline Express (MP)	11:30 AM	4-H Day Parade (GRA)	1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)
7.00 DM	Country & Classic Rock	12:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow (MP) DJ Music
7:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9 (BH)
7:00 PM	(in front of BH) Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH)	12:00 PM 1:00 PM	Bingo for Charity - Longaberger® Prizes (BH)	2:30 PM 3:30 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)
8:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP)	1:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA) Midway Opens	4:45 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)
0.0011	Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm	1:00 PM	4-H Livestock Demonstrations (BSR)	5:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH)
	notice made be in arop box by rice pin	1:00 PM	Antique Tractor Pulling (COL)	5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)
	Friday August 10	1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	6:00 PM	Children's Bicycle Drawing (SHP)
	FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow (MP) Dj Music		Sponsored by: Heavy Machines
	Sponsored by: Al's Pizza & Skowhegan State Fair	2:00 PM	Elaborate Face Painting with Party Palooga (SHP)	6:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)
7:00 AM	Gates Open		Sponsored by: Five County Credit Union	7:00 PM	Full Drive Band (MP) Rockabilly Southern Rock
9:00 AM	Steer & Oxen Show (BSR)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall - Open 2 to 9	7:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA)
10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens Tractor Pull Trials (COL)	2:15 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	7:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 2lb. Rock - Base Load 5400 (COL)
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	3:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH)	7:00 PM	Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!!
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)	3:30 PM 4:15 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	8:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP) Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm
1:00 PM	Midway Opens	5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)		Tickets must be in drop box by 7.30 pm
1:00 PM	Tractor Pull (COL)	6:00 PM	Children's Bicycle Drawing (SHP)		Wednesday August 15
1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	0.001 111	Sponsored by: Hight Family of Dealerships		FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing
2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow (MP) Dj Music	6:15 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	Co-Sponsored by: The Beverage Mart, Damon's Quick Stop &	
2:00 PM	Bingo Hall - Open 2 to 10 (BH)		,	CU-Spuii	Soled by. The Develage Mart, Dailion's Quick Stop &
		7:00 PM	Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!!	00-3pon	Skowhegan State Fair
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2:30 PM 3:30 PM 4:45 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM 7:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH) Sharon Hood & Dixon Road (MP) Modern Country& Classic Rock Demolition Derby (GRA) Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply & Motor Supply Tractor Pull - 16,000 lbs, Free for All & Pro Farm (COL) Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH) Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP) Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm Saturday August 11 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing Sponsored by: Fiesta Shows Gates Open Antique Power Show Opens Tractor Pull Trials (COL)	8:00 PM Senior 7:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP) Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm Monday August 13 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing Co-Sponsored by: George's Banana Stand, Golon Corner Market & Skowhegan State Fair Citizen Day \$4.00 Gate Admission Seniors 62 & over Gates Open Antique Power Show Opens Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA) All Exhibition Halls Open 4-H Beef Heifer & Steer Show (BSR) Harness Racing (GRA) Bingo Hall - Open 1 to 9 (BH) G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA) Midway Opens Farmer's Steer & Oxen Pull (COL) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Skowhegan Community Band (MP) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	7:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM 2:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Skowhegan State Fair Gates Open Antique Power Show Opens Sheep Show (SSR) Beef Cattle Show (BSR) All Exhibition Halls Open G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA) Midway Opens Horse Pulling - 3300 lb., 3200 lb. & 3-Horse Hitch (COL) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Salisbury Roadshow (MP) DJ Music Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9 (BH) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA) Harness Racing (GRA) Horse Pulling - 3300 lb 12' Elimination (COL) Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH) Borderline Express (MP) Country & Classic Rock
2:30 PM 3:30 PM 4:45 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM 7:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH) Sharon Hood & Dixon Road (MP) Modern Country& Classic Rock Demolition Derby (GRA) Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply & Motor Supply Tractor Pull - 16,000 lbs, Free for All & Pro Farm (COL) Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH) Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP) Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm Saturday August 11 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing Sponsored by: Fiesta Shows Gates Open Antique Power Show Opens Tractor Pull Trials (COL) All Exhibition Halls Open	8:00 PM Senior 7:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP) Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm Monday August 13 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing Co-Sponsored by: George's Banana Stand, Golon Corner Market & Skowhegan State Fair Citizen Day \$4.00 Gate Admission Seniors 62 & over Gates Open Antique Power Show Opens Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA) All Exhibition Halls Open 4-H Beef Heifer & Steer Show (BSR) Harness Racing (GRA) Bingo Hall - Open 1 to 9 (BH) G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA) Midway Opens Farmer's Steer & Oxen Pull (COL) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Skowhegan Community Band (MP)	7:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM 2:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Skowhegan State Fair Gates Open Antique Power Show Opens Sheep Show (SSR) Beef Cattle Show (BSR) All Exhibition Halls Open G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA) Midway Opens Horse Pulling - 3300 lb., 3200 lb. & 3-Horse Hitch (COL) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Salisbury Roadshow (MP) DJ Music Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9 (BH) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP) Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA) Harness Racing (GRA) Horse Pulling - 3300 lb 12' Elimination (COL) Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH)



SKOWHEGAN STATE FAIR DAILY PROGRAM - subject to change without notice

7:00 AM	Thursday August 16 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing asored by: Butler's Car Wash & Skowhegan State Fair Senior Citizen Day \$4.00 Gate Admission Seniors 62 & over Gates Open	7:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Friday August 17 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing onsored by: Motor Supply & Skowhegan State Fair Gates Open Draft Horse & Pony Show (COL) Antique Power Show Opens	7:00 AM 10:00 AM	Saturday August 18 FAIR Cash Sweepstakes \$500 Drawing & \$5000 Grand Prize Drawing onsored by: Beeline Cable & Skowhegan State Fair Gates Open Antique Power Show Opens
10:00 AM	Antique Power Show Opens	10:00 AM	4-H Sheep Show (SSR)	12:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)
10:00 AM	Dairy Cattle Show (BSR)	12:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open
10:00 AM	Sheep Show & Sheep Grand Champion (SSR)	12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	12:00 PM	Bingo for Charity - Longaberger® Prizes (BH)
12:00 PM	All Exhibition Halls Open	1:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA)	1:00 PM 1:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA)
1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA)	1:00 PM	G-Force Laser Tag Opens (MSA) Midway Opens
1:00 PM	Midway Opens	1:00 PM	Midway Opens	1:00 PM	ATV 4x4 Pulling (COL)
1:00 PM	Horse Pulling - 3400 lb. & 3600 lb. (COL)	1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	1:00 PM	Mutton Bustin (BSR)
1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow (MP) DJ Music	1:00 PM	Pig Scramble (BSR)
2:00 PM 2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow (MP) DJ Music	2:00 PM 2:30 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 10 (BH)	1:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)
2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 9 (BH)		Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	1:30 PM	Shepherd Awards (BSR)
2:30 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	2:30 PM 3:30 PM	Feed Team Race (COL) The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	2:00 PM	Salisbury Roadshow (MP) DJ Music
4:45 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	4:45 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)	2:00 PM	Bingo Hall Open 2 - 10 (BH)
5:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH)	5:00 PM	Draft Horse & Pony Show (COL)	2:15 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)
5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)	3:00 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH)
6:00 PM	Children's Bicycle Drawing (SHP)	5:30 PM	North Atlantic Wrestling Association (in front of BH)	3:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)
0.001101	Sponsored by: T.R. Dillon Logging	6:00 PM	Agricultural Hall of Fame (COL)	4:15 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand)
6:00 PM	Pari-Mutuels Open (GRA)	6:00 PM	Herdsmen Award (BSR)	5:00 PM	Pine Tree Mini Pullers (COL)
6:00 PM	Women's Fry Pan Toss (COL)	7:00 PM	Bottoms Up (MP) Modern Country	5:30 PM	The Magic of Conjuring Carroll & Maine-ly Balloons (SHP)
6:00 PM	Men's Hammer Toss (COL)	7:00 PM	Demolition Derby (GRA)	6:00 PM	Children's Bicycle Drawing (SHP)
7:00 PM	The Allison Ames Band (MP) Country & Rock		Sponsored by: Ware Butler Building Supply	CHE DM	Sponsored by: Fiesta Shows
7:00 PM	Harness Racing (GRA)		& Motor Supply	6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Flores Thrill Show (Behind Grandstand) Truck Pulls (GRA)
7:00 PM	Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH)	7:00 PM	Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH)	0.30 FIVI	Sponsored by: Randy's Auto Repair
7:30 PM	Pud Porter Sweepstakes Horse Pull (COL)	8:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP)	7:00 PM	HonkeyTonkers (MP) Modern Country
8:00 PM	Cash Sweepstakes Drawing (MP)		Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm	7:00 PM	Win a TV @ BLACKOUT BINGO!!! (BH)
	Tickets must be in drop box by 7:30 pm		· · ·	8:00 PM	\$500 Cash Sweepstakes Drawing
				3.00	& \$5000 Grand Prize Sweepstakes Drawing (GRA)
					Tickets must be in drep box by 7:20 pm

Hight family shares 70 - car collection of restored antiques

Display commemorates the 200th anniversary of the fair

BY VALERIE TUCKER Correspondent

uring this 200th anniversary of the Skowhegan State Fair, visitors will have the opportunity to see the history of the American automobile from its very beginnings. The Hight family of dealerships love cars and will share their collection.

Walter Hight said he and his entire family have collected and restored dozens of antique cars over the

"We've got a '49 Buick and a '35 Ford roadster, and we have some early convertibles that are fully restored," Hight said.

Founder of the family's love of cars 107 years ago was the first Walter Hight, the father, grandfather and great-grandfather of the owners and managers of today's several dealerships.

To celebrate the bicentennial year of the fair, the family will bring 70 historic vehicles to the fairgrounds for a magnificent 10-day display of automobile history.

Much has changed over the past century, according to Walter Hight, namesake and grandson of the first car dealer.

The earliest models often had fittings that no longer are manufactured, Hight explained, and finding those parts for an authentic restoration is a painstaking

The oldest in the collection is a 1913 Model T Ford Brass, which came from the Ford factory in Michigan.

The radiator is brass, he said, as are the headlight housings. Cars in that time period were shipped by railroad from Michigan to Lewiston, and the Hight dealership employees would drive to the station to assemble them and drive them back to Skowhegan. The Model T and the subsequent Model A were big hits with Maine customers, even though few had driven anything other than a horse and wagon at the

Henry Ford's tin Lizzies changed life for central Maine people, including the way they worked, traveled and vacationed. Assembly-line automobile manufacturing in 1908 produced the first car that an average family could afford. According to History.com, more than 15 million Model Ts were built in Detroit and Highland Park, Michigan.

The first Hight dealership opened when Walter Hight added Ford cars to his inventory of hay, lumber and all sorts of other goods necessary to local farmers and business owners. He had to teach customers

More ANTIQUE CARS, PAGE 9

"We'll have a '39 Ford convertible with a rumble seat, which is the last year they made rumble seats."

WALTER HIGHT



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During this 200th anniversary of the Skowhegan State Fair, the Hight family will share their 70-car collection of restored antiques, including this 1913 Ford Model T.



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Antique Cars

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

how to drive them, and stories of escapades, close calls and tough times have been passed to each new generation.

After the Model T, the automobile industry boomed. New models had new features, including the folding or removable top on the popular convertible.

."We'll have a '39 Ford convertible with a rumble seat, which is the last year they made rumble seats," he said.

The Hights' collection spans the decades of the 20th century, and the display will be a chance for both car and history buffs to see the changes and improvements throughout the past century. Sports car fans will enjoy the collection of 12 Corvettes. The first full-scale Corvette concept was displayed as a "dream car" at General Motor's Motorama in New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel in 1953. The 1956 Corvette introduced exposed headlamps, sculpted side coves and roll up windows. Factory-installed, removable hardtops were offered for the first time, according to the National Corvette Museum's timeline.

"We have some Mustangs and Thunderbirds in the collection, too. They're beautiful cars," Hight said. "The oldest Mustang is a 1965 model.'

In the 1960s, American car buyers were looking for "muscle cars" that were both stylish and affordable. Mustangs were called "pony

cars," with long hoods and short rear decks, and they have been collectibles ever since.

Now, after 107 years of selling cars, staying afloat through several wars and the Great Depression and other challenges, the Hight family plans to share the legends and lore of the automotive industry. Family members will drive all 70 cars a few at a time to a big tent on the fairgrounds. Each day of the fair, someone will be available to answer questions for viewers. The display will be located next to the antique power collection.

Hight locations include the Chevrolet Buick GMC dealership in Skowhegan, the Chevrolet Buick GMC dealership in Farmington, the Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Madison and the Ford dealership in Skowhegan.





Part of the collection the Hight family will share includes this 1960 Corvette roadster at left, and this 1939 Ford convertible with a rumble seat, above.



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Maja's	Constitution Hall				warmers & more					
New Balance Athletic Shoe	Constitution Hall	Footware Display	Deep Fried Sweets	Independent Midway	Concession: Everything Deep Fried					
Paparazzi Accessories	Constitution Hall	Elegant Affordable \$5 Fashion			from Twinkies to Ice cream					
Accessories			Dip-Em Donuts	Independent Midway	Concession: Mini Donuts, Dip'Em Cups,					
Scentsy	Constitution Hall	Scentsy			Mini Donut Sundeas					
Somerset County Republicans	Constitution Hall	Informational	JES Hospitality Group LLC							
Timeshare Exit Team	Constitution Hall	Timeshare Service	DBA Twisted-Concesessions	Independent Midway	Concession: Pretzels, pretzel dogs,					
Tuperware	Constitution Hall	Tuperware			pretzel pizza, pretzel bites					
VSI Upholstry	Constitution Hall	Upholstry	Stone Fox Creamery	Independent Midway	Concession: Premium Home Made					
Whittemore & Sons	Constitution Hall	Outdoor equipment. Chain Saws, ATVs,			Ice Cream					
		Snowmobiles, Tractors, Generators	The Donut Boy's	Independent Midway	Concession					
		& more	Titone's Italian Ice	Independent Midway	Concession: Italian Ice					
Wilderness Rentals / Moose Lodge	Constitution Hall	Lodging in Jackman ME	Genes Electronics - Dish Network	Midway Hall	Satelite Services					
Wireless Zone - Verizon	Constitution Hall	Cell Phones	Hardy's Motor Sports	Midway Hall	Lawn & Garden Products					
Hight-Chevrolet-GMC-B	Grounds	Snow Plows	Senior Planning Center	Midway Hall	Health & Life Insurancce solutions					
Laurie's Lunch	Grounds	Various Breaded Foods	Starglow Products	Midway Hall	Multi Purpose, Jewerly, Cleaner					
Skowhegan Federated Church	Grounds	Dynamites, Pulled Pork Sandwiches,	The Gideon International	Midway Hall	Informational					
		Pies	VIP Tires & Service	Midway Hall	Tire Display					
Skowhegan Lion's Club	Grounds	Sit down Meals - daily menu	Fonzo's Pizza	Midway Hall	Food & Drinks					
Skowhegan-Madison Elks			Ken's Restaurant	Midway Hall	Chicken & Fish Baskets & More					
Lodge # 2531	Grounds	Hot Dogs and other food	M&M Ice Cream	Midway Hall	Ice Cream					

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