



Atlantic Winter Fair Seen Becoming Major Attraction

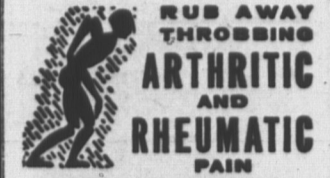
By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial Farm Editor

Men and women who scored victories and lesser placings last week at the Atlantic Winter Fair in Halifax.

My first thought this week is to offer hearty congratulations. My second is to offer congratulations and appreciation to the Prince Edward Island

President Don Oland vice-president Alex Lamond, Secretary J. Watson Maxner and all the members of their staffs and the committees of the fair. The congratulations are for a job done splendidly. The appreciation on my part and for these newspapers which I represented at the fair is to the scores of people who were ever courteous, ever efficient and always helpful, every time I asked a question or indicated there was something that was not exactly clear to me.

The many stories you read from Halifax in the last 10 days,



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At the Going Down of the Sun

And in the morning

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

BELLE'S DRESS SHOP

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Remembrance Day

NOVEMBER 11

"Lest We Forget"

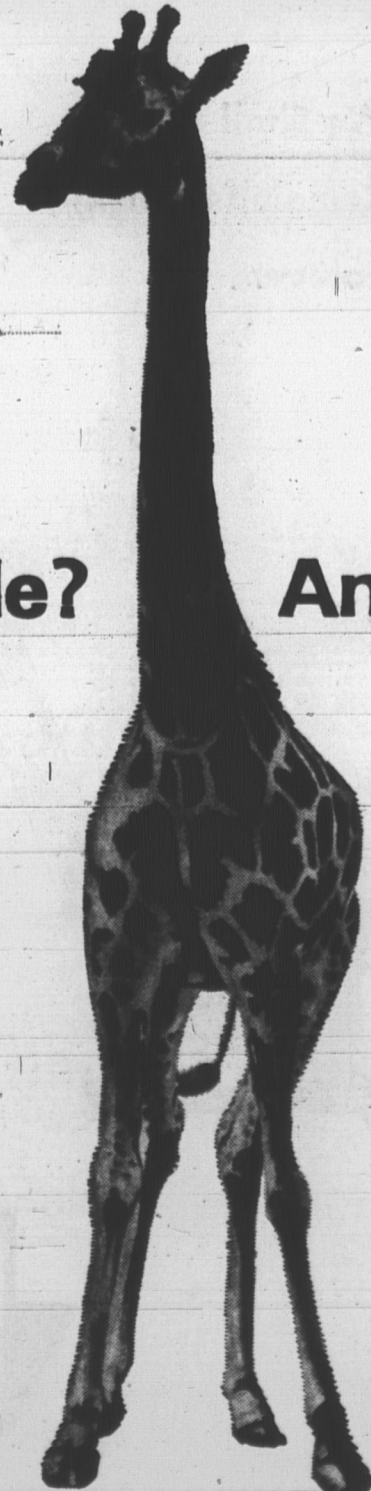
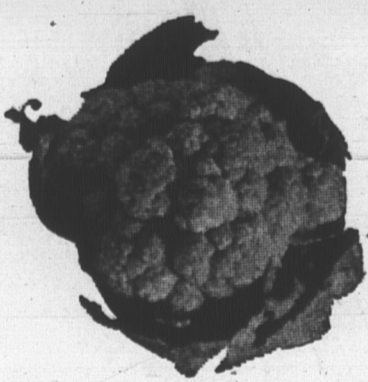


To the glorious memories of those whose sacrifice we acknowledge to the utmost of our beign . . . and remember forever.

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and the one on the tug-of-war championship you read on Monday would not have been possible without the co-operation of scores of people. To all of those people my appreciation is very warm as I recall so many times many of you went out of your way to be helpful.

Incidentally I met and talked with the two girls Joyce Myhon and Helen Alwood who recently completed a horse-back ride across Canada. I thought you would like to read about some of the many interesting things that happened to them.

Their story will be in my "Across The Island" column on Thursday if I can find time to whip it into shape by Wednesday night. The girls never rode a horse before they started on a ride that took them across the country. I thought you'd like to know something about their feat. That's why I interviewed the two Port Albert, British Columbia girls last Friday night.

I think I told you about most of the things that happened to Island people at the big fair. But something tells me I forgot two things. Keith Dixon Clyde River won third place in the Dual Purpose Shortbreds with his heifer and Keith Barrett Belmont Lot 16 had the cow that won the best uddered class in the Dual Purpose breed. Keith Dixon's heifer is Glenalva Betty and she was the only animal he showed at the Fair.

Also Leo McIsaac and Sons Mermaid were credited with second and third placings in the Angus bull classes. I did not explain that they were the only McIsaac entries.

The Island's Dual Purpose Shortbreds dominated their class. But the other Island breeders had unusually tough competition in almost all of the cattle classes. The fact they did so well is a tribute to their ability as breeders, fitters and showmen.

This year for the first time Island and other Maritime breeders were up against Ontario herds that were among the best in the country. This happened in Angus, Shortbreds and in Herefords for example.

In Angus cattle for example there were the outstanding herds of Windfield Farms, Willowdale, Ontario — the owner is Toronto's financier E.P. Taylor — and the CFRA Broadcasting Company's Kilreen Farm herd from Ottawa.

There were tremendous cattle in the two herds and they clearly dominated the show. Even the strong herd from Oland's Lindwood Farm herd only managed one first place against them, though they did get other good placings.

If I can use two cases of local cattle being trimmed by the unusually strong Ontario herds; Irving MacDonald, York had a heifer, York Erica, that would probably top any other Maritime Angus heifer. She placed third in two Ontario herd heifers Barry Rankin, Bursary took the first defeat of the season with his Angus bull.

OVERFITTING IS CRITICISM
The only real fault I had to find with the cattle in the big Ontario herds is that they are overfitted; and of course that is only my opinion. But I believe I have seen judges at fat steer shows put animals down for overfinitish that did not carry any more finish than some of those Windfield Farms and Kilreen Farm breeding animals carried.

These were some who said those "outside herds" should not be allowed to compete in a Maritime show. Here are two reasons against that argument. Our cattlemen competed for example at Nova Scotia shows like Truro and Pictou this year and some of our herds dominated the shows. This year too Dickie Brothers Truro took \$500 or more — I forget the exact figure, though Gordon Dickie told me — from our fair at Charlottetown. If it's fair for our cattlemen to invade other Maritime shows, and for Nova Scotia men to invade ours, what's to stop Ontario herds from showing at Halifax.

The other argument is this, and it's unanswerable in my opinion. Under the Harry Hays formula the Canada department of agriculture puts up one-half of the prize money for the cattle. So the show is open to any Canadian province. That, by the way, is the official decision.

And that reminds me that I saw entries from as far west as Saskatchewan as I glanced quickly through the handicrafts section in my search for Island place winners. The Atlantic Winter Fair is fast becoming a widely recognized competition. It has improved greatly since the first show was held back in 1963. It has been fighting financial difficulties and the Halifax city council has stated it will no longer cover deficits.

I believe that all the Islanders who competed there will join me

in the hope the AWF will continue and will eventually establish itself on an economically sound basis. We need a major competition for agricultural and other projects.

I missed the name of Howard Norton, Annandale in my first sheep story from Halifax and that was unintentional. They had the biggest sheep show yet a Judge Harold Teller, Fredrickson and the exhibitors worked from nine o'clock in the morning until about midnight that night before they completed the big job.

Mr. Norton was very strong in Oxford Downs as a separate story I sent home said the day following the main story.

STEER SHOWMEN TOPS
I wrote so much about the Islanders' wonderful performance in the inter-breed steer show that there's scarcely anything I can add now. They were tremendous — I can't say anything more. We had four steers in the first six when the final completion was made and the two places the Island didn't have among the top half dozen went to the CFRA and the Windfield Farm steers from Ontario.

I don't believe my story on Fulton Sanderson's grand champion win said he had won the reserve grand championship in 1963 — he took the grand last year and repeated this year, as I said in the Halifax stories.

The statement by Finley Stewart, that the Sanderson steer may be the outstanding steer in Canada this year is interesting, because this man is in a position to judge such things. The final result will soon be available now, and Fulton could win himself additional honors if his steer is actually the best in the nation.

I'm rambling a bit, but I must observe that the grand champion potato sample was just about the finest sample of potatoes I have ever seen anywhere. My friend Stewart Wright, deputy minister of agriculture, had similar comment. So had many others to whom I spoke.

Seed potatoes are judged for their smoothness and their eye appeal, and for the uniformity of the 30 tubers in the selected sample. It was difficult to fault this sample in any way. William Huntley, Sheffield Mills, N.S. merits the warmest congratulations. Congratulations also to Wallace Muir, Amherst RR 5 who had the reserve seed sample. But that grand championship sample was extra good.

Raymond Vessey, York had the table stock grand championship and the reserve championship. I wonder how many championships this man has won — over the years.

The Island tug-of-war teams

were superb and they lifted the heart of every Islander in the Forum — and that includes former Islanders now living in the Halifax area — who saw their performance, congratulations go to Ross Young and his Red Point Farmers for the second championship in as many years, and to Stuart MacEwen and his St. Peter's Bay lads who were the finalists and put up a blistering battle for the title.

And don't forget the Red Point lightweight team that made a fine showing in their classification before losing to a Linden, N.S. team. I hope these lads will stay together. With more experience, they could really go all the way next time.

Don't forget the fox show this week in the show pavilion at the Provincial Exhibition Grounds. The foxmen are back on a paying basis this year. There are only a few left but those who have

stuck courageously through the years have finally seen their hopes of a comeback realized. The hope is that those paying prices will continue.

MUSCLES WORK FAST
Pedal-driven cars built for the British annual "soap-box derby" can reach a speed of 30 m.p.h. on a quarter-mile course.

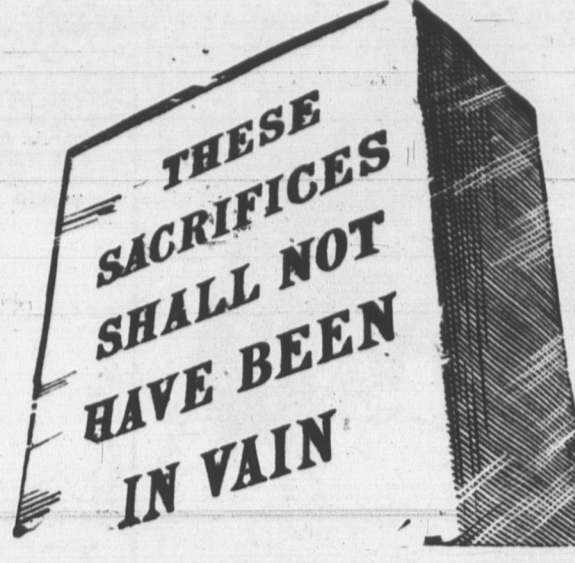
Fiddlers and Stepdancers Contest

St. Anthony's Parish Centre
BLOOMFIELD

Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 8 o'clock

Please send all entries to Cyrus J. Gallant, Howland. Specialties by the three Arsenault sisters and the Warren brothers.

. . . In Flanders Fields



. . . the popples grow . . . between the crosses, row on row . . . and as we pause today to pay tribute to those who laid down their lives in two World Wars, let us pray, also, for continued peace in our time . . . so that the efforts of those who made the supreme sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

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