



Harness Racing



INSIDE A MAINE TRADITION

- A Spring 2006 Supplement for Current Publishing -

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Harness Racing: A Maine tradition

Harness Racing has been a tradition for Maine families for more than 150 years. This popular sport begins with families on the farms, and touches the lives of many agricultural and non-agricultural businesses before the race even begins. The racing event is the culmination of hard work and dedication. The event is entertaining, enriching, and part of our landscape here in Maine. The season of harness racing opens March 31. Come and discover the many faces of the harness racing industry!


COVER PHOTO: Horses round a corner during a race at Scarborough Downs.

Staff photo by Rich Obrey

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A horse and driver pass the tote board at Scarborough Downs.

Staff photo by Rich Obrey

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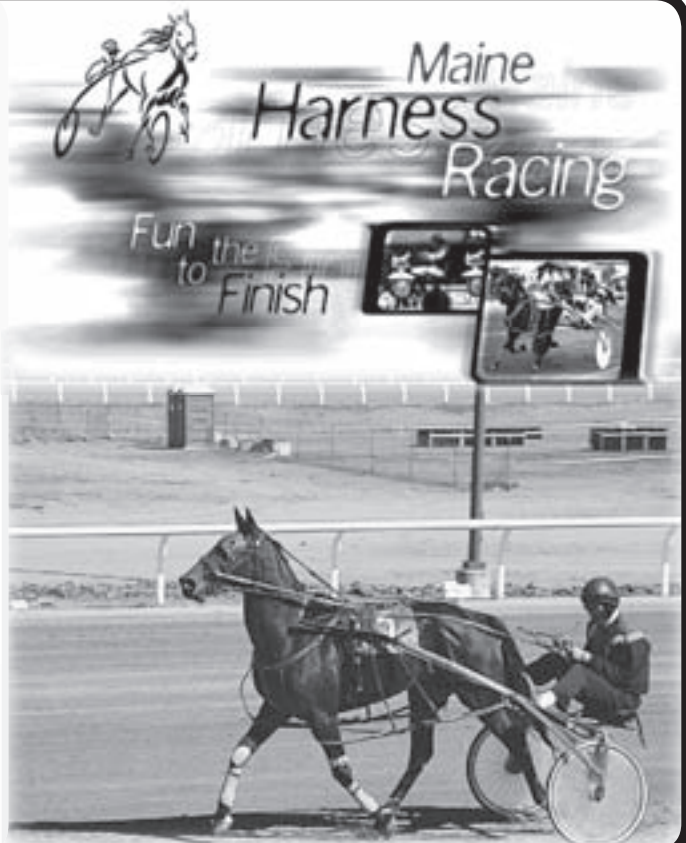
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A shower cools off a horse after a workout.

Staff photo by Rich Obrey

It all starts with the horse!

By Karen Vachon
Contributing Writer

We must begin by giving credit where credit is due – you can't have a harness race without the horse! And, not just any old horse – a very special horse: the Standardbred.

The breed is more than 200 years old and is exclusive to the sport. The origins trace back to an English thoroughbred, Messenger, who foaled in 1780 and was later exported to the United States. Messenger was the great grand sire of Hambletonian 10 – to which every Standardbred's heritage is traced.

The name "Standardbred" comes from the early trotters. They were required

to meet certain time "standards" for the mile, which is the standard distance for the harness race. When the standards were met, they were registered as part of the breed. Only a registered Standardbred may harness race. Though the breed resembles the Thoroughbred, the Standardbred is shorter in height, averaging 15 to 16 hands, longer and more muscular in body, and has a bigger head often sporting a rounded, Roman nose.

Their gentle personalities, willing and dependable temperament make this breed enjoyable both on and off the track. Their racing debut came on a measured mile country road between neighbors.

One would draw a line in the dirt road and the race would begin with a running start and culminate at a predetermined finish line. (This is where the term "from scratch" was derived.) More formal racing eventually moved to state-of-the-art racetracks.

Throughout history the sport has connected communities, and brought racing to the common man. Today, the sport attracts spectators at two commercial tracks and ten agricultural fairs in Maine.

Most Standardbreds start racing as two- or three-year-olds. They make their first debut in the "Sire Stakes" program. The stronger the Sire Stakes program, the stronger the future of the

industry. They race at commercial tracks and fairs in the state and across the country. The sport is most popular in the East and the Midwest.

Maine's rich history and heritage of harness racing is preserved by the many dedicated families and farms whose livelihood and passion support the sport. It is a challenging labor of love and horse owners have been known to go the distance for their love of the sport.

Come and meet the Standardbred at the farm, track, fair, or in retirement. And meet some of Maine's 4,000 people whose lives are touched both professionally and recreationally by this humble breed.

Harness racing saves the farm

By Robert Lowell
Staff Writer

A drive past the Lindon Farm on Bonny Eagle Road in Hollis reveals a rural setting that has disappeared in many Maine communities recently.

Inside the farm's fences this spring, mares and their foals will grace paddocks of the 60-acre farm, bordering the Saco River. When the Mareans bought the farm in 1988, it already had been approved for a subdivision.

"If it wasn't for harness racing, this place would be houses," said Don Marean recently.



Don Marean holds one of his trotting broodmares at Lindon Farm in Hollis.

Staff photo by Robert Lowell

"Saves" see page 6




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A view inside the front door of the barn at Lindon Farm in Hollis. *Staff photo by Rich Obrey*

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"Saves" from page 5

For harness racing, farms are the industry's blood. Life for some of tomorrow's equine stars begins at Lindon Farm. And it's a retirement home for two pensioned racehorses enjoying the good life.

Marean, a retired businessman, and his wife, Linda, raise standardbred colts and fillies to race in Maine and tracks in other parts of the United States and Canada. They stuck with it during recent lean years when purse money didn't keep pace with rising costs. "You stayed in it for love," he said.

But the venture is turning now from a hobby into a business for the Mareans, as harness racing begins to reap revenue from the casino industry. Slots have bolstered the size of the purse in many races. "This is the biggest glimmer of hope that I've seen in 20 years," said Marean, who represents Hollis and part of Buxton in the Legislature.

Marean said purses for Standardbred Breeders stakes would double this year. Weekly legs of the series likely will carry purses of about \$10,000 for two and three-year-olds with the finals in the fall in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range.

For the two-year-olds, the stakes feature eight races and a final, while three-

year-olds have 12 legs and a final. The fairs, along with Bangor and Scarborough, host stakes throughout the season. The finals will all be at Scarborough Downs.

Lindon Farm has eight prospects in training for this year's breeders' stakes. Veteran horseman Freeman Parker, who has won more than 4,000 races and \$3.2 million, trains and drives for the Mareans.

The Mareans also have a four-year-old being prepped for action in regular races. Marean said there would be a substantial increase in the number of racing opportunities because of the casinos' impact.

The couple has 12 broodmares, who will foal this spring. Encouraged by the prospects of a turnaround in the sport's finances, the Mareans imported a pricey trotting stallion, Roadshow Hall, from Canada this year. "I'm sure I can recoup my money," he said.

They bought the stallion just before the horse was to be exported to Finland. Roadshow Hall is one of 65 registered in Maine for the current breeding season. Marean said the number of stallions has risen this year, a sign of optimism for farm owners.

The Mareans sold one of their Maine bred yearlings last fall in a private sale for \$9,000. But he figures it

"Saves" see page 8

Weekly legs of the Standardbred Breeders stakes likely will carry purses of about \$10,000 for two and three-year-olds with the finals in the fall in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range.



Don and Linda Mearan bought their Lindon Farm in Hollis in 1988, saving it from a housing development..

Staff photo by Rich Obrey

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“Saves” from page 6 costs \$8,000, not counting a stallion service fee, to produce a yearling. From the time the mare is bred until the offspring is sold as a yearling marks a 30-month investment.

Horses chew up a lot of money. The horses at Lindon Farm annually munch through 3,000 conventional square bales of hay and 200 of the big rolls weighing 800 pounds each. Their hay bill averages \$18,000 a year and grain adds another \$24,000 to their expenses.

Enjoying the good life, two former racehorses are retired at the farm. They’re privileged and each has a stall with a private paddock attached. One of them is Marean’s first horse, Armbo Blaze, who is 26.

The other is 15-year-old



These yearlings at Lindon Farm will begin training this fall for next year’s two-year-old stake races.

Staff photo by Rich Obrey

Lindon’s Rowe Me In, 15, who was willed money by a deceased elderly woman who enjoyed visiting the horse. Marean joked that

the horse has retirement account.

With mouths to feed, fences to fix and stalls to clean, the Mareans have poured

hard work into the farm’s operation. “The horse business is a 24-hour, seven days a week commitment,” Marean said.



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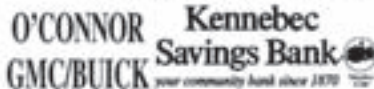
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Filet of Salmon

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A regional favorite with cracker crumbs 15.99

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Hamburger / Cheeseburger served with fries and a pickle 5.99 Grilled BBQ Breast of Chicken with fries 5.99 Pasta with Marinara Sauce 5.99

A visit to Maine's commercial tracks

By Karen Vachon
Contributing Writer

Scarborough Downs is the largest commercial track in Maine. In business 56 years, it is nestled among tall pines conveniently off exit 42 on the Maine Turnpike. This 500-acre facility in the heart of Scarborough is home of New England's fastest half-mile track.

Hospitality is their strong suit – both to the industry and to the community. Free board is provided for up to 400 horses as a benefit to horse owners.

In recent years, Scarborough Downs has opened their doors to the



Photo by Ed Szalajeski

"Tracks" see page 12

A collage of harness racing photographs. The top left shows a group of horses and drivers. The top right is a blurred action shot of a race. The bottom left shows a driver in a red suit. The bottom right shows two teams of horses racing. In the center is a white text box with the following information:

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“Tracks” from page 11

community to encourage people to discover the people and the industry. Scarborough Night at the Races, and Scarborough Family Fun Day, hosting Scarborough Rotary Club and Chamber events, welcoming Scarborough’s seniors in the off season as a drop-in senior center, and supporting community sports teams, and charitable organizations are some ways that communicate their mission:

We are dedicated to the sport of harness racing. We strive to entertain the public, provide a livelihood for the equine industry so that we can provide for our employees, community, and state of Maine agricultural interests.

On a state level, Scarborough Downs sponsors Maine’s 4-H Foundation, and will host Maine’s 4-H Alumni event this spring. “Our goal is to reach out to Maine’s seniors and support Maine’s youth – a thriving harness racing industry will accomplish that and more,” said Sharon Terry. She remains hopeful that Scarborough will reconsider slots. “A visit to Bangor provides a sneak preview of what could happen here,” she said.

Head north from Scarborough 140 miles, and you’ll reach Bangor Raceway. Excitement is in the air! Located in the heart of downtown Bangor at the historic Bass Park, it is the oldest commercial track in operation in Maine since 1883. Once part of racing’s Grand Circuit during



Photo by Ed Szalajeski

the Roaring Twenties, the track’s infield has a long history of happenings: the first airplane flight in Maine, the great Transatlantic Balloon Race, and the Bangor State Fair.

For history buffs, the

grand stand is open year round for the public to visit and enjoy many exhibits which include Currier and Ives lithographs of 19th century horses that raced

“Tracks” see page 14

“Our goal is reach out to Maine’s seniors and support Maine’s youth...”

Sharon Terry



Photo by Ed Szalajeski

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Photo by Ed Szalajeski

“Tracks” from page 12

in Bangor, period photographs of world records set at Bangor in the 1920s and three murals depicting great events that occurred on the grounds – including the Trans Atlantic Balloon race and President Theodore Roosevelt’s campaign visit.

Since last November, new life and vitality has come to the historic track with the addition of Hollywood Slots. By the end of the year, special thanks to Penn National, \$1 million in improvements

will be complete at the historic track. Since opening last November, over \$1 million dollars per month has been contributed to the state and the city of Bangor to support harness racing, prescription drugs to the elderly and scholarships.

For racing enthusiasts and the industry, this is great news! The industry will receive an estimated \$5 million this year from Hollywood Slots. Plus the number of race dates has increased at both commercial tracks: Bangor

*New life and vitality
has come to the
historic track with
the addition of
Hollywood Slots.*

Raceway has added 16 days and Scarborough Downs will increase by 20 days. This addition creates opportunities for horses to race and win more in Maine. This also boosts Bangor’s hospitality industry, giving people more reason to make

Bangor their entertainment destination.

And entertain they will – both on and off the track. Opening up the live racing season, April 28 will feature a Dixieland band and great prizes. In addition to several mid-summer meets featuring Maine Breeders Stakes, Bangor Raceway hosts the Anah Temple Shrine Trot and Parade, the Billings Amateur Driving series, and the annual Paul Bunyan \$20,000 invitation-al. A trip to Bangor is worth the trip!



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UMaine fine-tunes the standardbred

A visit to Witter Farm at the University of Maine in Orono, and the equine program might surprise you! In recent years, the university has developed a strong horse program. Built on a foundation that blends cutting edge biomedical research with concern for animal welfare, the program encourages active student involvement, and uses exclusively standardbreds. Any student attending the university has the opportunity to minor in equine studies. Students study reproduction, breeding management, and equitation. The program goal is to make strong ties to the



"Tune" see page 17 UMaine's Drill Teams bear paw trade mark!

Courtesy photo

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UMaine's Standardbred drill team performing July 4 at Bangor Raceway.

Courtesy photo

"Tune" from page 16 horse industry – and has been successful because the industry and the university work well together.

Under the direction of Dr.

Robert Causey and Dr. Jim Weber, veterinarians and faculty members, students learn about reproduction and infertility issues, of domesticated horses. Only half of mares bred each year deliver

a foal - currently the lowest success rate of domestic livestock. Through their research, Causey and Weber hope to explore causes, and ultimately develop treatments to improve the birth

rate. Their work benefits many: the horse, horse owners, students, and UMaine's Equine program, which last year graduated eight students who went on to vet-

"Tune" see page 18

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Angela Young is a member of Maine's standardbred drill team.

Courtesy photo

“Tune” from page 17
erinarian school.

The university relies on donated retired harness race horses – mares age 3 to 10 years - whose fertility and physical conditioning are sound enough to benefit the program in either area: reproduction research or re-training.

“The support of the local equine industry has made this program possible,” said Causey. “The donation of retired race horses, the support of industry leaders, and the welcome for UMaine students at local equine facilities have given our students an array of choices as

they include horse in their education.”

The university program is successful because of the involvement of students who volunteer up to 20 hours a week doing a combination of chores, and re-training racehorses to become pleasure horses. It takes two years re-train a racehorse to a pleasure horse. And then the horses are sold. “We help promote the sale of our standardbreds and support the breed,” said student Angela Young. And they do it in a variety of ways.

Since 2000, six to eight graduate and undergradu-

*“The support of
the local equine
industry has
made this
program possible.”*
Dr. Robert Causey

ate students have assembled a drill team that performs a synchronized routine to music on specially re-trained standardbreds. Each spring they develop their routine practicing up to three times per week to get ready for their grand performance July 4 at Bangor Raceway's historic Bass

Park. Team members also show the mares at local horseshows, and do demonstrations at the Common Ground and Skowhegan Fair. To date, students have sold six retrained horses to good homes. Proceeds from the sale help to support and grow UMaine's equine program.

This finely tuned program is building Maine's equine future. From birth to retirement - “Horses cut across all disciplines, from biology and medicine to business and marketing, athletics and gymnastics, tourism, recreation and land use, and social work”

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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KEY: SD = Scarborough Downs 2006 Post Times BR = Bangor Raceway 2006 Post Times **SMULCASTING** Scarborough Downs 12 Midnight
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KEY: SD = Scarborough Downs 2006 Post Times BR = Bangor Raceway 2006 Post Times **SMULCASTING** Scarborough Downs 12 Midnight
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					SD 7:15p	SD 7:15p
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SD 1:30p					SD 7:15p	SD 7:15p
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SD 1:30p						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

KEY: SD - Scarborough Downs 2006 Post Times BR - Bangor Raceway 2006 Post Times SMULCASTING Scarborough Downs 12-Midnight

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	SD 12:00p	14
					BR 7:00p	SD 12:00p
SD 12:00p	16	17	18	19	SD 20	21
BR 1:30p		BR 7:00p		SD 12:00p	BR 7:00p	SD 12:00p
SD 27	23	24	25	26	SD 27	28
SD 12:00p		BR 7:00p		SD 12:00p	BR 7:00p	SD 12:00p
SD 28	30	31				
BR 1:30p		BR 7:00p				

KEY: SD - Scarborough Downs 2006 Post Times BR - Bangor Raceway 2006 Post Times SMULCASTING Scarborough Downs 12-Midnight

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
					SD 12:00p	SD 12:00p
SD 12:00p	6	7	8	9	BR 7:00p	11
BR 1:30p					SD 12:00p	SD 12:00p
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SD 12:00p					SD 12:00p	SD 12:00p
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SD 12:00p					SD 12:00p	SD 12:00p
26	27	28	29	30		
SD 12:00p						

KEY: SD - Scarborough Downs 2006 Post Times BR - Bangor Raceway 2006 Post Times SMULCASTING Scarborough Downs 12-Midnight

MAINE AGRICULTURAL FAIRS 2006

Northern Maine Fair: July 28-31, August 2-4
 Topsham Fair: August 6-8, 10-12
 Skowhegan Fair: August 13-19
 Union Fair: August 20-26
 Windsor Fair: August 27-31, September 1-4
 Oxford Fair: September 13-16
 Farmington Fair: September 17-23
 Cumberland Fair: September 24-30, October 1
 Fryeburg Fair: October 3 - 8th
 Cornish Trotting park: September 9th



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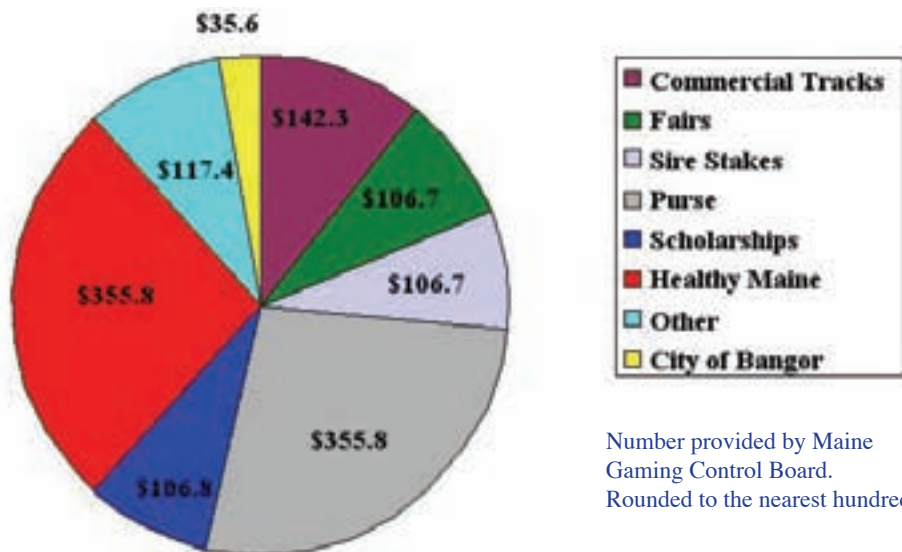


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Photo by Ed Szalajeski

Sire Stakes builds Maine's harness racing industry, preserves farms

By Karen Vachon
Contributing Writer

Thirty years ago, the Maine harness racing industry faced a challenge: How could they best nurture young Standardbreds and ready them for racing careers?

Their goal had vision: Prepare them well so that they would have lucrative racing careers in Maine, and Maine's commercial tracks and parimutuel fairs would

always have a supply of competitive race stock, with more up-and-comers in the pipe line. This would create excitement in the industry and introduce more to the profession – creating jobs and preserving Maine's farms and open landscape.

It was determined that every Standardbred born in Maine would have a fair shot at a racing career. A special class of their own was established. Maine's Sire Stakes program, for the

most part, has delivered the results hoped for. Today, the quality of horses has very much improved, and a higher numbers of horses have gone on to very successful racing careers.

One disappointment, however, is that many have been sold to horsemen out-of-state, who race at venues offering higher purses. This year, the future looks brighter for these hot, young prospects as Hollywood Slots is expected to sweet-

en the winning pot, which will hopefully keep Maine's prize Standardbreds in the state.

Here's how the program works: Every Maine-bred two- or three-year-old is guaranteed a chance to race no matter their talent or capability. All that is required is a commitment to the program and an initial investment. As a yearling, owners/breeders must pay a

"Stakes" see page 25



Photo by Ed Szalajski

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Photo by Ed Szalajeski

“Stakes” from page 23

nomination fee. This fee is your commitment to enter the program. The fee continues at age two and three.

Horses begin racing at age two and race in a class exclusive to their age. Two-year-olds race eight races, and three-year-olds race 12 races. Both classes earn performance points at each race. At the end of the season, the top eight point holders in each class have a shot at winning the finals, and the top performer is the champion.

And the winnings are great – “better than regular overnight racing” explains Don Marean, owner of Lindon Farm in Hollis. Marean and his wife, Linda, have been in the Sire Stakes program since 1989. They started with one young horse, and

when the horse aged out of the program, Marean decided to start breeding more up-and-comers. “It’s very difficult to get out,” he explains, “you meet some very nice people that love the sport and the animals and the friendships among the ‘stakes’ people is nice.”

The Mareans admit that the most difficult part of the program is the investment of time to train, and money. It is a labor of love, and some years are better than others when it comes to successful racing debuts. After almost 20 years in the ‘stakes’ the Mareans haven’t had a Champion of the Year, but they believe they will.

“We love raising babies and seeing them grow up to race. Plus, our farm keeps open space and helps stop sprawl in southern Maine.”

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Harness racing and fairs go together!

Rich in Maine's tradition is the agricultural fair. The season kicks off in July and runs into October. Come fair season, many people follow the fair circuit – 25 licensed, and one unlicensed in all – it is the agricultural fair that offers the best educational entertainment for the entire family. It is at the fair that hobbies are discovered and careers are born. Skowhegan, Maine, is home to the oldest continuous agricultural fair in the United States, celebrating its 185th anniversary in 2003. Maine knows how to have a fair!

From horse shows to oxen

pulls, pig and calf scrambles to fireman's muster, baby beef auctions to Maine produce cooking contests, 4-H demonstrations to midway attractions, nothing beats the Maine agricultural fair experience– it brings you to the root of Maine's social and economic history, and it beckons preservation that savors the very saying: "Maine, the way life should be."

Harness racing and fairs have a long history together – dating back to the late 1800s, it is at the fair, that harness racing first began informally, and it continues

today at 10 of the fairs. Each are dependent upon the other: Harness racing is the financial life blood of the agricultural fairs, contributing just over \$505,000 a year from harness racing revenues and the fair is where people are turned on to the love of sport – either as a participant or an observer. Maine's agricultural fairs attract over 850,000 people per year.

Come fair season, the bets are on. They're betting on their favorite horse. They're betting on Maine's history and tradition. And they're betting on Maine's future.

The future is looking a little brighter this year, as the fairs will also received just over \$106,000 from Hollywood Slots two months in operation the end of 2005. You can't have the fairs without harness racing's contribution, and thanks to the fair, more people have gotten turned onto the sport of harness racing either as a participant or an observer. The more money horses can win, the more exciting the race, and the more interest in the sport. Experience Maine's tradition – visit the fairs and take in a harness race for the fun of it all!

The Standardbred earns its keep!

The well traveled Standardbred has earned its place in Maine's history and economy, bringing joy, entertainment, profession, recreation, and education to many. As the Standardbred goes, so goes Maine. A state, whose aging population has been losing its younger generation to higher paying jobs out of state, needs to find a way to revitalize and preserve a way of life.

And so goes the life of Maine's Standardbred. Born, and raised in Maine,

many have been sold out of state to horsemen who seek higher purse structures than Maine has been able to offer. This has left farm owners and breeders strapped and trapped to sell their farms to pay their taxes. In southern Maine, farms have turned into housing developments.

With vision and a healthy cash infusion, hope is on the horizon for a revitalized harness racing industry. A much improved Sire Stakes program, a new equine minor at UMaine in Orono

and harness racing camps have introduced Maine's youth to new opportunities in the industry. Breeding is up, and future generations are discovering the sport, which has led to enjoyment and careers in the industry.

The most significant impact has come from a recent and much needed cash infusion from Penn National, who has invested in Hollywood Slots and Bangor Raceway's Historic Bass Park. Since opening in November, it has given back

to the industry, agricultural fairs, UMaine and community colleges, Maine's seniors and more.

From recreation to education to careers the Standardbred and the sport of harness racing is an important part of Maine's landscape. Whether you attend a race at a commercial track, or experience the action at an agricultural fair the Standardbred has earned its keep in Maine's economy. Come and discover the horse and the sport!



Topsham Fair

August 6th	Post Time	5:00
August 7th	Post Time	3:00
August 8th	Post Time	3:00
August 9th	- wednesday no racing	
August 10th	Post Time	3:00
August 11th	Post Time	1:00
August 12th	Post Time	1:00



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A life changing experience

By Karen Vachon
Contributing Writer

To Farmington's Paula Smith, Pop N Paula is what she calls a "miracle baby." Smith's family was told that Pop N Paula's mother could no longer have babies. They loved the horse so much, that their veterinarian, Tim Powers patiently attempted to deliver their dream. When the dream was realized, Smith decided to name the horse after both her father and her.

"I never dreamed that one horse could change my life," said Smith. "People use to refer to me as 'Sheridan's daughter' but now they know me around town and in the racing world as Paula."

Smith nominated Pop N Paula to the Sire Stakes program, and to her surprise, she had a two-year old stakes winner last season. Pop N Paula won 8 of 9 starts – making her the season's champion, earning over \$31,000.

The success of her horse has reunited her fam-



Paula Smith, Farmington, holding Sire Stakes winner, Pop N Paula. "My horse changed my life."

Courtesy photo

ily. Paula's sisters, once involved in harness racing, had left the sport to pursue other interests. Following Pop N Paula's successful racing debut, Paula's sisters have become avid race

fans, checking the papers for her standings, and supporting her at races. The family is looking forward to this year's 3-year old stakes program.

Though Smith admits

regardless of her successful racing career, she'd love Pop N Paula anyway, she's thrilled that her whole family is following the sport again. "Pop N Paula changed my life," she said.

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On top in harness racing

By Robert Lowell
Staff Writer

Combining talent with strategy, a Maine harness driver is winning in the sport he loves.

Finding the winners' circle comes naturally to Winston "Drew" Campbell, 39, of Old Orchard, who followed his dad into harness racing.

"I make my living catch driving all over New England," said Campbell, who also trains a few horses in his stable based at Scarborough Downs. "It's not a job to me. It's something I love to do."

"Top" see page 30



Harness horse driver Winston Drew Campbell "blows out" a pacer at Scarborough Downs.
Staff photo by Rich Obrey

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"Top" from page 29

In the fast-paced world of harness racing, a catch driver is a specialist who focuses on driving trotters and pacers in races, leaving training duties to others. When the New England harness racing season is in full swing, Campbell drives up to 20 races a day.

He often appears at two tracks every day, combining nighttime racing at Scarborough Downs with afternoons at Plainridge in Massachusetts and Rockingham in New Hampshire. "It gets hectic and crazy," Campbell said.

His day begins early, caring for his horses. Sought after by trainers, his cell phone rings 30 times a day.

Campbell is often named on entry forms by trainers to drive more than one horse in a race and he has to decide which one to accept. Viewing a computer screen, Campbell checks overnight sheets (a list of horses, post positions and drivers in races that is published three days in advance of a particular date at each racetrack). When faced with a choice,



Harness horse driver Winston "Drew" Campbell "blows out" a pacer at Scarborough Downs.
Staff photo by Rich Obrey

In formulating a strategy for a race, Campbell said drivers view the official program much in the same manner that the public does.

he has to tell the judges at the track which horse he'll drive.

He sometimes has to pick from a choice of four in a race. He said it's the difficult part of his job and he tries to be loyal to trainers and owners who he has

driven for in the past.

In formulating a strategy for a race, Campbell said drivers view the official program much in the same manner that the public does. He would familiarize himself with the other horses and drivers

in a race. He studies the past performances of the ones he picks to drive. "I look at his charted lines," Campbell said.

If he's driving a horse for the first time, he would talk briefly with the horse's trainer before the race. Campbell wants to learn about any "quirks" the horse may have.

Generally, he doesn't warm up the horses before
"Top" see page 31

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Harness horse driver Winston Drew Campbell puts on his driving gloves before a training mile at Scarborough Downs. Staff photo by Rich Obrey

“Top” from page 30

the race. “I don’t have time,” he said. “It’s nice to have a coffee break and clean my glasses between races.”

Campbell gets the feel of a horse in the post parade and a pre-race score. For the lazy horses, Campbell would stir them up. But he keeps hot-headed horses calm, saving energy for the race. “You have to read them,” he said.

He drives on various size tracks. On a half-mile track like Scarborough Downs that has four turns, he is aggressive and said ideally he would prefer to be “close to lead” during the race. He likes to grab the “early racetrack and control the race.”

The size of the track often dictates his strategy. “On a five-eighths track (which has three turns), a better horse gets a better shot with a patient driver,” Campbell said.

On a mile track with only two turns, like the one at Rockingham, he would be extremely patient. “It’s a long home-stretch,” he said. “A big gorilla horse is better on a mile track where the turns aren’t so tight,” Campbell said.

Campbell, who has twice led New England in yearly wins, hopes to score his 1,500th career victory this year. He reined 310 winners in 2005.

“If I drive a bad race, I turn the page quickly and go to the next one,” he said.

He plays hockey during the off-season to stay in shape. It keeps his mind “clicking” and his weight at 155.

“I’m the luckiest guy in the world,” said Campbell, who loves being around the horses.

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Standish Rep. Gary Moore crusades for industry revival

By Karen Vachon
Contributing Writer

Meet Gary Moore. He has had a pivotal role in making slots a reality for Maine's horsemen and harness racing. Gary and countless others saw the potential for Maine's agri-



Gary Moore

culture to go the way of the canning factory, shoe shop, paper industry, and other manufacturing in Maine. He was on a mission to save the industry from extinction. Through his efforts and many others, they were able to

convince the legislature to enact strenuous but sensible regulations to govern slots, which has resulted in an infusion of money and revived enthusiasm for harness racing.

As a result, the industry can expect to receive as much as \$5 million from Bangor's revived gaming facility. When the law was crafted, careful care was made to ensure that not only would the sport benefit, the hosting communities would benefit, as would Maine's population at large.

Already, horsemen, breeders, and suppliers have felt the positive impact. More race days have been added to the commercial tracks, and purse money will double what it was last year. Horse owners see a profession revived, and have been calling on breeders for more horses. Breeders report that bookings for stallions are skyrocketing. This economic boost bodes well for the sport as demand for trailer loads of hay, grain, and other supplies will also increase, as will the need for more trainers and drivers. A robust future has been restored to an industry that was heading for extinction.



Rep. Gary Moore of Standish stands in front of the Statehouse.

Courtesy photo

Training the next generation

By Karen Vachon
Contributing Writer

Biographer of ancient Greek philosophers, Diogene Laertius said, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth." Harness racing in Maine is entering one of the most exciting times in history. This excitement is being propelled by new vitality to Maine's agricultural fairs, and increased education and programs being fostered through Maine's 4-H program. A collaborative effort by Maine state 4-H leader, Donna Chapman, state legislator, Gary Moore, and Cumberland Fair president, Mike Timmons have spearheaded an effort to expand opportunities for Maine's youth to learn the skills of the industry.

Last year's pilot program "A day in the life of a Standardbred" brought new interest to the sport. By the end of the day, each youth was able to drive the oval at Cumberland fairgrounds. The collaborative team is hopeful that other fairgrounds and commercial tracks will follow suit offering youth programs to future generations of har-



Mike Timmons coaches Lizzy Marshall at "A day in the life of a Standardbred" workshop.

Courtesy photo

ness racing enthusiasts.

The ultimate goal is for the love of sport to become a profession. Mike Timmons sees the possibility and explained that a few years ago a visit to Delaware's Harrington Fair Grounds was like paying a visit to Cumberland Fair grounds in the 1950s. The purse at the fair was \$500, and the supply of horses was limited. Located on the main highway Route 13, the fairgrounds were very visible for all to see as people traveled south to Florida

and other ocean sites along the way.

All it took was vision. A few years ago Delaware approved its first racino. Slots have brought new life to the fairground: new barns and cattle facilities, extensive 4-H youth and equestrian programs for the entire family, in an attractive inviting environment complete with a brick gazebo entrance, renovated grandstand, and a new club house.

Professions in harness racing have been born. Today, the minimum purse

is \$10,000, with a \$25,000 feature offered daily. Not only have new drivers been brought into the profession, breeding has become competitive too, as the sire stakes program features \$15,000 purses in competition for the finals, enticing breeders to breed the best for the winning \$100,000 purse.

Mike Timmons, and Scarborough Downs owner, Sharon Terry, share a vision that exciting times are in the future for Maine's agricultural fairs and commercial tracks.

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Spring training

By Robert Lowell
Staff Writer

After a night nestled in a bed of shavings, horses stir in their stalls and rattle feed tubs before dawn, as if beckoning their trainer.

Charles "Butch" Eaton III of South Portland rises at 5 a.m. to feed a stable of 12 that he trains with Laura Searway. They stable the horses at her family's farm in Cape Elizabeth.

A hardy breakfast kicks off the daily schedule for the horses as Eaton and Searway prepare them for

the harness racing campaign. Just like any athletes, they focus on proper nutrition and good training as the building blocks for conditioning standardbred racehorses. "They're athletes," Searway pointed out.

Searway said the horses eat four quarts of grain, supplemented with vitamins and electrolytes, twice daily. For their evening meal, the horses are treated to a nutritious mash, a cooked mix of bran and oats sweetened with molasses. Searway said a hot meal settles the horses' stomachs.

When in training, a horse requires a lot of food and, collectively, the horses munch through five bales of hay a day. The trainers pay extra to get good quality hay, costing \$4 a bale. "It's good stuff," Searway said.

The quality of the feed is reflected in the shine on the coats of their horses. "I like a pretty horse," Searway said.

Eaton and Searway take pride in the appearance and health of their horses. "Ours are all fat," Searway said.

After doing the morning chores in the stable,

Eaton and Searway trailer their horses to Scarborough Downs for jogging and training. Eaton said their horses run at least 125 miles at a jogging pace as a foundation before their training miles begin.

Searway sometimes rides her saddle horse while leading some of their racehorses. As an alternative to being hooked in a cart for exercise, she utilizes the technique to vary the daily routine for their horses.

Citing an "old adage,"

"Training" see page 35



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Race Dates	Post Time
July 28th	7:00 p.m
July 30th	1:00 p.m
July 31st	7:00 p.m
August 2nd	2:00 p.m
August 3rd	7:00 p.m
August 4th	7:00 p.m

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2 yr. old Colt Pacers	July 30
2 yr. old Filly Trotters	August 2
2 yr. old Colt Trotters	August 2
3 yr. old Filly Trotters	August 2
3 yr. old Colt Trotters	August 2
3 yr. old Filly Pacers	August 3
3 yr. old Colt Pacers	August 4

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“Training” from page 34

Eaton said six weeks are necessary to ready the veteran horses for a race following six weeks of vacation time. Most horses jog between three and five miles daily.

With an eye on the long racing season, Eaton preps their horses with sufficient jogging to build a good physical base. “They’ll hold up longer,” he said.

Racehorses are fine tuned with speed work, generally twice a week. Eaton said they begin the training process with the horses running a mile in 2 minutes 40 seconds. Trainers carry stopwatches and they rate training miles using the markers posted around the track as reference points.

Eaton said times for each horse are lowered about five seconds each week down to 2 minutes 10 seconds. Each horse’s weekly progress is charted.

The routine prepares their horses to qualify in two minutes 8 seconds before entering a race. A race mile timed in two minutes means the horses would be traveling at 30 miles per hour.

After workouts and races, horses are bathed with any excess water scraped away

before toweling off. After a liniment body rubdown, the horses are covered with blankets so they don’t cool down too fast.

The horses aren’t cooped up in stalls all day, as they spend part of each day outside in paddocks. “One horse has blossomed, he loves to be outside,” Searway said. But “it doesn’t work for every horse.”

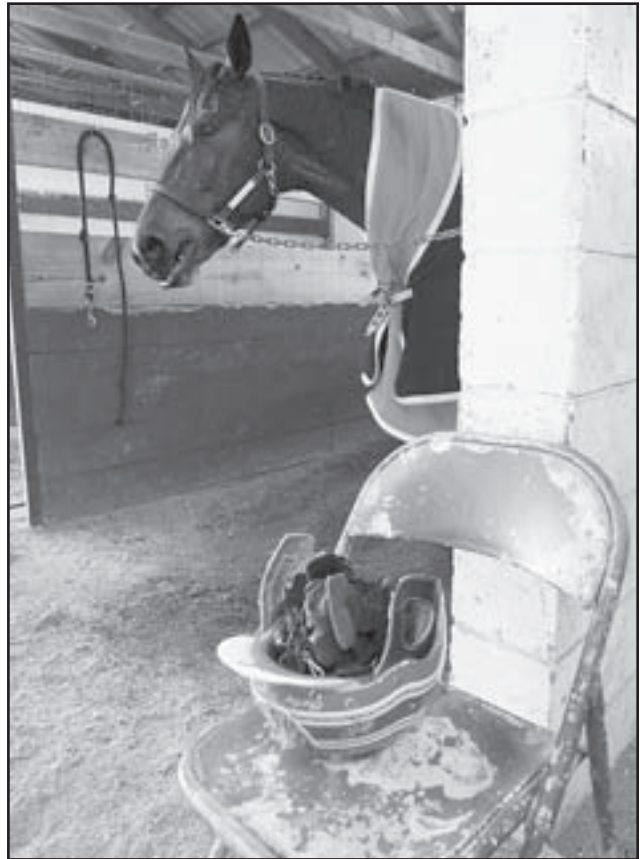
Horses, like all athletes, respond to good care and proper training techniques. Massages and wrapping their legs in bandages reduce injuries. The horses’ feet receive special attention with a variety of ointments.

The work doesn’t end once the horses are taken care of, there are still sulkies and harnesses to clean; horses to brush; feed tubs and water buckets to wash; and stalls to muck out.

It makes for a long day. For Eaton and Searway, spring training means working until about 7 p.m. every day. And with a stable of racehorses to care for, there are no holidays for trainers.

Following a workout and a bath, a horse is bundled up for a trailer ride home.

Staff photo by Rich Obrey



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Trainer Charles "Butch" Eaton III leads a horse from the Scarborough Downs paddock after a recent workout.
Staff photo by Rich Obrey

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Trainer Laura Searway showers a horse following a workout at Scarborough Downs. *Staff photo by Rich Obrey*

A Standardbred's retirement

By Karen Vachon
Contributing Writer

Retirement – what to do? That's the question that humans ponder themselves, as they near retirement age – typically around age 65. Retirement for the Standardbred is carefully considered too! The average lifespan for a horse is between 25 and 30 years. Due to grueling nature of their work, all Standardbred race horses are required to retire at the age of 14. This means each year hundreds of retired horses need new homes and

new jobs. Just like humans, they need to be re-trained to live the second half of their life!

Learning to slow down and relax in retirement is what it's all about.

Robyn Cuffey from Photo Finish Farm in Buxton has been re-training Standardbreds for 20 years. Her work is challenging and rewarding because of the breeds good natured temperament and a strong work ethic. The fact that they've been handled by so many people who train them to race make them, as Robyn says, "very

user friendly" when they are transitioned to become a pleasure horse.

But they have a lot to learn. For starters, they need to get used to having someone on their back – being "under saddle" takes some getting used to. They figure out their balance from this new experience, and learn to respond to cues for moving forward from a rider's leg pressure.

Once the basics are learned, the horse is trained further to suit the rider's interest. A western rider will work on neck reining

and slowing the horse's gates. An English rider may teach the horse to jump. A trail rider will introduce the horse to obstacles and steep rocky terrain. Or some might simply retire to become pleasure-driving horses. This breed is proven to be both dependable and adaptable. Robyn re-trains and sells the horses to meet the riders' interest giving great satisfaction to pleasure riders, and great purpose for retired race horses.

Robyn Cuffey contributed to this article.

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