

## Presque Isle County Fair

The Presque Isle County Agricultural Mechanical Society, which was organized under the state law in the spring of 1901, met on July 31 to announce the fair to be held in Millersburg, September 25 and 26, 1901.

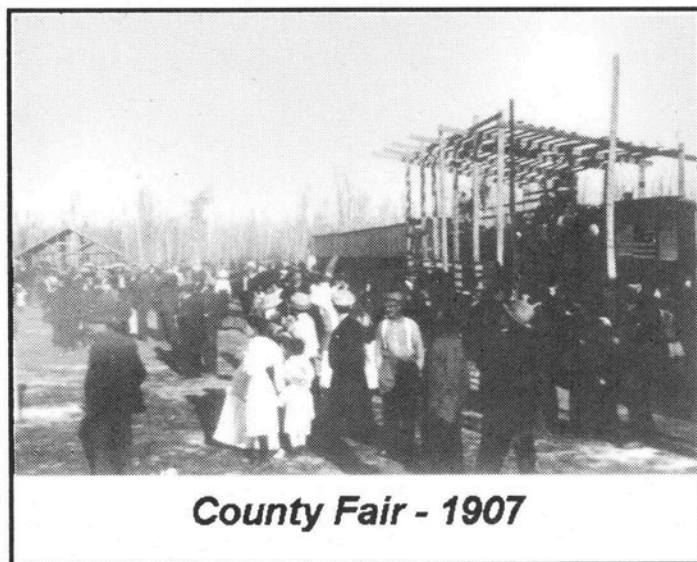
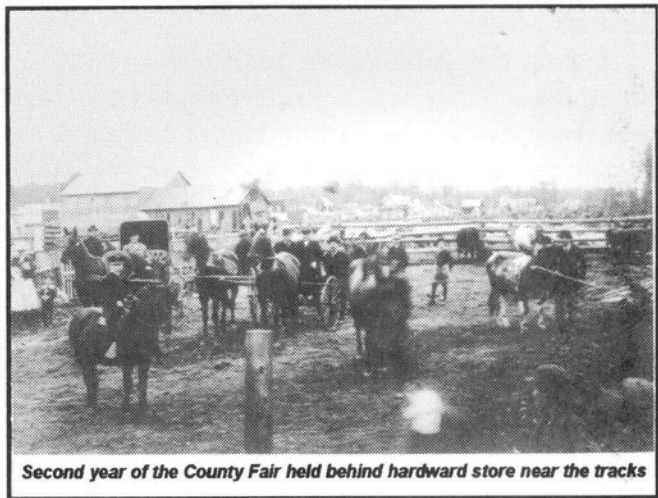


Superintendents were: cattle- Rastus Schuler; horses- John Inglis; sheep and swine- Martin Trafelet; farm, garden and manufacture products – William Osborn; dairy, honey and other product – Barney Fitch; farm implement, vehicles and machinery – Edwin Lewis; manufactured goods- Frank McDougall; musical instruments, sewing machine, painting, and etc. – George Walter; needle and fancy work – Lulu Whiteley; miscellaneous – Reuben Mitchell; children's department – M. McNaughton; fruit department – George Inglis; and department of flowers – Orrin Doolittle.

Entered into the cutest baby contest were Felix Heron and Leon Trafelet. Leon won the title.

As far as can be found the county fair was held in Millersburg within the village proper for the first few years. In September 1906 an article in the newspaper talked about securing a site for the fair. The two most favorably mentioned were the Inglis property just north of the town and a piece of land just east of town but north of the railroad owned by C.R. Miller. The 20 acres owned by Mr. Miller was swampland, covered with brush, which would take some doing to clear, but it was in a favorable location.

Another piece of land owned by the wife of C.H. Alden of Boston, Massachusetts a half mile east of town and just north of the railroad



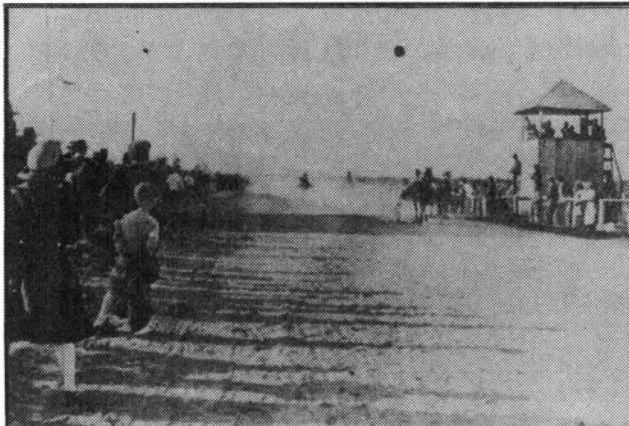
was discussed. Mr. Alden said he would discuss it with his wife when he returned home and see if she was in favor of donating the land to the society.

Not sure what piece of land won out but this one seems the most likely.

It was reported in June of 1908 that when the village was originally platted the survey was run at right angles to the quarter line which threw Dewey Street (Walker Hwy.) some distance out of the line with the eighth line. In order to make this street run straight and continue it out to the new fairgrounds, Mr. Miller would have to deed a pie-shaped piece of land to the village 27

feet wide, narrowing down to nothing on Main Street. This was apparently done.

A grandstand was erected, a racetrack built of tamarack, and several show buildings were put up. After the racetrack was built, a group of horseracing enthusiasts started have races. Dr. Monroe was one of the locals who competed regularly against others from other villages.



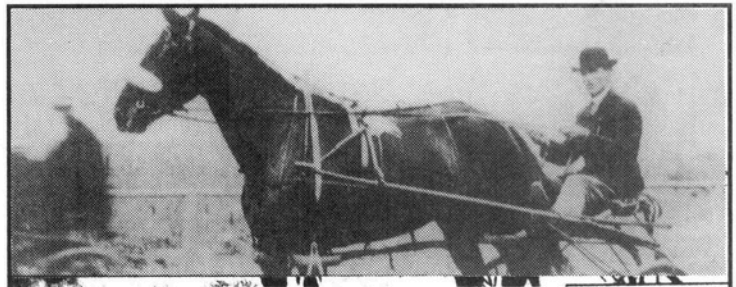
**Horse racing at county fair in Millersburg**

The fairgrounds continued to prosper until the depression years and then it fell off in attendance. Around 1932 it was decided to move the County Fair to the Onaway area and the fairgrounds in Millersburg were left idle. In fact, the land was almost sold for back taxes. But some of the citizens in Millersburg thought it worth saving and paid the taxes and the land has been under the ownership of the village ever since.

In 1977 the 4-H Horse Developmental Committee undertook a project to build a horse arena at the fairgrounds. The arena is 100x250

feet and is still used regularly.

In 2000, 19 acres of the site was leased to the Presque Isle County Fair Board for 50 years at the nominal fee of \$1. Plans are going forward to hold this years fair back in Millersburg from whence it came exactly 100 years ago. A well is being dug and plans are for a building to be set yet this year. The folks of Millersburg are happy to see a return of usage to the old fairground site.



**Doctor Monroe and his horse Glenara**



**County Fair - 1918**