

RED LAKE NEWS

The 5th annual Red Lake Indian Fair opened its gates for admission at eight o'clock, September 17th, and being one of the most satisfactory years of the association.

The attendance was in excess of former years despite the fact that no Special was run from Bemidji as heretofore. The fair grounds on September 18th was a veritable sea of automobiles from all sections of the country. There was hardly a town within a fifty mile radius but what was represented.

The Gonvick, Bagley and Bemidji crowd was out for a good time and the day was the occasion of fun and frolic, in which the white man and the redman participated without thought of race.

The crowd, of which 75 per cent was Indian, resembled that of a prosperous farming community.

For the first time in the history of the Fair Association a merry-go-round, owned and operated by a Chippewa Indian of Minnesota, attracted the old as well as the young and gave a touch of realism to the occasion, which, though an Indian fair, could not be distinguished from the old time county fairs.

Five years ago the fair grounds was a veritable forest, covered by jack pine trees, heavy undergrowth and brush. One could hardly realize this when looking at the well constructed and crowded grandstand, the graded half mile circular track, the hundreds of parker automobiles, the substantial buildings and the general appearance of an old time settled community which prevailed.

The sports were opened to all comers. This added to the entertainment of the crowd, as every one outdid themselves to make the occasion a happy gathering.

In attendance the fair was the best we ever had. In exhibits it is proper to state that there were individual exhibits in all departments which excelled any former exhibits, except possibly in the agricultural booths. This was not due to the lack of industry of the Indian farmers, but because of the excessive drought which has prevailed on this reservation during the past year. The writer knows that there was more acreage planted on the reservation this year than ever before; that every old garden on the reservation was plowed and put into cultivation; that more new land was cleared and planted than ever before; and that this industry was augmented by the desire of the Red Lake Indians to do their bit in the present war crisis, the slogan being "Plant every foot of tillable soil."

The Cross Lake School, St. Mary's School and the Red Lake School all had booths of unusual merit. The decorations were more artistic than ever and added greatly to the general appearance of the building.

The domestic science booth was given first prize for beauty. The domestic art booth excelled in many ways former displays.

The Central Farmers' Club won first prize as the best club booth. This was due very largely to the enthusiasm, industry and hard work of John English, president of the club and one of our progressive farmers.

In the art building we found the Indian curio booth and the returned students' club booth, which was beautifully and artistically arranged, with a background of Navajo blankets belonging to Mrs. Omar Gravelle. Mrs. Gravelle is a returned student, a former Haskellite.

In this building the Red Cross resided, and we are told that they made fifteen or sixteen dollars from the sale of cocoa, thus doing their bit.

The Baby Show occupied about one-fourth of this building. This booth was beautifully decorated with red, white and blue bunting. Appropriate charts and pictures were hung on the walls. Rugs were placed on the floor. Pamphlets on "How to Keep Babies Well," "The Care of the Baby," "Hints to Mothers," "What You Should Know About Tuberculosis," "Indian Mothers, Save Your Babies," "What Every Mother Wants to Know About Her Baby," etc., etc., were distributed. This booth was presided over by Miss Mary Broker, a graduate nurse of several years experience, an In-

dian, ably assisted by Mrs. Carrie McDougal, assistant nurse, an Indian. Miss Broker is a former Hampton student, Mrs. McDougal a former Haskellite.

Fourteen babies were examined. According to the official score card of the American Babies' Health Contest Association, Mary Fairbanks was first, with a score of 97 3/4, Genevieve Cook second, with a score of 97 1/2, and Arnold Bailey third, with a score of 97%. It was some contest.

The following is a complete list of the standing of the babies examined and the score indicates some bunch of healthy kiddies:

Mary Fairbanks	97 3/4 %
Genevieve Cook	97 1/2 %
Arnold Bailey	97 %
Margaret Stately	97 1/8 %
Elliot English	96 1/4 %
Harry Fairbanks	96 1/4 %
Susan Thurdix	93 1/2 %
Leo Desjarlait	92 %
Baby Girl Stand	91 3/4 %
Ramora Cook	91 3/4 %
Susan Dickenson	91 3/4 %
Margaret Beaulieu	90 3/4 %
Louis Manypenny	89 %
Genevieve Downwind	87 1/4 %

The stock this year was not much in evidence. Several Indian families were not present, being away gathering rice, but as a whole the entire reservation turned out and manifested their usual interest.

The Red Lake Indians are to be complimented upon their showing. The officials of the Fair Association, William Sayers, Be-oonce and Moses Ward, worked hard, and the success of the fair was largely due to their individual efforts.

There was no disorder, and through the three days of the fair there was no evidence of any drinking or other disturbances.

Plans are already under way for next year's fair. It is hoped to run a Special from Bemidji. Many of the Bemidji people were disappointed this year in not being able to come.

We missed the canning demonstration planned by Mrs. Margaret Baker, Assistant State Club Leader of Boys' and Girls' Clubs. Mrs. Baker was unable to attend, having contracted a very severe cold while at the Beltrami County Fair, making it necessary for her to return to her home without coming to Red Lake.

Commissioner Sells wired his good wishes for a successful fair.

The Domestic Science booth, which was supervised by Mrs. Hashbarger and Mrs. Goddard, won first prize this year in the best booth contest.

A Special Prize of five dollars and a National Certificate of Merit was offered by the National Emergency Food Garden Commission to an Indian woman who canned the best vegetable grown on the reservation. The selection of the winner was very difficult, as there were many well canned vegetables at the Fair. A can of corn, canned by Mrs. Gus Larjenesse, was finally decided to be the best, considering the food value of the corn, it being one of the principal foods, and the excellent manner in which Mrs. Larjenesse did the canning.

On several occasions recently we have heard the Red Lake Chippewas lauded for their progressiveness in farming, household economy and general prosperity. Inspecting officials all agree that the Red Lakers are, as a whole, the most provident and industrious Indian people in the State. It is generally conceded by Red Lakers themselves that this opinion is well founded. There is also recognized along with the glory, the work incident to upholding or sustaining a reputation.

That there has been substantial progress is evidenced at the Fair grounds. In general appearance the Indians look like well fed prosperous farmers. In character and quality of exhibits the Red Lake Fair has every sign marking the success of the County Fairs held throughout our State. Not only is progress demonstrated through the agency of the Fair, but in the increased stock, cleared fields, new houses, improved roads, road tax and in the less frequent councils over grievances real and fancied. Again we find a better foral tone, marriage according to old custom is no longer kept secret from Government authorities. Drinking is being recognized as against industrial

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and moral development. The Progressives are in the saddle and those unfortunates who can't keep up just have to stay behind.

CANNED CORN PRIZE WINNERS

Upon the request of Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Emergency Food Garden Commission offered a national prize of five dollars and a national certificate of merit to the winner of the best canned vegetables at the Red Lake Fair. Mrs. Gust Larjenesse of the Farm Station Club won the prize with a can of corn. There was some competition, too, believe us. Canned tomatoes and beets were a close second and nearly carried off the honors.

RED LAKE INDIAN WHEAT PRIZE

WINNER AT BIG STATE FAIR

Speaking about the Minnesota state fair, now in progress, being the greatest in its history, etc., etc., guess Red Lake agency has every reason to sit straight up and give 'em the once over, for a Chippewa Indian from Red Lake just naturally entered some of his wheat against the state and walked off with fourth prize. And there was "some" wheat in that layout and Sheaf Wheat at that and the competition was as keen as could possibly be.

The winning by Mr. Mason shows what the Indians can do and the feat of winning against state competition will undoubtedly prove highly incentive to the Indians of the reservation and Superintendent Dickens is highly gratified.—Bemidji Pioneer.

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