

HONOR MEMORY OF COL. MORRILL AT BANGOR FAIR

\$2000 Purse Offered In His Name — Beautiful Trophy To Be Awarded Winner Free-for-all Pace

The memory of one of the outstanding men connected with harness racing in Maine, the oldest sport in the state, will be perpetuated at Bangor State Fair on Thursday of next week when a special \$2,000 Pace will be dedicated to the late Col. Walter G. Morrill. The winner of this event, the richest scheduled on any, card for a number of years, will be presented with a beautiful gold trophy.

Col. Morrill was a leading figure in the Pine Tree realm of the "sport of kings" for more than half a century and has been credited with doing more to further the interests of harness racing over a greater period of years than any



THE LATE COL. MORRILL

other person. He was born in Brownville on November 13, 1840, and his interest in the trotters and pacers, which manifested itself in early youth, was interrupted by the Civil War in which he enlisted as a private, was a colonel when discharged and had the dis-

tingtion of being* the only Maine . man receiving the Congressional medal of Honor until World War II.

Upon his return from the war, he took up the career of harness racing with the same aggressive determination that had marked his military service. He built a race track in Pittsfield and another at Dexter and sponsored meets at practically every track in Maine, he was the first to offer a \$1000 race and expended in purses more than \$100,000 during his lifetime. His stables always included some of the outstanding horses of the time and his showmanship was best evidenced when he presented a race with all women drivers the first in the United States to do so.

In 1930, a number of the Colonel's friends, including James S. Butler, of Lewiston, George A. Roundy, of Pittsfield, and Ralph Burrill, of Canaan, conceived the idea of extending him a testimonial banquet on his 90th birthday at the latter's hotel in Canaan. About 100 horsemen, fair officials and men and women interested in racing from every section of Maine attended, attesting to the widespread affection held for this venerable veteran of the Civil War and many a turf battle in the Pine Tree state. It was decided to form a Col. Morrill club and to hold an annual testimonial banquet on the nearest Sunday to the Colonel's birthday. These have been continued since his death at Pittsfield in March 1935. The club voted at its meeting last November to solicit from members and racing fans donations for the purchase of a suitable cup to be known as the Col. Morrill memorial trophy and to present it to the owner of the winning horse in the outstanding racing event at Bangor State Fair, next week. President J. R. Cianchette agreeing to schedule a special \$2,000 Pace on Thursday. Voluntary contributions have been so numerous as to make possible a trophy said to be one of the finest ever offered for a racing event in Maine. It is gold plated, mounted on an ebony base, is topped by a life-like statue of a horse that stands 30 inches high. It has been on display at George Roundy's Barber Shop for several days.

Thus, at Bangor's historical Bass Park, where Col. Morrill spent many happy days for so many years, will the memory of a true sportman be recalled in a most fitting manner.

[August 16, 1947]



Mrs. Cora (Webb) Shaw, wife(of Frank I. Shaw, died from internal injuries as a result of being run over by their automobile near Woolwich, Tuesday night. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were returning from Bath where they had been visiting Mr. Shaw's brother and their new Oakland six having become stalled on a hill, and the brakes not working well, Mrs. Shaw was attempting to trig* a wheel when the car ran back hitting her and knocking her down and running over her. Mrs. Shaw was widely known through her work at the bank and has hosts of of friends. Mrs. Shaw was the daughter of the late Nathan M. Webb of Hartland. She was for many years an assistant at the Pittsfield National Bank. She is survived by her husband and mother, Mrs. Almeda Webb, of Hartland, and two sisters, Mrs. Scott of Camden and Mrs. Buck, of Hartland.

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* trig, a stop, as a skid or drag for a wheel, or a block to prevent a cask from rolling.