

Michigan State Fair continued from 151



The biggest thing there is the Coliseum with many various shows all week. Oh for the memories. There so many things we saw there. The Ringling Brothers & Barnum Baily Circuses, Scoutaramas, auto and truck events and many other shows. Page 149 shows the Historical Marker, the above foto of the Coliseum and fotos of the inside of the Coliseum. It was probably the biggest arena in the Detroit area for many years. There were often interesting exhibits or vendors on the first floor under the seating ceiling as shown by the foto on the left. Page 150 Shows a glimpse of the midway which had not only the usual rides but many extra attractions. It was much bigger than the traveling carnivals. Page 150 also has fotos of the Beef, Dairy & Sheep barn which was also huge.(see the map) There were many big buildings with fascinating exhibits. There is a sad picture of Whitehall now closed. In its day it also had many exhibits. Page 151 had the rabbit and poultry building where myself and other kids would enter our animals, baking, artwork, crafts, crops into contests for prizes. We got an exhibitors pass that got one in every day and sometimes you one a cash prize and colorful ribbons. We entered our rabbits, Guinea pigs, pigeons, chickens, hogs, horses, cows, sheep, goats etc. By the end of the fair we had new friends and knew every place in the fair. There were educational exhibits also. This fair was a great experience for young people as yet unmatched by the present fairs. I was fascinated by the psychic reader who set up on a little stage in front of the Rabbit building. She seemed to help people find lost memories and people. Her husband would go around and find people interested and ask for a donation. Somehow she seemed to know things about them and it appeared that most left happier than they were when they arrived. Then there was the Eastern Star restaurant with good food and other places had lots of food choices. It was fun to watch the taffy machines make the taffy a form of soft candy. The big stove was hit by lightning and burned in 2011





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Michigan State Fair
Est. 1849

Aug 28th - Sept 7th 2009

INDEX

- A. MICHIGAN MART BUILDING
- B. MIRACLE OF LIFE EXHIBIT
- C. SPORTS CENTER-FAIR TIME TO PLAY
- D. NORTH FOOD COURT
- E. COLISEUM
- F. BEEF & DAIRY/SHEEP BARN
- G. NORTH ARENA
- H. HORSE BARN
- I. SOUTH ARENA
- J. PIG BARN
- K. BARNYARD EXPRESS
- L. WALL OF HONOR
- M. FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT GAZEBO
- N. BUDWEISER CLYDESDALES
- O. GM PAVILION
- P. BAND SHELL
- Q. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- R. COMMUNITY ARTS EXHIBIT HALL
- S. GREAT LAKES TIMBER SHOW
- T. PREMIER ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS
- U. VOLUNTEER HEADQUARTERS
- V. HUDSON AUDITORIUM
- W. CIRCUS ESPAÑA
- X. DNR/HDMA OUTDOOR SKILLS CENTER
- Y. HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS MOBILE LEARNING CENTER
- Z. FAMILY GROVE
- AA. PVS-WOLFWOOD CHEMICAL BUILDING OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
- BB. CABOODLESTOPPERS
- CC. POULTRY & RABBIT BUILDING
- DD. CONTEST CORNER
- EE. URBAN GARDEN
- FF. GOAT BARN
- GG. SPARTAN SQUARE- FEATURING PONY RIDES-RACING PIGS-PETTING ZOO

- ### LEGEND
- Parking
 - Police
 - First Aid
 - Pedestrian Entrance
 - Restrooms
 - Lost Children
 - Information Booths

