

Fryeburg Fair Horse Drawn Wagon 2010 theme: People's Choice

This year's Horse-drawn Wagon display at Fryeburg Fair will feature many of the crowd's favorite vehicles shown over the previous six years.

The display that will be open 9-9 all eight days of the Oct. 3-10 fair is made possible by Margaret and Sut Marshall of Conway, NH, owners of the international collection of more than 150 vehicles. Assisting the Marshalls is Kenneth Wheeling of North Ferrisburg, VT, a director of the Carriage Association of America. The retired English teacher is an internationally renowned expert on carriages and horses. They affectionately refer to him as "The Professor." Wheeling also announces during the 3-day draft horse and pony show in front of the main grandstand. "We're trying to bring back the ones that we thought were the most popular over the past six years," said Marshall, who noted that he and his crew had just moved a Gypsy Wagon and a restored Road Coach into the wagon building.

The wagon display in the 150- by 36-foot show barn built in 2004 began with "Towns and Villages" and was followed by "Going to the Fair," "People Movers," "English Trade Vehicles," "Rare and Unusual" and "Down A Country Road."

"Each year it gets tougher to come up with a theme because the year before seems to be a tough act to follow," Marshall said.

In addition to having several old favorites, hopefully there will be two new acquisitions from England: A 1917 WWI horse ambulance and a Bradford Cart or "Spinner," which gypsies used to show off their horses. In mid-September, the two were still sealed in a crate located on a ship somewhere in the Atlantic.

The Bradford two-wheel cart is a flashy, single seat vehicle, which he described as a "work of art."

"My friends in England told me that it was one of the finest paint jobs they've ever seen and they've seen quite a few of them," Marshall said.

Plans call for two gypsy wagons, one of which has been there before, and the other is a new arrival.

The wagon display is one-of-a-kind and can only be seen publically at Fryeburg Fair. Marshall had a request to bring his exhibit to the Indiana State Fair.

"It would nice but no, no, no," he said." Do you realize what it takes to get it to Fryeburg? We spend a week doing six miles. It would take a month." He said he appreciated being asked "but we're committed to Fryeburg."

Margaret and Sut would like to thank all the trustees of the fair for all their support and help. Without their cooperation, this exhibit wouldn't be possible, he said.