

State Fair Fire Engine Contests - 1870 & 1874

This document reprints newspaper notices and accounts of fire engine contests at the North Carolina State Fair in 1870 and 1874. The State Fair was ten years old in 1870. The State Fairgrounds was located east of downtown Raleigh, at the present-day intersection of New Bern Avenue and Tarboro Road. In 1870, contests were held for hand engines and steam engines. Cities with hand engines that year likely included Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Salem, Salisbury, Wilmington, and Winston.¹ Cities with steam engines in 1870 were Charlotte, New Bern, Raleigh, and Wilmington.² By 1874, Elizabeth City also had a steam engine.

Compiled by Mike Legeros, February 2009.

¹ Legeros, Mike. North Carolina Hand Engines Database, web site, <http://www.legeros.com/history/nc/hand.shtml>.

² Legeros, Mike. North Carolina Steam Fire Engine Database, web site, <http://www.legeros.com/history/nc/steam.shtml>.

State Fair - 1870

A CHALLENGE.—Our State Agricultural Fair has offered a premium of a silver Fireman's Trumpet to the best hand engine, and I am authorized by Mechanics No. 2 of this city to say we intend entering our engine and offer a challenge to any hand engine in the State of the same calibre. Calibre of No. 2: 5 inch chamber, 8 inch stroke, 9 16 nozzle.

Respectfully, &c.

N. R. BROUGHTON,
Foreman Mech. No. 2.

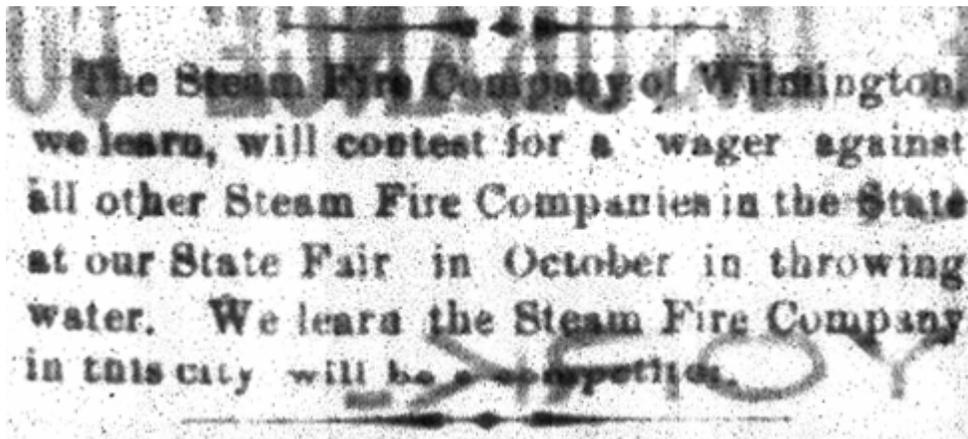
(State papers please circulate.)

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Daily Sentinel, September?, 1870

State Fair - 1870

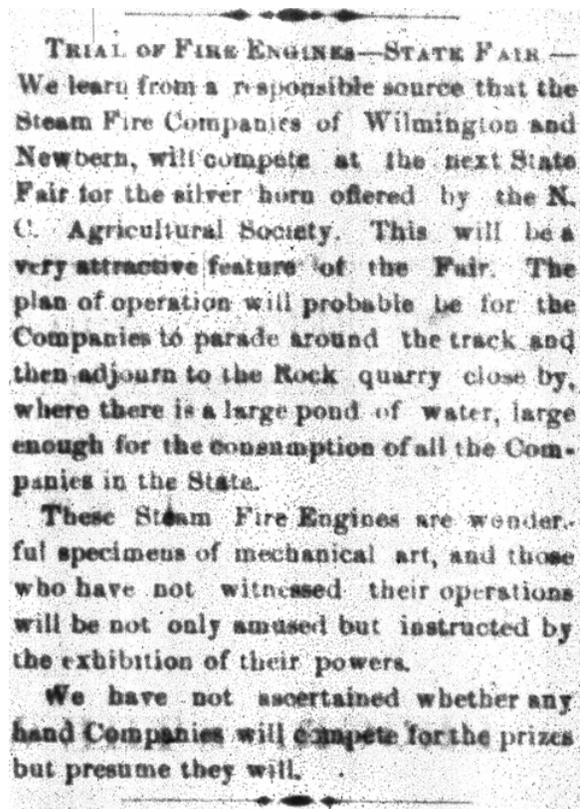


The Steam Fire Company of Wilmington, we learn, will contest for a wager against all other Steam Fire Companies in the State at our State Fair in October in throwing water. We learn the Steam Fire Company in this city will be a competitor.

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Daily Sentinel, September 13, 1870

State Fair - 1870



Trial of Fire Engines - State Fair

We learn from a responsible source that the Steam Fire Companies of Wilmington and New Bern, will compete at the next State Fair for the silver horn offered by the N.C. Agricultural Society. This will be a very attractive feature of the Fair. The plan of operation will probably be for the Companies to parade around the track and then adjourn to the Rock quarry close by, where there is a large pond of water, large enough for the consumption of all the Companies in the State.

These State Fire Engines are wonderful specimens of mechanical art, and those who have not witnessed their operations will not only be amused by instructed by the exhibition of their powers.

We have not ascertained whether any hand Companies will compete for the prizes but presume they will.

Daily Sentinel, September 18, 1870

State Fair - 1870

ATTENTION FIREMAN.—Members of Rescue Steam Fire Engine Company, Mechanics Fire Company and Hook and Ladder Company, you are hereby ordered to meet at Metropolitan Hall, on Monday evening, 10th inst., at 7½ o'clock, for the purpose of making some co-operative arrangements for the reception of the various Fire Companies that may visit our coming State Fair.—Punctual attendance is required.

J. C. BREWSTER, Rescue No. 1.

N. B. BROUGHTON, Mech. No. 2.

F. LAMSON, Hook & Ladder.

Attention Firemen - Members of Rescue Steam Fire Engine Company, Mechanics Fire Company and Hook and Ladder Company, you are hereby ordered to meet at Metropolitan Hall, on Monday evening, 10th inst., at 7 1/2 o'clock, for the purpose of making some co-operative arrangements for the reception of various Fire Companies that may visit our coming state Fair. Punctual attendance is required.

J.C. Brewster, Rescue No. 1

N.B. Broughton, Mech. No. 2

F. Lamson, Hook & Ladder

Daily Sentinel, October 8, 1870

State Fair - 1870

STATE FAIR.—Programme for the 10th Annual Fair of the N. C. Agricultural Society, to be held at Raleigh, N. C., on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of October.

The Grounds will be opened for admission of visitors from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. each day.

All entries must be made at the Secretary's office on the Grounds on or before Monday, Oct. 17th, at 5 o'clock p. m.

Each evening during the Fair at 7 o'clock, there will be a meeting of the Society, in the Hall of the House of Representatives.

TUESDAY—FIRST DAY.

At 11 o'clock, A. M. Grand Parade.

2 " P. M. Practice of horses, &c., on Track.

3 " " Trial of Speed.

WEDNESDAY—SECOND DAY.

9 o'clock A. M. Judges to assemble at Secretary's office.

10 " " Trial of Speed.

11 " " Plowing Match.

2 " P. M. Practice of Horses, &c.

3 " " Trial of Speed.

THURSDAY—THIRD DAY.

10 o'clock A. M. Trial of Speed.

11 " " Address by Rev. Dr. Chas. Phillips, of Davidson College.

1 " P. M. Practice of Horses, &c.

2 " " Trial of Speed.

3 " " Parade and Trial of Steam and other Fire Engines.

State Fair - Programme for the 10th Annual Fair of the N.C. Agricultural Society, to be held at Raleigh, N.C., on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of October.

[...]

Thursday - Third Day

[...]

3 o'clock p.m. - Parade and Trial of Steam and other Fire Engines

Daily Sentinel, October 14, 1870

State Fair - 1870

byth, 20.00.
Best 2 horse wagon, by the same, 10.00.
Best 1 horse wagon, by the same, 8.00.
Best 1 horse cart, (tumble,) Thos. G. Jen-
kins, Raleigh, 5.00.
Best patent buggy pole, — Mitchell,
Cabarrus, 3.00.
* Best steam fire engine, Rescue No. 1,
Raleigh, silver trumpet.
Best hand fire engine company, No. 2,
Raleigh, silver trumpet.
Best tooth horse rake, R. Sinclair & Co.,
Baltimore, 5.00.

Best steam fire engine, Rescue No. 1, Raleigh, silver trumpet.

Best hand fire engine company, No. 2, Raleigh, silver trumpet.

Daily Sentinel - October 26, 1870

State Fair - 1870

Got the TRUMPET. - In the list of premiums, as published yesterday it is stated that Company No. 2, of this city, got the premium for best hand engine at the Fair. This was an error, as it was awarded to Colored Company, No. 1 - the "Victor." This award was made for the "best hand engine" without reference to its caliber or proportionate power for throwing water. Of course the Rescue steam fire engine was not in competition with the hand engines.

Got the Trumpet - In the list of premiums, as published yesterday, it is stated that Company No. 2, of this city, got the premium for best hand engine at the Fair. This was an error, as it was award to Colored Company, No. 1 - the "Victor." This award was made for the "best hand engine" without reference to its caliber or proportionate power for throwing water. Of course the Rescue steam fire engine was not in competition with the hand engines.

Daily Sentinel, October 27, 1870

State Fair - 1870

STEAM FIRE ENGINE AT THE FAIR.—
We learn that a premium will be offered at the State Fair for the best steam fire engine in the State. The competition to consist in throwing the furthest stream. Wilmington and other cities will probably visit us and contend for the prize. There is a lake of water on the grounds, and the fight promises to be lively, and at the same time an interesting feature of that "day's doings. Our firemen would be pleased to have the "Chambers," of Portsmouth, visit us on that occasion.

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Daily Sentinel, September 19, 1870

State Fair - 1870

SUPPLEMENTAL PREMIUM LIST STATE FAIR.—In addition to the regular list of premiums already out the Executive Committee of our State Fair have issued a supplemental Premium list among which we note the following: For six colts sired by "Jackson Blackhawk" \$15, second premium \$10, third premium \$5. James Webb, Jr., of Hillsboro' offers a premium of \$10 for best colt sired by his horse Sumpter. \$20 is offered for best bull.

On Wednesday the 14th of October for trials of speed \$100 is the premium for horses that have never beaten 3 minutes mile heats, the first horse to receive \$60. On Thursday the 15th for trials speed the premium is \$80, first horse receiving \$50, second horse \$20, third horse \$10.

For the best fire company with first and second class engine and men not less than forty, machine to be considered, trial to take place on the grounds, Diploma and \$25 in gold. By Rescue Fire Company, of Raleigh, additional premium \$25 (gold). Best Hook and Ladder Company, men not less than twenty-five, and apparatus to be considered. Diploma and \$25.

Best Hand Engine Company, men not less than twenty-five, machine to be considered, diploma and \$25.

An entrance fee of \$20 will be charged for each Company (not over fifty men) competing for the above premiums, which will entitle them to admission to the Grounds during the period required to make the test.

Supplemental Premium List State Fair

[...]

For the best fire company with first and second class engine and men not less than forty, machine to be considered, trial to take place on the grounds, Diploma and \$25 in gold. By Rescue Fire Company, of Raleigh, additional premium \$25 (gold). Best Hook and Ladder Company, men not less than twenty-five, and apparatus to be considered. Diploma and \$25.

Best Hand Engine Company, men not less than twenty-five, machine to be considered, diploma and \$25.

An entrance fee of \$20 will be charged for each Company (not over fifty men) competing for the above premiums, which will entitle them to admission to the Grounds during the period required to make the test.

Daily Sentinel, September 25, 1874