

## 2015 Allegany County Fair Dedication

The Allegany County Agricultural Society Officers and Board of Directors is pleased to announce that this year's Fair is being dedicated to Francis Green, a long time participant, Barn Manager and Superintendent of the Horse Pull at the Allegany County Fair. Francis was born July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1930; the youngest of twelve (12) children (six sisters and five brothers). Through the eighth grade, he walked two miles one way to the Andover, New York, Country School.

Francis has raised and worked with horses his entire life. At the age of six, he started raking hay with a dump rake. Working with his brother Max in Wellsville, he dragged and plowed gardens. At the age of sixteen, he pulled his first team of horses which belonged to his brother Joe. Francis shod his first horse at the age of thirteen. He had learned how to shoe horses from his brother Joe, who was a farrier in the Andover area.

Francis' work history begins at age twelve when he started working with local farmers for \$1.00 per day and lunch. He cut wood daily. In 1947, he worked for both the Theron Dunlop and Ebon Barry farms. In 1950, he went to work on the Max Waite farm until 1951 when he joined the Army. He served during the Korean conflict and in Japan until 1953. When he returned from the service, he worked for Max Waite's machinery delivery business. In 1954, he went to work for the Allegany County Highway Department as a truck driver. In 1958, he was promoted to heavy equipment operator and then became a foreman in 1964. Francis retired in 1985 with thirty-four years of service to Allegany County.

In August 1954, Francis married the love of his life, Maureen Brown. With Maureen by his side they built their home in Rushford and raised their family which includes one son, Dale Green who lives in Arkansas, Grandson Cody Green of Wellsville and Grand-daughter Ashley Chamberlain, who with her husband, Joe resides in the house Francis and Maureen built in Rushford. Always faithful and dedicated, Francis and Maureen celebrated fifty-one years of marriage. Maureen

died in 2006. Other family members include a brother Howard, who was a logger and died in a logging accident at the age of fifty-two; a brother Bruce who showed Belgians and brother Max who also pulled horses; a sister Betty (age 91) who resides in Ohio, a sister Ann who died at the age of ninety-nine and a special friend and right-hand man Randy VanHousen.

In 1979, Francis pulled horses in twenty-seven contests and won twenty-six of them. He has traded horses his entire life and he can still recall where they came from and where they went. He continued to log with horses until 2008 when “an old gray mare” (Judy Hodnett) asked him to go dancing. That same year, he moved to Centerville, New York, where he is still active with horses today. He helps with Max Hodnett’s team of Belgians and his wagon/carriage ride business.

Francis has pulled horses at the Allegany County Fair since 1954. In 1962, he built the pulling boat which he has taken to the Fair every year since. In 1996, Francis became Superintendent of the Horse Pull and Draft Barn Manager.

Today, Francis enjoys his family and friends, his Amish neighbors, dancing and his newly acquired family: Judy, Mark, Melissa, Max, Candy Hodnett and the “apple of his eye” Grand-daughter Atlee, age two. Francis embraces the following quote: *“The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man.”*

The Allegany County Fair Board is proud to honor Francis Green by dedicating the 2015 Allegany County Fair to him. He has demonstrated loyalty, service, support and true friendship to our Fair. Congratulations Francis!