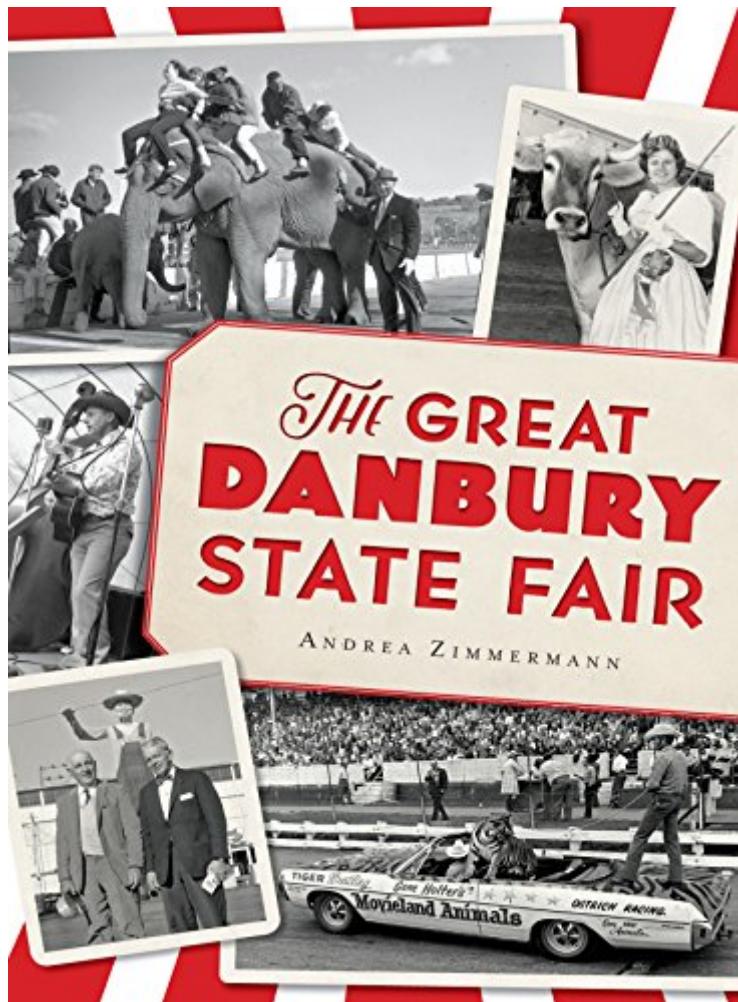


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# Great Danbury State Fair, The (Landmarks)



## **Synopsis**

The first Danbury Fair was held under a borrowed tent in 1869. Over the next 112 years, the fair expanded to a ten-day event, earning a national reputation for its themed villages, giant figures, grandstand shows and wildly popular stock car races. The twelve formal venues for music and entertainment on the fairground included the World of Mirth Theater and the Orange Bowl Stadium. Under the management of oil magnate John W. Leahy, the fair retained its great hometown appeal as city dwellers flocked to the fair by the thousands. Venture back to the autumn days of zany ostrich races and Zembruskiâ™s polka music with Andrea Zimmermann as she explores the beloved bygone tradition of the Great Danbury State Fair.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

What makes this book extra special are all the excellent photos and the first-person stories from people who were either visiting the fair year after year or exhibiting at the fair. Andrea Zimmermann has done a masterful job of capturing the essence of this fair's infectious fun and the strong

personalities who made the fair a going concern for 112 years. Highly recommended for the history and the human interest behind a most beloved regional event that was part of so many lives for so many decades.

I was born in Danbury in 1949 , and my parents and I lived 3 miles from the Fairgrounds, easily with-in hearing distance of any event that went on over there. My bedroom window faced that direction and I could see the spotlight at nights, hear Mr. Baker and all. I grew up in Danbury , left around 1980 , moved up to Maine. Heard about the Fair being sold, being replaced by a mall! Serves to remind me, progress is most often inevitable, but not always for the better!

For anyone who ever attended this fair, this book is sure to bring back fond memories. The writing is specific and accurate, and there are lots of photographs of all aspects of the fair and the racetrack that was part of the fairgrounds.

Ms Zimmerman is to be commended for her extensive research on the history of the Danbury Fair. She also includes fond remembrances by those who attended the Fair for decades until its unfortunate demise in 1981. I could not put this book down. Andrea Zimmerman has captured the essence of what the Fair was all about...PASSION. It was the lifeblood of the city of Danbury and a part of every child and adult who attended the wonderful Danbury Fair every October. If you loved the Fair or want to find out why it was so popular, buy Ms. Zimmermann's book. You will not be disappointed.

I grew up at the Danbury Fair and "Uncle" John Leahy was always there, every day. The book is a very well told story of what we Danburians dearly miss now that we have "The Mall". This is something to buy, read, and share with your children.

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