

Annie Kane: expert horse rider and entertainer in 1914

KAHAWIHSON HORNE

THE EASTERN DOOR

The beginning of summer brings many good things to the forefront of our imaginations. The oncoming festivity of powwow season is undoubtedly in the minds of many Kahnawa'kehrónon who are either occupied with frantically beading, carving, and sewing in order to earn some extra cash, practicing their dance routines, or like this writer, having daydreams of munching on fry-bread with one hand while paying for a nice set of earrings with the other.

However, not very many can convey the feeling so well as the current images featured in this week's Blast from the Past. The above picture is a rather spectacular photo taken of the late Annie Delormier at a sportsman show in Belleville New Jersey at age 17.

Born on October 5, 1897 to the traditional family of Louie and Angeline Delormier and given the name "Iosennontion" (lost name), a large part of Delormier's upbringing consisted of traditional dancing and annual trips to New York where she donned the beautiful regalia shown in the photos, and danced for an audience.

Events such as the sportsman show she attended were frequent destinations for many Kahnawa'kehrónon in the early 1900s, who would participate in



The late Annie Kane (nee Delormier) posing on horseback in full regalia in the early 20th century.

these events as dancers, souvenir-sellers, and various other activities related to entertainment and trade.

It was such events as these that provided supplementary funds for members of the community before the widespread accessibility and establishment of numerous powwows, including our own Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow.

Although the sportsman

events that Delormier frequented have ceased to be a source of profit for the community, they remain firmly embedded in our history as a means by which our relatives were able to better sustain themselves and their children. Our relative's participation in these events serves as a constant reminder of our community's proclivity towards enterprise.

Delormier would marry John

Kane five years later on January 20th of 1920, and subsequently birth and raise seven children: Esther Kane, Donald Kane, Martin Kane, Diana Kane, Joey Kane, and Josie Kane.

While living as a housewife, Delormier and her mother Angeline would frequently sell beadwork at Kateri Hall to passing tourists and Delormier would eventually inherit the land where



COURTESY MARTIN LOFT

Karonhianónhnha School is situated.

"She was passionate about the language," said her daughter Josie Rice (nee Kane). When asked about her mother's character, she responded, "she was a good-hearted person who loved all her children, and great grandchildren. She was the best mother anyone could have."

2015 07 20





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