

## Early Maine Running April 16, 1909 | Bangor



(RK Notes - I was asked recently what was the earliest mention of Maine Running History that I've found in my on-going research project. This is the first part of the results of when Johnny Hayes (Olympic Marathon Champion - London 1908) ran in Bangor. Here is something I found from an article that was written in the Bangor Daily News, April 16, 1909. It also mentions Bangor potentially having a Marathon. This marathon was scheduled to run near or around Memorial Day in 1909. It never occurred - it was actually run in Chicago on May 29, 1909.)

**(Bangor Daily News, April 16, 1909)**

*Norombega - is a reference to Norombega Hall that was located in downtown Bangor. It burned in the fire of 1911.*

To men whose sporting memory runs back twenty five years, the scene in the Auditorium during the last half of Thursday's night's race recalled old days in the Norombega, when the rugged little Jerry Hourihan of East Boston, the graceful Dan Herty of Revere, Nomerac, Harriman, "Old Sport" Campana and others famed on the sawdust track used to struggle for the good money hung up by James H. Gillespie - when the band played Garryowen, the crowds yelled and cheered and the general excitement woke the echoes for blocks around. Looks some as if those old days of happy memory may come back to rouse the athletic ambitions and stir the blood of the rising generation, for when the dust settled in the Auditorium last night and the band had tooted its last note, every man and boy in or near the building was talking of miles and laps and minutes and seconds, and speculating as to whether or not Bangor is to see a race this year at the full Marathon distance - 26 miles, 385 yards.

Well, we may, at that. And probably it will be out of doors, in the good old summer time, on Maplewood track. It would everlastingly boom the Eastern Maine State Fair, for example, and it would go all right on any good day. But let's tell about Johnny Hayes and the two good men who went the distance with him last night.