

**Bangor Labor Day  
5-Miler  
September 2, 1974 | Bangor**



**From the *Bangor Daily News*, by Bob Haskell**

Bob Hillgrove, whose name became synonymous with Bangor's Labor Day road race in the late 1960s, covered an erratic five-mile course over city streets for his sixth victory in 10 years Monday.

After missing last year's race, the 29-year old Warren man returned to record his first Bangor title since 1969 with a time of 26 minutes, 29 seconds – the fastest he has ever covered the route.

Hillgrove had dominated the Bangor Parks and Recreation Department sponsored event with successive victories from 1965 through 1969. His fastest previous time was 26:44.3. That clocking set a course record in 1968.

But he needed a burst of speed in the final leg Monday to beat out current record holder Ralph Thomas of Gardiner for the victory.

The 38 year old Thomas, who set the record of 25:43 in 1971, charged into the lead on Main Street soon after the field of 45 runners answered the gun in front of the Paul Bunyan statue under ideal weather conditions – cool air with just a hint of rain.

But by the time Thomas reached Exchange, after covering about one-third of the route, he was getting pushed by two others – Hillgrove and Bowdoin College distance ace Jeff Sanborn.

It remained a three man race, with Bill Deering of Orono comfortably holding fourth 100 yards back, until they reached Buck Street for the long approach to the finish line. Sanborn then fell back into the third spot he finally claimed with a 26:54 effort. But Hillgrove and Thomas matched strides as they swung back onto Main Street and the Bass Park oval and a lap to the finish line.

Hillgrove made his move just after the pair hit the dirt track and beat out his rival by

one second.

“I knew he was a strong runner and I figured if I could just hand on I could beat him at the end.” The perky Hillgrove remarked just before accepting his trophy.

And Thomas conceded that he had little hope of beating the faster Hillgrove or of ever being in good enough shape again to surpass his record.

All 45 runners finished, including Robin (Emery) Voelker, 27 of Ellsworth, who in 1972 became the first woman to enter the race, claimed her third trophy with a 31:41 clocking good for 24th. But for the first time she had opposition. Joan Westphal, 16, of Cranberry Island, finished 31st.

Other category winners were: Frank Roberts, 40 the Old Town runner whose age barely qualified him for trophy as the first over 40 finisher. He finished in 10th place in 29:04. Jerry Holmes of Damariscotta placed 11th in 29:18 to become the first high school finisher and Pat Turner celebrated his 17th birthday by placing 27th to become the first Bangor finisher.

## Results

1. Bob Hillgrove, Warren, 26:29
2. Ralph Thomas, Gardiner, 26:30
3. Jeff Sanborn, Brunswick, 26:54
4. Bill Deering, Orono, 27:04
5. Don Sanborn, Thomaston, 27:49
6. Darrell Seekins, Searsport, 27:55
7. Deke Talbot, Machias, 28:04
8. Deane McLean, Belfast, 28:21
9. David Brooks, Hampden Highlands, 28:57
10. Frank Roberts, Old Town, 29:04
11. Jerry Holmes, Damariscotta, 29:18
12. Richard MacDonald, Jr., Waterville, 29:25
13. Sheldon Booze, Ellsworth, 29:26
14. Mike Skinner, Belfast, 29:50
15. Steve Dexter, Orono, tied with Stan Farlow, Orono, 30:00
17. Richard Balentine, Orono, 30:12
18. Rich Packie, Bar Harbor, 30:43
19. Mike Westphal, Cranberry Island, 30:45
20. Shawn Armington, Belfast, 30:49
21. Ken Zuch, Ellsworth, 31:15
22. Barry Fernald, Mount Desert, 31:28
23. Kim Bailey, Minturn, 31:39
24. Robin (Emery) Voelker, Ellsworth, 31:41
25. Paul Howard, Bar Mills, 32:00
26. Joseph Richards, Dover, NH, 32:03
27. Pat Turner, Bangor, 32:11
28. Richard Kraus, Orono, 32:16
29. Dennis Morrill, North Windham, 32:23
30. Howard Richards, Mount Desert, 33:29
31. Joan Westphal, Cranberry Island, 33:34
32. Darrell Steeves, Bangor, 34:00
33. Phil Harmon, Bar Mills, 34:28
34. Anthony Mulvey, Bangor, 34:55
35. Larry Saczawa, Millers Falls, 36:20
36. Everett Trask, East Wilton, 36:29
37. Harry Trask, Dixfield, 37:05
38. Mark Jackins, Houlton, 37:05
39. Lawrence Lunn, Bangor, 37:10
40. R.B. Bronson, Jr., Bangor, 37:13
41. Maynard Walton, Orrington, 37:42
42. Robert Newman, Bangor, 39:08
43. Llewellyn Brown, Jonesport, 39:09
44. Richard Higgins, Lamoine, 39:27
45. Peter Pitula, Bangor, 41:21