



Carl Eshleman, 29-year old cattle feeder from Franklin County, took top honors in the annual Fat Steer Show at the Lancaster Stock Yards on Wednesday.

Champ steers

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couple of dollars over the top paying prices on the regular market.

Marshall, a crusty and outspoken cattle dealer was asked for his opinion of the prices being paid currently. He pulled his hat over his brow slightly, appeared as though he wanted to go to sleep, and drew on his cigar. His words came out of his mouth riding on a cloud of smoke — which might be very indicative of how he feels. "If I knew the answer as to why prices are jumping the way they are, I'd probably keep it to myself," he said. He noted that there are quite a few answers which could be received to that question, but which one of them is honest and right is the real question. He claimed not to know any more than anyone else.

Eshleman and Good were equally puzzled by the unpredictable beef market. But for the day of the contest, they were well pleased.

Neither of the men are optimistic about seeing 50-cent cattle soon.

Eshleman operates a start to finish beef farm near Greencastle. Up until 15 years ago he and his father were primarily interested in dairying. They had kept a few slaughter animals around, but a full-scale business wasn't launched until 1961.

The young farmer said he entered the contest because of the extra profit it could possibly mean if he won. He knew he had some mighty fine cattle in the group of 24 he had sent, but placing third or second was as high as he cared to predict. Taking the jackpot was a surprise.

Eshleman buys a good number of his feeder cattle, in addition to keeping 52 cows as a source of his own replacements. Those he buys come in at a weight of about 750 pounds. Starting them gradually on a feeding program, he eventually lets them eat all they want.

Taking regular market prices into consideration, Eshleman says the prices



Paul Good's Charolais-Angus crossbreds were chosen as reserve grand champion. The Lititz R2 cattleman feeds several hundred head a year.

aren't quite enough to meet expenses. "We'd need 44 cents per pound to break even," he said. He had purchased his winning group of steers for 41 cents per pound. They were handled in the show by Walter M. Dunlap and Sons, Inc.

Eshleman said he had held his winning Angus cattle a few weeks with hopes of having them for a "better market." He got it.

Good's winning group of

Charolais-Angus crossbreds were raised on corn silage and a ration of ground shelled and ear corn. Corn silage was also a part of their diet. The veteran cattleman, with nearly 20 years of experience of his own, noted that he preferred the Charolais-Angus crossbred cattle, although some good black cattle were very much to his liking too. Like Eshleman, he was satisfied with his price. He doesn't

believe they would have brought more than 41 cents per pound on the regular market.

How does he feel about current prices? To begin with, he's puzzled by them. "The way the market bounces back and forth, I don't know what to expect.

Other winners in the contest were: Ammon Hoover, Manheim R2,

second place Angus (behind Eshleman); A. E. Mullinix, Woodbine, Md., second place cross-breds.

Hereford entries were topped by Jesse Stoltzfus of Leola in first place and K&L Farms in second place. Top Holstein honors went to Dwight and David Hess of Marietta, while Nelson Hershey of Mountville checked in as runner-up.

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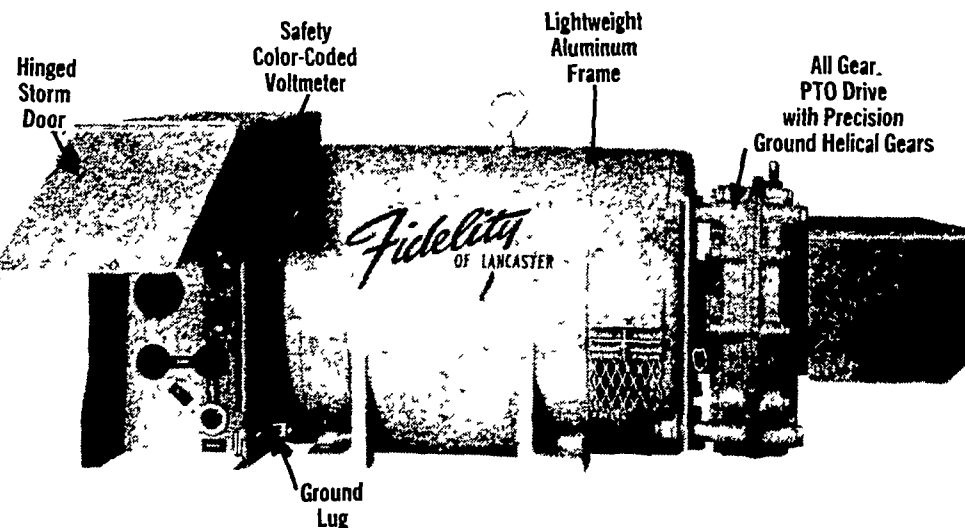
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