



Marty Burkins looks fondly at her three time grand champion 4-H steer, Chinc, after the Southeast district 4-H beef sale on Tuesday. Standing behind the animal is John Thomas, of Willow Valley Restaurant, who purchased the animal for \$2.50 a pound.

Steer wins

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auctioneers, the shouts of buyers, the blinding beam of movie cameras, and the flash of newspaper photographers. At least these were the emotions that registered on the tear-streaked face of the 17-year-old Solanco student. But, if getting the second highest price for a district sale animal since 1944 is any consolation, Marty did it, thanks to Willow Valley Restaurant, Willow Street, who paid \$2.50 per pound for all 1360 pounds of the champion, for a total of \$3400. This is the second year in a row that Willow Valley purchased the champion - last year they paid \$2 per pound.

The sale was the culmination of two days of competition for the 4-H'ers involved. On Monday, county roundups were held and on Tuesday, the Southeast District Foundup took place with 71 Lancaster Countians, 22 Chester Countians, four Dauphin, and four Montgomery Countians competing for the district title. It was in this competition that Miss Burkins edged out another Lancaster 4-H'er,

Jeffrey Martin, for the grand champion title. The previous day she had also been named Lancaster County champion.

Over the past month, Miss Burkins' steer has received considerable recognition. Although the animal began the season slowly with only a third placing in the Solanco Fair, he started winning consistently in the beginning of November, taking a first in his class at Eastern Nationals in Timonium, Md., and the grand champion title of the junior show at Keystone International Livestock Exposition on November 8 in Harrisburg.

At the Keystone show, Miss Burkins was already concerned that Chinc would peak out before county roundup, which he fortunately did not do, but on Monday afternoon at the roundup, Miss Burkins had a tough decision to make. She had the choice of sending Chinc onto the Harrisburg Farm Show in January or putting him in Tuesday's sale.

Noting that an animal loses its desirability when it is much over 1300 pounds, Marty decided to keep her then 1350 pound steer at home. She had hopes of

taking 50 pounds off of him before the district roundup, but when Tuesday rolled around, Chinc had gained 10 pounds instead of losing the desired 50.

Nevertheless, judges Dr. Thomas Merritt, professor of animal science at Penn State, and Fred Smalstig, manager of Rally Farms, Millbrook, N.Y., found her animal to be the top of all 101 shown saying the animal was outstanding with a combination of meatiness and muscling, and had outstanding handling qualities.

Merritt also noted that Martin's reserve champion was an outstanding animal, although it was not as trim as the champion. Before taking the reserve grand champion of show, the Simmental-Hereford was named the reserve champion heavyweight. In the sale the animal brought \$1.22 per pound which totaled \$1,430.60 for the 1180 pound steer. It was purchased by Lancaster County Farm Restaurant, Elizabethtown.

The reserve champion title came as a total surprise to Martin, who is the son of Robert E. Martin, New Holland R3. Because of different judges, looking for different things, Martin's animal was placed fifth in his class at Monday's county roundup.

"I really didn't think I had a chance," he said, "So, I told my parents not to come."

Yet, the district title was more in line with the steer's past record than the low placing in the county competition. During this Fall's show season, Martin's animal took grand champion at the New Holland Farm Show and the reserve champion at Ephrata.

Martin, like Miss Burkins, chose not to send his steer to the Farm Show in Harrisburg this year because it is too finished, although he has memories of nearly getting the reserve champion title with last year's steer.

This marks the second consecutive year that Lancastrians have taken the top two spots in the district competition. Chester County has won 11 out of 15 years. "We're toughening up," remarked Max M Smith, Lancaster Extension County agent

Gary Walker West Chester R1, son of Mr and

Mrs. Paul Walker showed the lightweight champion. Walker is in his second year of raising beef cattle and racked up his first big win with the lightweight championship.

As in the case of Martin's steer, Walker's was fifth in his class at county roundup the day before.

"My judge was looking for future steers," he says, so his well finished animal didn't rate very high.

At the district sale, Walker's animal was sold for 58 cents a pound for a total of \$623. It was sold to W.E. Kreider Quality Meats.

The other district champion - reserve champion lightweight - was shown by Randy Lapp, 1913 Millport Road, and sold for 58 cents a pound. Watt and Shand purchased the animal for a total of \$607.

The district sale as a whole averaged 53.12 cents per pound and 1129 pounds per animal.

In showmanship, Bill Wylie, Nottingham R2, took the grand championship titles, out-performing the two older classes of showman. Bill is 12 years old and took the champion beef showman title in the junior division at the State Farm Show last year and just his Fall took the junior showman honors at the Unionville Fair.

According to Bill's older brothers, the key to his success is practice, which he does every day.

Top placings in each class of the Southeast District 4-H Baby Beef Show are listed below:

Lightweights
Under 995 pounds - 1. Sharon Long, Peach Bottom R2; 2. Glenn Stoltzfus, Morgantown R1; 3.

Cheryl Wojtowicz, Downingtown; 4. J. Andrew Greiner, Columbia R2; 5. Donny Stoltzfus, Morgantown R1.

995 - 1015 pounds - 1. David Anderson, Pocopson; 2. Nelson Beam, Elverson R2; 3. Bernie Gish, Elizabethtown; 4. Darlene Herr, Quarryville R2; 5.

Debbie Greider, Columbia R2.

1020 - 1070 pounds - 1. Diane Beam, Elverson R2; 2. John Leroy, Birchrunville; 3. Curt Hess, Strasburg R1; 4. Kay Shertzer, Millersville; 5. Michelle Dean, Strasburg R1.

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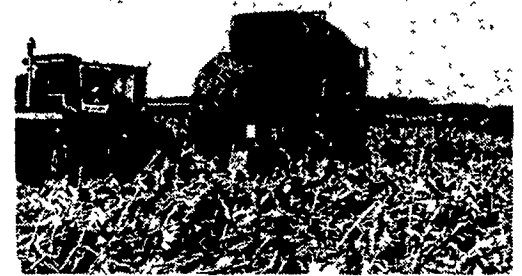
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