

Ag Progress was not only for the adults

By SALLY BAIR
Staff Writer

UNIVERSITY PARK - For a child, Ag Progress Days held a series of special delights, beginning a mile or so before one even parked the car. High in the air were huge balloons beckoning the young and old to the exhibits. Following the closest path to stand directly under the balloons led through a maze of equipment which

can only be described as monstrous by a three-year-old.

But the huge buildings, the fast moving equipment and the many attractions in the fields paled in comparison to several adventures awaiting at the various tents in the educational area. For any young child who discovered it, the children's tent was clearly the most popular place on the research farm,

and for any parent whose offspring found it, the tent offered a pleasant respite from the heat and the exhaustion which sets in early and persistently in preschoolers.

Volunteers from the Central Pennsylvania District Libraries held programs every hour on the hour, including such wonderful child-pleasers as stories, songs, rhythm bands and crafts. Paula Wertz of the Centre County Library even patiently taught the ancient craft of origami, or paper folding to a capacity crowd of young children who followed her every direction to the letter and came home with beautiful, paper puppies. There were also finger puppets and bookmarks to be made.

The sophisticated exhibits in the other tents could not compete with the lure of puppets, storybooks and snacks.

If children could be coerced into leaving the children's tent for more than the short interval between programs, there were other



The children who went to Ag Progress were fascinated by the activities planned for them at the area of Ag Progress which was specifically set aside for their interests.

treats for them. In the youth area, a rocketry demonstration held the attention of young and old alike, and several demonstrations on

the care and training of horses were equally interesting to the pre-school set.

And wonder of wonders, there was a talking cow. Now the talking cow clearly was not the same kind of animal found at the dairy department's exhibit, but youngsters are not too discriminating, and many

stood for a long time, entranced with this four legged creature who asked their names, described their clothing and chatted about their day at Ag Progress Days, all the while telling them the importance of drinking enough milk for proper nutrition.

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