



Susan Hoyt, Williamsport, is this year's champion swine fitter.



Putting on the finishing touches.



Robert Herr, Narvon, the sheep judge at this year's Little I, consults with the other species judges, Glen Klippenstein, beef; Mike States, swine; and Nancy Kadwill, horses.

Little I

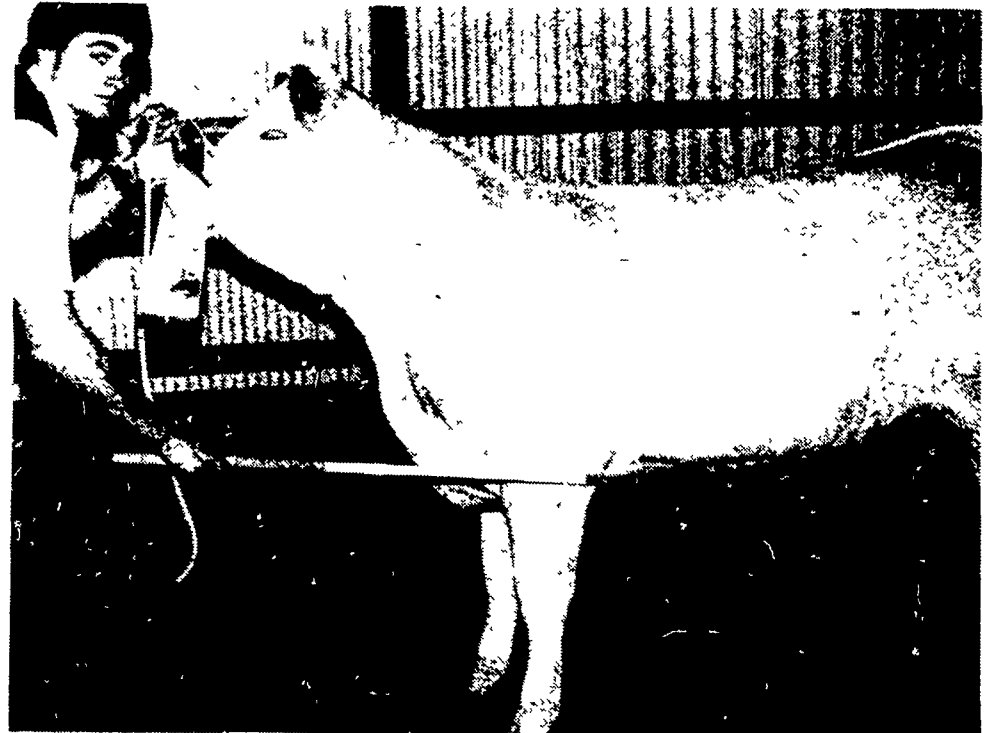
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Gail Snyder, New Tripoli, took champion honors in sheep fitting.

champion swine fitter; Jeanne Bucher, Ridley Park, reserve champion fitter; Martha Gregory, Lititz, champion horse showman; Janet Kaufman, Harrisburg, reserve champion horse showman; Linda Shafer, Bath, champion horse fitter; and Eileen Mera, Bethlehem, reserve champion horse fitter.

Jeff Bylerly, a junior dairy production major and member of the Block and Bridle Club, received this year's Glenn R. Kean Award for leadership.



Dale Rains cleaned up the honors in the beef division, capturing the championships for fitting and showmanship.

Horsepowers fight to finish at Strasburg

STRASBURG — Interested in watching a race between a four-legged horse and an iron one?

Horsemen and locomotive enthusiasts will be out in droves to watch horseflesh pitted against steam power in a great race between the Strasburg engine and a stagecoach.

According to Don Denlinger, of Strasburg, the event to be held on May 10 at 2:30 p.m., will be a re-enactment of a similar race that took place 150 years ago. "If you miss this one," he said, "you'll have to wait another 50 years to see it again."

Denlinger explained that 150 years ago, people did not believe that a steam engine, or a 'tea kettle on four wheels' could pull itself, let alone passengers and freight.

But, he added, a locomotive called the Friend of Charleston, was gaining the reputation of breaking all speed records at an incredible 35 mph.

This new era in transportation threatened the stage coaches — the only method of mass-transit at the time. And in 1830, a challenge for a race was heralded from the horseman

to the boiler-makers.

The steam engine 'John Bull' didn't fair too well in the original race, noted Denlinger. "The belt blew off the blower so there was nothing to keep the draft on the fire and the engine lost its pressure."

The horses won the first race, but that was the only one, Denlinger said. After its defeat, the steam engine was

revamped — converted to chain drive. This turned the tables in the rematch, giving victory to the iron horse.

The May 10 race will be for a quarter mile between a stagecoach driven by Circle M Ranch's Tom Ricks and Fred Germer and the Strasburg steam engine. The winner will go on to race the Stanley Steamers.

Denlinger said it took

some looking to find a stagecoach for the race. "People who had the stagecoaches didn't want us to hook horses to them. Mitchell Hill Carriage Museum finally located one in North Carolina.

"It was actually manufactured in Concord, New Hampshire. We had to completely restore the coach — put on a new tongue,

straighten the undercarriage."

In the original race, the coach was pulled by one horse as depicted in a photo drawing that Denlinger had on hand. But, this time, there will be two horses pulling the coach, and there will be four passengers — women from the Mary Faree Society,

Paradise, wearing costumes from the period.

Denlinger said the horses that Circle M will be driving are Hanover Downs harness race horses. "We tried them out last week and they didn't like the screaming whistle. They were up on their hind feet ... hopefully by Saturday's race they will be down on all fours."—SM

Sheep and lamb sale slated

MERCER — The County Sheep and Wool Growers Associations of Northwest Pennsylvania will be holding their sixth annual sheep and lamb sale on Saturday, May 10.

Over 400 lots will be consigned at the Mercer County 4-H Park. The sale is slated to begin at 7 p.m.

Thirty-six lots of registered yearling ewes are entered for the sale, consisting of Hampshire, Suffolk, Merino, Rambouillet, Southdown, Oxford, Corriedale, Shropshire, Dorset and Polled Dorset sheep.

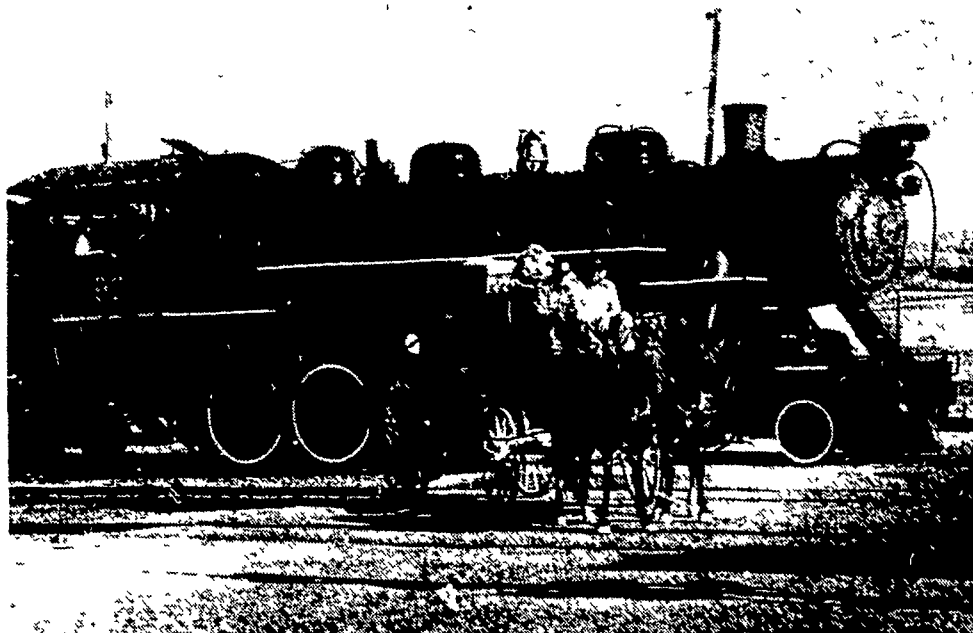
There will be eighteen lots of non-registered yearling ewes.

Sixty-six of the lots offered for sale will be registered ewe lambs, with seventy-three lots of non-registered lambs.

Over 50 yearling and lamb rams will be offered for sale, along with more than 130 wethers.

Auctioneer for the sale will be Lloyd Braham, Grove City.

For more information, contact Raymond Tait, R4 Mercer, 412/475-2136.



Circle M Ranch's Tom Ricks, right, and horse-trainer Fred Germer will be driving the stagecoach in the great race between horseflesh and the Strasburg locomotive on May 10th.



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