

Vintage Sales Stables hums with activity on dreary Tuesday

BY PAT KAUFFMAN
PARADISE — The familiar drone of Kersey Bradley's voice is directed across the small auction ring to wooden chairs occupied by buyers for fat steers.

The room is almost exclusively male with the only female those serving food behind the counter. Now and again a woman wanders into the seats clearly uncomfortable following her husband.

Boys, the youngest perhaps 3, on a trip with their dads amuse themselves with sodas, people watching or daydreaming to the rhythm of the auctioneer's voice.

It's Tuesday and the setting is Vintage Sales Stables along Route 30 East of Lancaster at Paradise.

An even dozen buyers are

seated at the use-worn desk which runs the perimeter of the half-circle pit. And depending on the quality of the animals which charge from the scales, the droning voice starts the chanting at \$60 or more. The auctioneer knows his buyers well and directs his attention to the ones whose quality he's selling.

They motion back at him with various tics and imperceptible nods. One conversing on the phone moves his fingers slightly.

Steers of every color waddle through Mrs. E. Mark Hitz, Campbelltown, watches the action from the rear of the stands. She has accompanied her husband on his buying trip for Abattior of Carter, New Jersey. Privately she confesses

there are things she'd rather do. But she proudly talks of her husband and the many years he has been a cattle buyer. She says that she wishes she had a history of his 73 years.

Dave Findley, New Providence, sits near the back watching the animals move through with a moderate amount of interest. While he sometimes buys and sometimes sells, today he is just watching. He says he had some business down in the area so he stopped by to watch the sale for awhile.

Bob Denlinger, Mount Joy, and his family watch with more interest than some. They have brought a few animals with them and want to compare the prices they receive with those others get.

Paul Murry, Millersville, who hauled 2 loads of animals to the auction said the attendance this overcast day is about three times the normal, a thought which one of the cooks confirms.

Back in the chutes, everything appears normal until the stockman moving cattle into the weighmaster's chute appears. There in a blue flowered dress is the stockwoman, Mary Horning. Working beside her is husband Daniel.

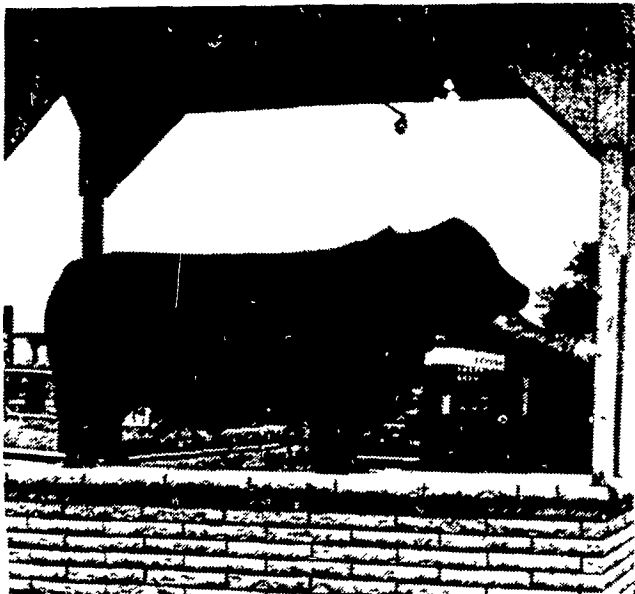
The Hornings have worked at the Stables with their son, Marlin for approximately three years.

When asked how she came by her job using microphone and electric prod, she says they had been hauling steers in every week and things just sort of evolved from that.

Marv said she works on



Buyers surround the semicircular auction ring and spectators alternately listen or not depending on what type animal charges from the doors.



Travelers along Route 30 East near Paradise are welcomed to Vintage Sales Stables by this Angus statue.



Julie Thompson and Donna McGeehan chose a 4-legged mode of transportation to the auction. They giggled when asked why they had come



Mary Horning and her husband Daniel move the animals through the chutes onto the scales.

Hunterdon County sets rural ramble

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The Rural Ramble, a Hunterdon County conservation tour, will be held this year on July 19, announced Calvin G. Wettstein, County Agriculture Agent.

The tour was created in the early 1960's to cultivate an interest in conservation, conservation measures, and to show folks what the district was doing to foster conservation of soil and water.

Bill McIntyre, retired county agricultural agent, recalled the Rural Ramble had its beginning in the Soil Conservation office, when a tour of surrounding farmland brought together SCS and other agricultural personnel to view conservation efforts underway in the county.

This year's theme will be simply 'New Agriculture', said Wettstein. Stops on the tour include Albert Enea's Christmas tree farm, near Croton; Ted Blew's grain farm, Oak Grove; Leon's sod farm, south of Pittstown; Delaware Valley Nursery, near Everittstown; Rausch's dairy goat operation, Holland Township; and Kozak's Old Dogwood Hill horse farm, Mt Pleasant.

Bill Happel, operator of a general farm near Pittstown and long-time Soil Conservation District supervisor, has never missed the

annual Rural Ramble in 19 years.

Happel, who has spent a lifetime farming, dairying and raising field crops, sheep and beef in later years, has always had a strong interest in con-

servation. He was an early trustee of the South Branch Watershed Association, strong participants in the Rural Ramble in its growing years.

William Dietze, director of Hunterdon's conservation

district has arranged this year's tour. Tickets are \$7.50 per person for the tour and lunch at the Pittstown Inn, and can be obtained from the District Office at the Extension Center, Rt. 31, Flemington.

Spurs N' Burrs announces

show winners

HELLERTOWN — Recently members of the Spurs N' Burrs 4-H Club provided pony rides at the Springtown Country Fair. They also participated in a grooming clinic for their members conducted by Holly Lorah.

Bonnie Hottle, Carrie Stuart, Jenny Stuart, and Jenny Fisher attended the Buck's 4-H sponsored Susan Harris Clinic. Everyone participating received tips on proper equitation.

The Club held their grooming and showmanship show recently. The results are as follows:

Senior class — 1 Kendra Vanderford showing Beata-Rita; 2 Bonnie Hottle showing Flying-dutchman.

Junior class — 1 Jenny Stuart showing Maude; 2 Carrie Stuart. In the first year class Christine Vanderford placed first.

After the showmanship classes were completed, the

club held a fun show. The results are as follows:

Dollar bareback walk, trot — 1. Jenny Fisher, riding Taffy; 2. Christine Vanderford riding Tucka; 3. Carrie Stuart, riding Cocoa; 4. Jenny Mease riding Ginger.

In the dollar bareback walk, trot, canter — 1. Martha Willard riding Jude; 2. Jonna Quinn, riding Tucka; 3. Susan Gaydoes; 4. Kendra Vanderford.

In the lead line class — 1. Susan Scott riding Ginger; 2. Jonna Quinn, riding Tucka;

3. Lynn Usner, riding Maude.

In the Junior Equitation — 1. Carrie Stuart riding Cocoa; 2. Jenny Stuart riding Maude; 3. Jenny Fisher, riding Taffy; 4. Jenny Mease, riding Ginger.

Senior class results were: 1. Martha Willard; 2. Kendra Vanderford; 3. Gretchen Vanderford; 4. Bonnie Hottle.

In the water race — 1. Martha Willard; 2. Kendra Vanderford; 3. Gretchen Vanderford; 4. Jenny Stuart; 5. Jenny Fisher.

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