

# Breeders enjoy meal, music, and good company



This couple leaves the cares of the farm behind, at least for a while, as they dance to tunes from the '50s and '60s.

**BY DONNA TOMMELLEO**  
BALTIMORE, Md. — Holstein breeders and enthusiasts from across the nation and several foreign countries who didn't have to worry about rising before dawn to milk, danced, ate and talked well into the night at the kick-off for the 96th Annual Holstein Convention Sunday night in Baltimore.

A Maryland Crab Feast highlighted the President's Reception in Baltimore's new Convention Center. In addition to delicious but messy crabs, folks

enjoyed ample portions of roast beef, chicken, several varieties of vegetables and salads, desserts and plenty of beverages which of course included milk.

Many folks found it a good idea to stretch their legs after such a repast. And stretch they did. Within minutes after an "oldie but goodie" band comprised of Maryland dairy farmers began playing, the dance floor was flooded with couples enjoying the easy life.

Meanwhile, downstairs in Hall A, more than 100 Holsteins im-

maculately groomed rested on mounds of straw and shavings and also enjoyed the easy life while awaiting the National Sale on Thursday. Prospective buyers and wishful thinkers strolled up and down the hall, sale catalogs in hand.

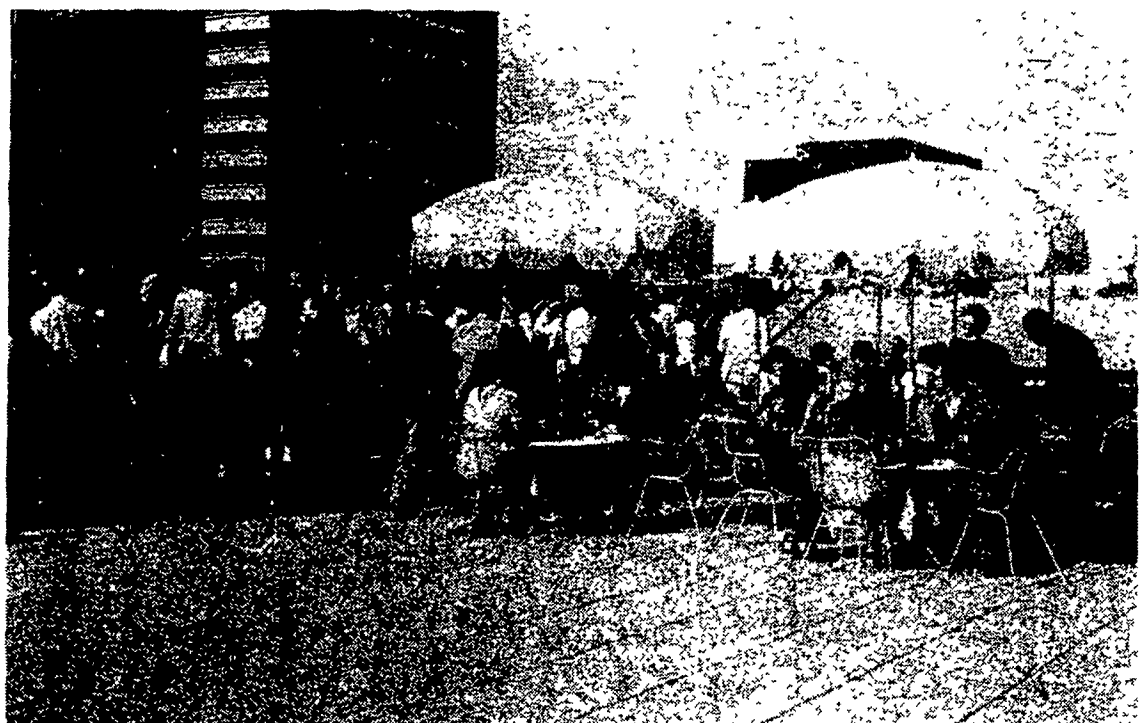
The food was great, the dancing and music—superb and the animals—they're the high producing Holsteins and without them Baltimore could have been just another spot on the map this week.



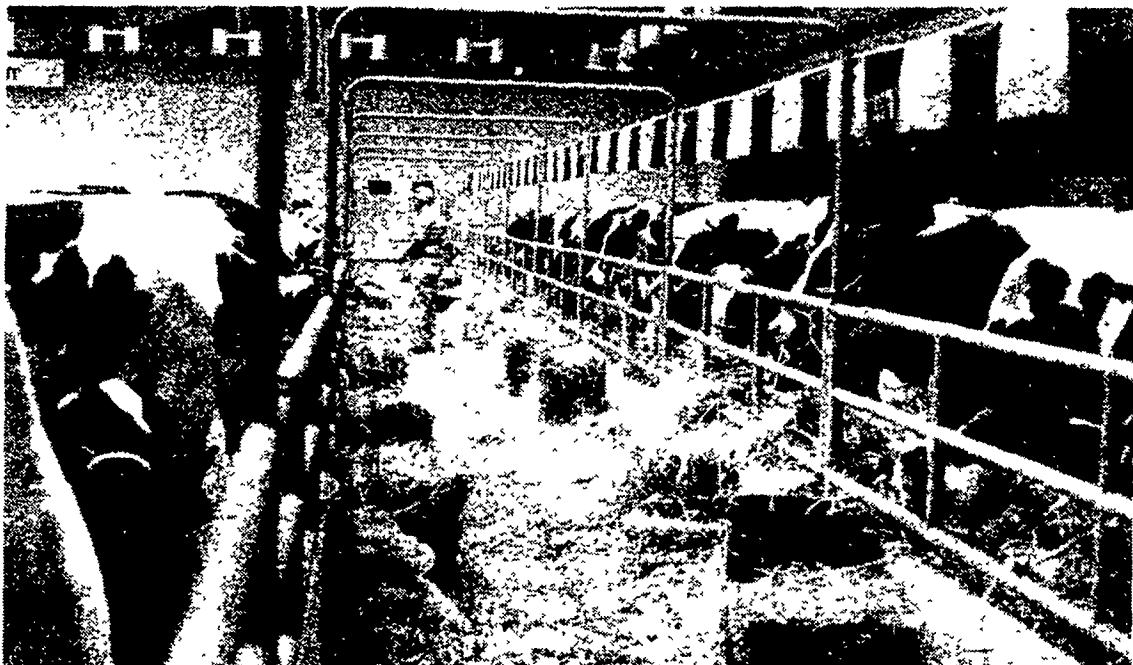
Making their way to the crab feast, convention goers are greeted by the HFAA banner in the spacious lobby of the convention center.



The HFAA convention provides guests with an opportunity to visit the new convention center, opened just two years ago.



Bright-colored umbrellas provide shade in the warm Maryland evening, while everyone enjoyed the feast, highlighted by the famous Maryland crab.



Holsteins arrive from all over North America Thursday, July 2, to await the National sale at 10 a.m. on



The President's reception also offers a chance to appraise potential purchase.