

Broken hand can't keep Crawford Dairy Princess from All-American

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

HARRISBURG — It was a busy week for Cinda Oakes, a pretty eighteen-year-old from Cochranton in Crawford County. She not only had animals to show at the Junior Dairy Show and the Eastern National Holstein Show, but she also had to look her loveliest to participate in the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess contest. And through all her activities she was nursing a broken finger which required a cast up to her forearm.

But neither the hectic pace nor the handicap kept her from thoroughly enjoying each activity. And the only evidence that there has been a strain was that she was found napping on a bale of straw in the middle of the day.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Oakes, Cinda showed her junior calf to the Junior Championship on Monday, something which made her "pretty happy." The calf, Vel-rus Marvex Penstate Maria, had done well in earlier shows.

Cinda said the only difficulty in showing with a cast is trying to smooth the topline with the affected arm. She also had to turn over the washing chores to someone else when her cast began to get soggy.

But while she was showing on

Monday, she also had her mind on her interview with the Dairy Princess contest judges. She had been given the last slot of the day to allow her to show her animals. She had made arrangements for someone else to show Maria in the championship class but at the last minute changed her mind and showed her herself. Now she says she's glad she took the time to do it so she could savor the moment.

As soon as her part in the show was over, she rushed to the Penn Harris Motor Inn, had ten minutes to change and become more princess-like and go into the interview. She recalls, "I worried more about showing than the contest. I was just myself. I saw no reason to be anything other than natural."

Tuesday was a more relaxed day for her at the contest, when she gave her presentation to the judges. She called the contest "fun," saying she enjoyed being with the other contestants.

A 1981 graduate of Cochranton High School, Cinda has been in 4-H for nine years, and says, "I love 4-H. It helps you relate to people and gives you a lot of self-confidence, even if you don't win. You can see what you've accomplished. I've stood at the other end of the line."

"I'm grateful to 4-H because I've seen myself progress. I would suggest it to anybody, even to city

kids. It helped keep our interest in the farm and added a little special fun. It lets you show off what you're proud of."

It was 4-H that got her into showing, and Cinda says, "I love showing. I wouldn't miss it for anything. I've got one more year and if I have a job next summer I may just take off so I can show." Cinda is going to Southeastern Academy in Florida for six weeks this Winter to train for a travel career.

Her real plan after a few years away from home is to return home and farm. Right now she works on the farm with her parents and younger brother Ernie Ray, 9, who is following in his sister's footsteps with his 4-H animals. An older sister, Beth, lives away from home. The Oakes family farms about 450 acres of land and milks about 76 registered and grade Holsteins.

The Oakes children got their first calf and began in 4-H when their father drove bus for a friend who gave the girls one calf. This caused a problem and soon another calf appeared so they each had one.

The family likes to show, and Cinda says, "It's a good promotion for the dairy industry."

Her father states, "It's good publicity for the herd and you get to meet and see a lot of people." He added that they have really ap-



Cinda Oakes, Crawford County Dairy Princess, proudly shows off her calf which was Junior Champion at the Junior Dairy Show on Monday.

preciated their children's 4-H work because it provides an outside activity which is an extension of what they're doing at home on the

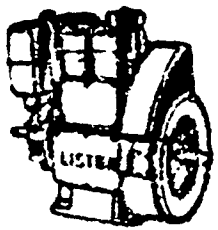
farm.

Cinda says showing is also a way to improve your dairy animals.

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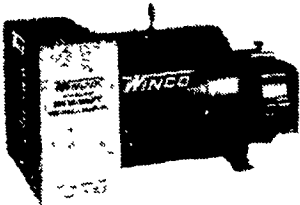
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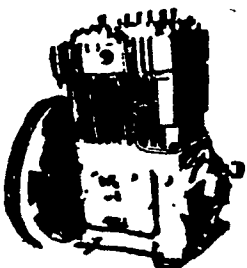
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