

Cream comes to top in milk carton race

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RISING SUN, MD. — Colorful flags crackling overhead in a sun-splashed breeze, a dozen "boats" slipped into the waters of the four-acre Lovdal Lake as the 1st Intergalactic Invitational Point to Point Milk Carton Boat Race got underway last Saturday afternoon.

Nearly 400 spectators cheered their favorites and applauded as some crafts immediately pulled ahead, with paddles - or arms and

legs - flying furiously.

Other nautical creations sailed a bit more ponderously, taking erratic turns and hanging low in the water.

And a few floated back to shore - piece by piece.

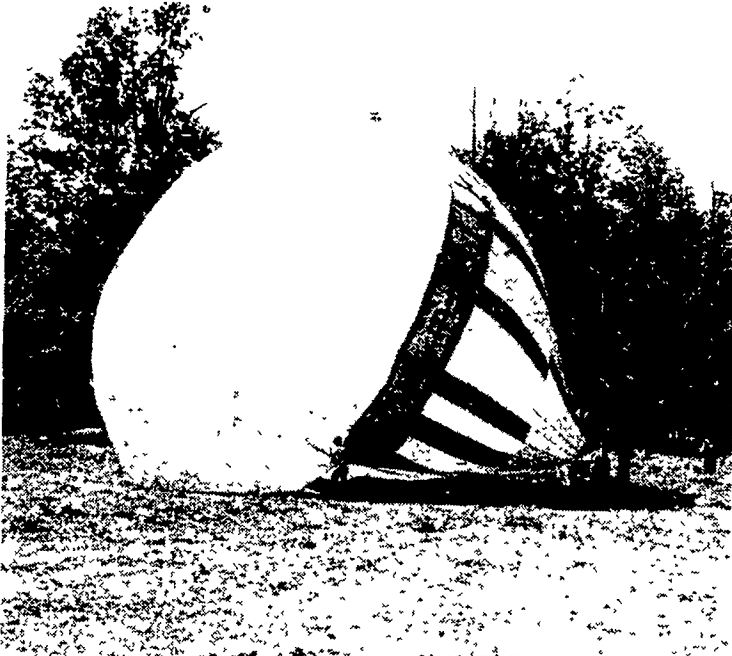
Hosted by the Bob and Warren Knutsen families at their Lovdal Holstein Farm, south of Rising Sun, the great boat race was the brainchild of the dairymen brothers, who are active in various dairy industry organizations.

In the wake of intergalactic race



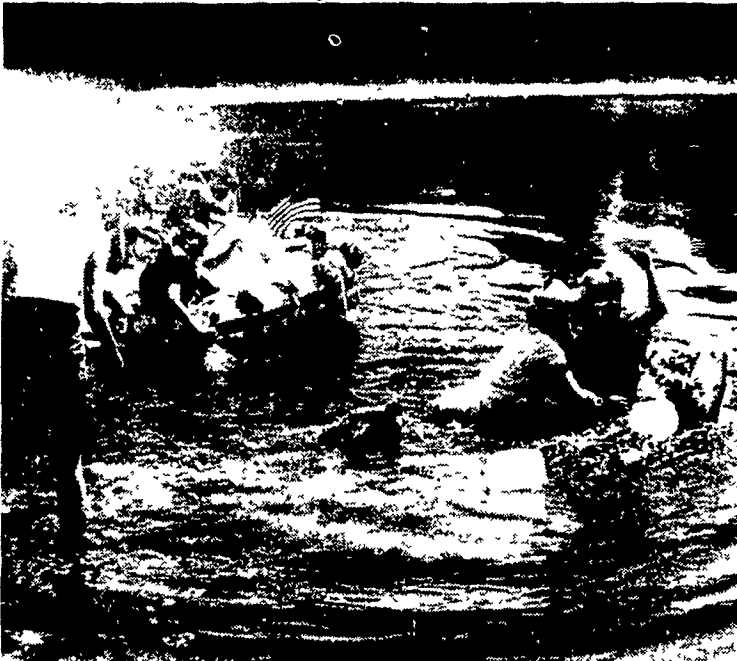
Lovdal Lake at Knutsen Farm showed trail of stray milk cartons as some craft needed a canoe tow back to shore.

Promotion not hot air



Added attraction was John Blair's hot air balloon with its "M-M-Milk" promotion.

Early trouble



Some crafts started disintegrating pretty quickly.

And they're off



Prone paddler on Cosmic gets off to good start and wins first heat.

Intended as both a milk promotion and a fund-raiser for the 12 invited church youth groups, the race generated nearly \$1,000 and earned each group a minimum of \$60.00, plus special prize cash awards.

Sponsors included Interstate Milk Producers, Dairymen, Inc., the Maryland Holstein Association and Sun Pharmacy, plus numerous contributors. Donations from the crowd also helped swell the coffers.

Paul Ayers, of Newark, Del., donated several old milk bottles for sale during the race. (Ayers, a milk memorabilia collector and owner of the Mooseum, was featured in Lancaster Farming in the June, 1982, dairy issue.)

Most entries were built of plastic milk jugs, with many using well over 100 of the containers in construction. Duct tape, glue, string and even baler twine were in evidence as part of the design in boats dubbed such labels as "Udderly Ridiculous," "Boat of Many Colors" and "The Last Resort."

A few, however, utilized cardboard cartons, with an abundance of staples.

Several area dairy princesses and farm queens comprised the judging team to select design awards. Heading the group was newly-crowned Maryland Dairy Princess Robin Hill, of Kent County.

Assisting her were dairy princesses Karen McMann, Baltimore and Harford County, and Denise Ambler, Chester County, Pa., and farm queens, Shelly Krause, Cecil County, and Carrie Pringle, Baltimore County.

An inspection committee, made up of representatives of sponsors, checked the boats for adherence to the race rules. Inspectors were Dick Hall, Interstate; Sam Foard, Dairymen, Inc.; and Raymond Armacost, Maryland Holstein Association's milk promotion committee.

Named the Prettiest Boat was the "Boat of Many Colors," created and crewed by members of the Elkton United Methodist Church. Congregation members assisted in saving the 131 plastic jugs in the design; and, according to a youth advisor, some even altered their milk buying habits to aid in the collecting.

Most original and the craft using the most milk containers was the "Cosmic Cow," a raft-type design made of 336 quart-size chocolate milk cartons.

Summer job project



Paul Owens saved 170 half-gallon milk cartons on his summer job at a Boy Scout camp. It took him and his paddling partner Susan Johnson a week to put entry together.

Prettiest craft



Boat of Many Colors won the prettiest designation for the Elkton United Methodist Yourh Group.

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