

\$75,000 bull calf tops All-American Jersey Sale

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Staff Correspondent

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Very seldom does an auctioneer drop the gavel after a record-breaking final bid of \$75,000, especially if the sale item isn't even present in the sale ring. But, that's exactly what auctioneer, Merlin Woodruff, did at the 1984 All-American Jersey Sale, held Nov. 4, at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky.

The animal was a six-month-old Jersey bull calf. The 1984 bid set a new record price paid for a Jersey bull calf at a public auction, shattering the old record of \$3,000. But the bull isn't just any calf. His pedigree contains some of the all-time great Jersey bloodlines. With

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a sire like "A-Nine Top Brass" and a grandsire like "Observer Chocolate Soldier," Valedictorian is destined to rise to the top of the breed.

Valedictorian was sold by Skillman Farm, a division of the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Because the prison offered cheap help and needed a rehabilitation project that would pay for itself, Ed Crotty, a former herdsman for a top Jersey breeder, was asked to set up a program for the inmates using Jersey cattle. Prisoners earn a salary and learn a marketable skill while working in the dairy operation. Outstanding animals are used as an incentive for the inmates.

Crotty bought Valedictorian's dam, Zev of Ogstons Vicky, at the Walebe Farm, Collegeville, Pa, dispersal sale held in November 1983. Vicky was purchased as a bred aged cow, and Crotty knew

the calf had some good Jersey bloodlines.

Valedictorian was not at the All American Jersey Sale because a female Jersey on the farm reacted to a brucellosis test. The bull was certified to be disease-free but New Jersey and Kentucky state laws prohibit transporting of animals over a state line. The herd with a brucellosis carrier has passed.

Not only was the bull absent from the sale...so was active bidding on the animal. A sealed bid from the Valedictorian Syndicate of \$75,000 was offered to the auctioneer. No other bids, written or oral, were received.

Executive Director of The American Jersey Cattle Club, Maury Core, said the syndicate was a group of businessmen using the bull as a tax shelter and an investment.

"The syndicate will use

Valedictorian like some businessmen use race horses. The bull though, will be worth more over a longer period of time," Core said. "Because his pedigree is outstanding, Valedictorian is well worth the investment."

"Valedictorian will have an impact on the Jersey breed," Core said. "He has the potential to make even more breed history."

The All American Sale also saw the record broken with the top price for a female at \$11,000. Owned and bred by the Randleigh Foundation of Raleigh, North Carolina, Randleigh Sundae Brim sold to Comfort Hill Jersey Farm of Ferrisburg, Vermont. Three-year-old Brim sold with two bull contracts and a probable third contract pending negotiation by the new owner. This cow was sired by Barlu Chocolate Sundae and carried two year records of 13,440 lbs. of milk with a 4.9 percent fat test.

The second high selling female was Top Brass Frederick Lustre consigned by Dr. J.J.Malnati of Newberry, South Carolina. Lustre was purchased by the Skillman Farm of Columbus, New Jersey for \$9,000. She carries a contract for a bull calf out of Quicksilvers Magic of Ogston.

Following close behind was Headspring S. Pride Aria selling for \$8,900 to Jimmy Minter of Texas Consigned by Headspring Farms of South Carolina, Aria carried a contract for a bull calf also. She had production records of 15,640 lbs. of milk with a 4.0 percent fat test.

Volume buyer for the sale was the New Jersey Department of Corrections in Trenton, New Jersey. They purchased five head for \$12,400.

Sale averages for this outstanding offering were: five bulls averaging \$19,220 and fifty-five females averaging \$2571.

DHIA numbers

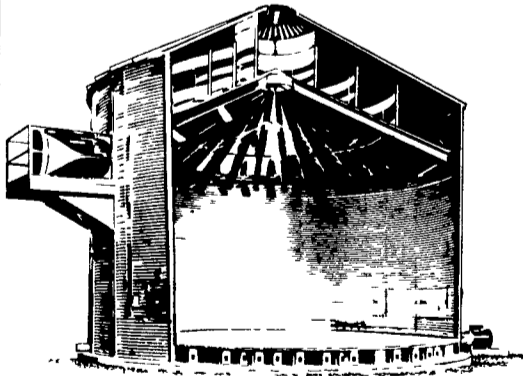
BEDFORD — The Bedford County DHIA ended the year with seven herds averaging over 700 pounds fat. Bedford County completed its 60th year Sept. 30, with 98 whole-year herds and 24 owner-sampler herds.

Topping the county butterfat average was the herd of Byron Over, Roaring Spring, with 783 lbs. fat. Over also had the only milk average in the county over 20,000 pounds.

In addition, averages of more than 700 lbs. fat were produced by six other herds: Paul and David Hessel, Woodbury; Edward A. Deputy, Bedford; J. Allen Baker, Bedford; Paul I. Detwiler, N. Enterprise; Obie Snider, Imler; and Luther and Phil Steele, N. Enterprise.

Officers of the Bedford County DHIA board of directors are: James Eshelman, president; Edward Deputy, vice president; Clair Koontz, secretary; and Rita Dull, Treasurer.

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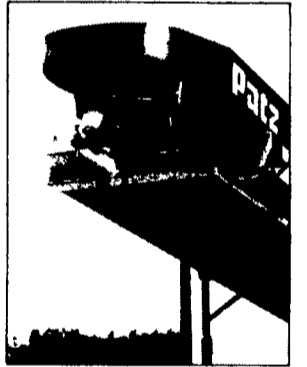
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