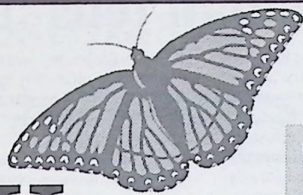


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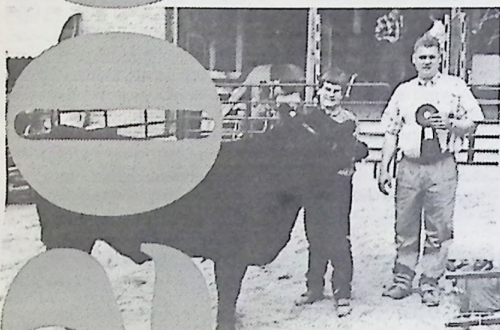
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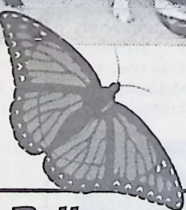


Champions reign
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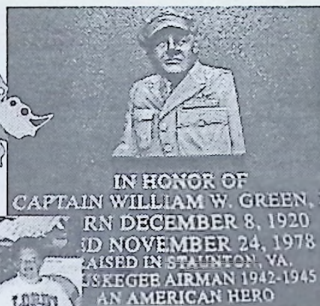
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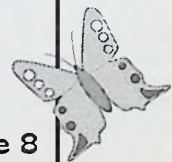
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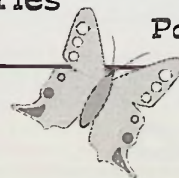
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hounds:
Breed
Day
features
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varieties

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Former Fishersville
postmaster recalls
nine decades of
memories

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GROUP B 11:15 A.M.

GROUP 8

Kentucky frontiersman tells 'truth' behind 'tall tales'

By NANCY SORRELLS

The lights were dimmed and a silence fell over the crowd recently at the Stuart Hall auditorium. Then slowly, very slowly came the tap-tap-tapping of an old man's walking stick. He was bent over with age and his body suffered from years of hardship on America's frontier. As the 76-year-old man eased his arthritic body into a chair, he explained that he was Simon Kenton and with that he took up his tale.

The real Simon Kenton has long ago passed into the history books, of course, but Mel Hankla was here to recreate this forgotten frontiersman in an educational living history presentation called a Chautauqua. The event was sponsored locally by the Augusta County Historical Society; a similar event was presented for the Buffalo Gap Booster Club. Ultimately, however, Hankla's portrayal of Kenton is made possible through the Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc.



Mel Hankla dramatizes the life of Kentucky frontiersman Simon Kenton during a performance offered recently in Staunton.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

Kenton's life journey was the stuff for tall tales. It ultimately took him to Kentucky where he was a friend of Daniel Boone and George Rogers Clark, and a foe of the Indians who made him run the gauntlet nine times. His adventures began back in Virginia, in Fauquier County, where as a restless youth he had the misfortune to fall in love with a girl spoken for by another. Kenton was smitten with Ellen Cummings and on the day she married Willie Leachman, the 15-year-old Kenton challenged Leachman to a fight.

The starry-eyed Kenton was soundly whipped, but he bided his time and a year later waylaid Leachman and beat him into unconsciousness. Knowing that the penalty for murder was death and believing that he had killed Leachman, Kenton fled.

"I was determined to bury my identity forever," the man on stage said. He explained how he wound up in Warm Springs, Va., where he presented himself to Jacob Butler, the local miller, as Simon Butler. Feigning kinship with the Warm Springs miller earned Kenton, posing as a Butler, a job. He worked there for several months, but because Bath County was a travelers' crossroads, the 16-year-old feared he would be caught and determined to move further west.

Four years after leaving Virginia he found the lush wilderness of Kentucky which he had been seeking. "It was the spring of 1775" fore I found the canelands of Caintuck-ee. There were great fields of cane fer as the eye could see," he explained. Together with another man he cleared a patch and planted corn.

It didn't take him long to remember that farming had always bored him and he began to take an active role in frontier leadership in Ken-

tucky and along the Ohio River. As such he became a compatriot of Boone and Clark and was even credited with saving Boone's life during an Indian attack at Boonesborough.

In 1778 Kenton was captured and tortured by the Shawnee. His hands were tied behind his back and he was placed on a wild horse that was sent galloping through the woods. Then a naked Kenton was forced to run the quarter-mile gauntlet—in which all the members of the village lined up and struck and beat him with whatever weapon was available. He was forced to run that corridor of pain nine times. After the sixth run he had a hole knocked in his skull and his arm and collarbone were broken.

Gradually word of Simon "Butler" and his escapades made it back into the newspapers and magazines of the east. By then they were tall tales. "So many things they say I done, they been way stretched," said the old man from his chair.

The truth is, though, that his fame was real and he became an ambassador for Kentucky. In 1784 he settled down in Mason County, Kentucky and, learning that Willie Leachman had survived their fight, took back his Kenton surname. He also married, Martha Dowden, in 1787. They had four children and Martha was pregnant with their fifth child when she perished in a house fire. Kenton then married Martha's first cousin, Betsy Jarboe, and fathered five more children.

In 1798, the Kenton family moved to Ohio. The frontiersman did not adjust well to a more civilized life. He never learned to read and write and his lack of education caused him to make a series of bad financial decisions. At one point he was even tossed into debtors' prison.

Kenton died in 1836 and is buried in Urbana, Ohio. An historic highway marker in Prince William County on Rt. 15, 6.9 miles south of Gilbert's Corner marks Kenton's birthplace.—

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Sue Simmons

Nancy Sorrells

Contributing writers

Kim McCray

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Former Fishersville postmaster recalls nine decades of memories

By NANCY SORRELLS

FISHERSVILLE — There are nearly nine decades of memories stored in Mary Evelyn McChesney's head, and many of them revolve around her village of Fishersville. She has seen the village move from a sleepy railroad village to a cluster of buildings on a busy highway. And for 35 of those 90 years her name and face were synonymous with Fishersville.

Mary Evelyn was actually born in Stuarts Draft on June 24, 1910, but when she was four years old, her father, who was in the mercantile business, moved the family to Fishersville. In those days U.S. 250 did not exist. Instead, the main road from Richmond to Staunton passed right through the center of the village (now Va. 641) and was called Jefferson Highway. That road intersected with Va. 608 which was a toll road.

"I remember I used to sit on the porch and watch. This man used to ride his horse over the hill. He would have the horse reined in as tight as he could and he would beat that horse. I was just a little thing, but I'd yell at him, 'Let that horse alone!' I reckon that's when I

started being an animal lover," recalled Mary Evelyn.

Fishersville was a busy little community that included a blacksmith named Mr. Guthrie, a train depot, a post office, a house full of spinster sisters who were seamstresses (Misses Laura, Minnie and Molly Moon), and Mr. Bob Hall's general store.

"During WWI, Mr. Bob Hall had a soldier doll that sat in his window. I was crazy about dolls and I'd stand in front of the doll and look at it with an eight-year-old's longing and think 'Oh I wish Santy Claus would bring me that doll.' But I was told that I had enough dolls. Somehow Mr. and Mrs. Hall realized that I wanted that doll and they gave it to me," recalled Mary Evelyn of the event which still brings tears to her eyes.

The girls in her family dubbed the doll "Soldier" and he was played with and slept with until he eventually disintegrated.

The children in the McChesney family went to Fishersville school and Mary Evelyn was one of the school's star pupils. She especially excelled in writing. One teacher recognized that ability and singled Mary

Evelyn out for some unique praise.

"When I was a sophomore in school, one teacher, who was rough as a cob but I loved her, said to me, 'You've got talent you little fool!'"

Of course, by the time the entire school already knew that Mary Evelyn had talent. In 1925, when she was in the 9th grade the Illinois Walch Company sponsored an essay contest on Abraham Lincoln. Mary Evelyn beat out the rest of the school to win the contest. She was given a Lincoln medallion which she has to this day. "I was so proud of my Lincoln essay," she remembered.

Her writing has continued unabated since then. During the years around the nation's bicentennial, Mary Evelyn discovered she had a talent for writing historical pageants which were a natural outgrowth of her writing skills and her love of local history. Her first pageant was for her home church of Tinkling Spring Presbyterian. Then she penned one for Redeemer Lutheran in McKinley, followed by Union Presbyterian, then Mossy Creek Presbyterian. Her fifth pageant was for Rock Hill Presbyterian in South Carolina, while her sixth and final play was for Laurel

Hill Baptist, the church that Grandma Moses attended in Augusta County. She has also written several Easter pageants.

Seventy-five years after her winning essay, Mary Evelyn continues to keep her mind sharp by writing poetry. She has had three poems published by the Library of Poetry, including a recent Millennium Poem.

After graduation from high school, the hard times of the Depression kept Mary Evelyn close to home. Although times were tough, the McChesneys did what they could to help others. One Saturday night as the family was preparing for traditional Saturday



Mary Evelyn McChesney, of Fishersville, holds the Abraham Lincoln medalion which she won in a ninth grade essay contest.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

night baths in anticipation of Sunday church going, there came a knock at the door.

See POSTAL, page 19

Postal service steered McChesney toward international intrigue

By NANCY SORRELLS

FISHERSVILLE — When queried about the strangest thing that ever happened at the Fishersville post office under her tenure, Mary Evelyn hesitates not one second.

"I can tell you a real story about my D-Day," she said. It happened during the spring of 1943:

"One day two men walked into the post office. They were nicely dressed men and one had a Bible under his arm," she said. They explained to Mary Evelyn that they were going to be in the area for a little while doing mission work and would need a post office box.

"I gave them a box number and they said that they would be receiving right much mail," she explained. As the men walked out she thought she heard them speaking in a foreign language which she knew wasn't French because she had taken that language in high school.

A week or so later Mary Evelyn received another visitor — a man from the FBI. It turned out that the two men posing as missionaries were German spies and Mary Evelyn was to be the patriotic observer of the spies' postal activities.

"I was to begin to watch and examine every piece of mail the two men were receiving and to watch their reactions when they received

the mail," she said. She was to write down what types of mail they received and record any helpful information like letter size, return address, and postmark.

Before leaving, the FBI agent swore Mary Evelyn to secrecy in the matter and then told her to be very careful about any packages received by the men.

Although she was shaking in her shoes, she began to carry out the government's requests. "I started doing what I was told to do and after observing the German men I began to realize that they had hard faces."

The surveillance went on about two months. Because she was sworn to secrecy, Mary Evelyn could not tell a soul about the Germans. Even her parents, with whom she lived, could not be told.

"I was scared to death the whole time. I was afraid to walk home in the dark along the side of the road, so I walked in the middle of the road. 'The FBI man told me not to tell a soul so I had to suffer it all alone, and I mean I suffered!'"

"Well, weeks passed. The men would be gone for a few days — then back again. The Secret Service men would bob in and out and check my notes. About three months later the Secret Service men came in and stayed in the back

with the Rural Carrier. The men came in and got their mail and the agent was all eyes, but continued to talk to the carriers," Mary Evelyn said.

One day the FBI man came in early and said that her agony would soon be over. It turned out that the men were plotting to blow up the train bridge at Crozet and free the German prisoners on the train bound for the Homestead in Hot Springs.

The FBI man told her that the suspense would all be over that evening. "If you hear the train go through at 7 o'clock then you will know that we have been successful (in breaking up the plot)."

That night when Mary Evelyn left the post office, she was too nervous to eat. She picked at her food that evening and then hustled out to the back porch to listen for the train.

At precisely 7 p.m. the westbound train rolled through Fishersville and blew its horn. With that, Mary Evelyn dropped to her knees in prayer and just bawled her eyes out. Of course her family wondered what in the world was happening, but now she could let them in on her secret.

For Mary Evelyn, such patriotic service was just part of the entire war effort. And to top it all off, the FBI man later returned and praised her for doing her part. —



Ruffner Brown assisted Mary Evelyn McChesney at the Fishersville Post Office. He delivered special delivery letters and three times a day he hung the big mail pouch on a crane so that the passing train could pick up the mail. Those mail pouches went out by train until the 1960s when the mail delivery was taken over by trucks.

BMMS students share their caring with hospitalized war veterans

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — Patti Smith, the volunteer director of the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke, thinks it must be in the water. Scarlett Kiser a seventh grade civics and economics teacher at Beverley Manor Middle School attributes it to a special, caring group of kids. Local VFW member Don Hall is just amazed by what the kids have done. And the kids themselves? They just wanted to bring some sunshine into the lives of a group of veterans who don't get a lot of sunshine.

What the 40 seventh graders have done is adopt 28 veterans living in the Roanoke veterans home. Since December the kids have been sending cards, writing notes, and shipping off presents. All of their own volition.

It all started in the fall when Don Hall came in to talk to the classes in preparation for the annual VFW essay contest. This year's essay topic was about ways to show veterans you care. The essay contest made the students think of ways, and then they decided to back up their words with action.

The first thing they did was assist the local VFW chapters by handing out poppies and collecting money during Veterans Day week last November. Eighteen students went with Ms. Kiser to Wal-Mart and the result was that very few shoppers escaped without donating at least a few coins to a good cause.

"Most of the people who bought poppies were older and had relatives who were in the war or were lost in the war. We also met some veterans," said 7th grader Martha Vaught of the Buddy Poppy experience.

"We collected a lot of money; we wouldn't let them run past us," added Jamie Bonos. The money goes to support the local VFW and to provide services and programs for veterans.

For these students, though, writing an essay and collecting money wasn't enough. When they questioned Hall about what else they could do, the idea of adopting the veterans was hatched. Hall contacted Patti Smith who came up with the list of 28 veterans who did not have family and friends who were close to Roanoke. Either in small groups or individually, the students picked names from the list of 27 men and one woman and adopted them.

The initial thought was to send Christmas cards to the veterans, but that soon expanded. First one group of kids asked if they could also send a present, then another and another. Some of the kids pooled their money and bought stuffed animals. Pretty soon there were presents, miniature Christmas trees, reindeer, and cards galore. Hall, who has acted as the local liaison between the students and the home, had a car jam-packed with



BMMS students who adopted veterans included (left to right, kneeling) Stephanie Via, Ashley Pitsenbarger, Nadia Thompson, Naomi Knott; (standing) Ashley Kyger, Lauren Leach, Melissa Hackett, Jason Irvine, Corbett Smith, and James Oates.

Photos by Nancy Sorrells



BMMS students who adopted veterans included (bottom row, left to right) Tommy Wilson, Lauren Fridley, Maggie Crosby, Rebekka Siron, Scarlett Kiser, teacher; (second row) Jeremy Rasnake, Zachary Cempe, Hunter Desper, James Waltz, Jessica Shipe, Carina Wimer; (third row) Gary Theiss, Laura Toner, Clarissa Brown, Ashley Houser, Jamie Bonos, and Martha Vaught.

holiday goodies for the vets. Melissa Hackett's group sent a small Christmas tree to their adoptee because "we thought maybe he hadn't seen a Christmas tree for a long time."

"It was amazing. I never told the kids to bring in a gift. Next thing I know, we have all these gifts coming in," said Ms. Kiser.

"Don came down here and his car was loaded," said Ms. Smith. "Those extra presents from the kids were the icing on the cake for Christmas."

And the giving has not stopped. Cards and letters continued at Valentine's Day and Easter and went out for birthdays. Hall has continued to take carloads of presents and cards, and the U.S. Postal Service has picked up the slack between Hall's trips.

"There was no extra credit, no grade in the grade book for any of this," exclaimed Ms. Kiser. "These kids just said they want to do this and they did it. Their re-

ward is the good feeling they get. There was no carrot that I was dangling in front of them."

When you ask the kids why they have done this, their responses are all very similar and sincere. "My

friend and I adopted Robert Ballentine. We sent him Valentine cards and Easter cards. We think it is important because he maybe doesn't have anybody who loves him and he needs someone who cares for him because he fought for our country," said Nadia Thompson.

Corbett Smith was in a group that adopted Raleigh Smith. "He is a veteran of our country. He fought for our country to be free and he might have taken a bullet for us," he explained.

"It's just once in a lifetime you get to adopt someone," added Naomi Knott.

Even though they don't really know anything about the people they adopted, the students are all sensitive to the fact that their adoptees have no family and friends who come to visit them. "We thought they needed a friend and someone who cared," said Stephanie Via.

The students also are sensitive to the reasons why these veterans might be living in the home and that some of them don't have much time left on earth. "When I started I had a guy and one time his name wasn't on the list any more and now I am sending cards to another guy," said James Waltz. "It feels good to write and give them stuff because it might make a difference in their life and they might not have much time to live and this will help them enjoy it," he added.

Laura Toner adopted one vet by herself and another with a friend. One of the men passed away recently, but she hopes that she helped make his final months more enjoyable.

"We just decided that they didn't have families so it would be nice to send stuff," explained Clarissa Brown of the reason she has helped send balloons, stuffed animals and shaving lotion. Rebekka Siron added: "I want to let them know that people really care."

Although the students have not had any return communication from the veterans that has not

dimmed their enthusiasm. "I'd like to think when the letters are read to them that they have a big smile on their face. It's a good thing," said Maggie Crosby.

"Even though we don't know a lot about them, it feels good to send the things and we have a lot of respect for them," added Lauren Fridley. "I adopted my veteran because I knew that he might not have anyone who cared about him or he might not have a friend," said Jason Irvine.

"I personally deliver the cards and presents. What these kids are doing means so much to the veterans," said Ms. Smith. "Their smile tells it all. I get goosebumps just thinking about it. One guy is severely handicapped and doesn't smile much, but when I gave him a stuffed animal from the kids he really smiled."

In addition to the gratitude of the veterans, the students have received unexpected accolades from another segment of the area population. "My grandfather was in the Navy and I told him about what we were doing and he was very happy," said Martha Vaught. "My grandfather fought in the Korean War and was a paratrooper. He visited us at the Buddy Poppy program and was amazed at us adopting the veterans," added Hunter Desper.

Among those impressed by the project taken on by these middle schoolers is Ms. Smith. "This is the first time a school has taken such an interest and stuck with a program. I've never seen so much excitement in a class. There is so much concern from these kids. Somebody along the line did some great role modeling and the school should be very proud," she said.

"I just didn't expect such enthusiasm. This group has blown away my expectations of the program," exclaimed Ms. Kiser.

As the school year approached its end, the students expressed dismay that their special relationship with their veterans in Roanoke would come to an end. Even as Ms. Kiser laid plans for a new group of students to continue the program next year, this year's students vowed to maintain their link. "I think everybody should keep sending letters and cards because the veterans don't have any family and

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Monument honoring Staunton's Capt. Green dedicated

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — When members of the local VFW lifted the white covering from the Captain William W. Green Memorial Monument on May 20 they were not only honoring a brave local hero, but they were righting a wrong perpetrated more than half a century ago.

The Staunton that Capt. Green hailed from in the 1940s was a racially divided city. The dreams that exist in one's mind, however, are color blind and William Green's dream was to be a pilot. And so, despite living under the burden of discrimination and segregation, he went off to school to pursue that dream. When war broke out, he answered his nation's call and became one of the now famous Tuskegee Airman — African American pilots who proved they were among the best pilots in the nation.

Green served in the European Theater where he proved to be the cream of an elite air corps. All told he flew on 123 combat missions, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and an ETO Ribbon with three battle stars. He earned

two more honors when he was shot down and parachuted into Yugoslavia. After being picked up by Tito's freedom fighters, he helped those resistance soldiers until he could make it back to Allied lines. While with Tito, he became the only American ever to earn the Yugoslavian Order of the Partisan Star, Class III. He also earned a Purple Heart for wounds received when he was shot down.

In 1944 a highly decorated Green stepped off the train platform in Staunton and was greeted by a cheering sea of black faces, but the other half of Staunton did nothing to recognize its hometown hero.

That is until May 20, 2000. The waiting has made the granite monument honoring Green's heroism all the sweeter according to his sons, William and Reginald, who attended the ceremony along with their mother Alethia Green.

"I am so glad it finally happened," said William who lives in Columbus, Ohio where his father is buried. "My father loved flying. That's all he ever wanted to do and he was one of the better pilots."

"This day has been a wonderful experience," said Reginald, who lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa. "The family is extremely proud. Growing up I knew of my father's exploits but not directly from him. He wouldn't share them. He was very modest in that way so it is nice to get this additional recognition for him."

Reginald added that he felt no

bitterness in the fact that his father was being honored more than half a century after his wartime heroics. "If we're not growing and changing then we are not moving ahead. We can relish in the moment now," he said.

Part of that growing and changing was due to his father noted William. Capt. Green served in the military through the Korean War and continued to prove he was a top-notch pilot. During those years after WWII, the Green family was stationed in Japan and became the first black family to live on the base at Yakota. "My father is my main idol. He instituted in me the ideas of doing good and doing the right thing and to be a responsible person," said William.

In addition to his sons and their mother, Alethia Green, several other relatives were in the audience on the armory grounds. Staunton Vice Mayor Rita S. Wilson was the master of ceremonies for the event which included plenty of military pomp and circumstance. The Virginia National Guard posted and retired the colors, and Cathy Shippe sang the National Anthem.

Maj. Edward Northrop delivered both the invocation and the benediction. During his prayers he asked those in attendance not to forget that "freedom was purchased by blood."

After the monument was unveiled, a Military Memorial Service was conducted by VFW Post 2216. "When the call of our country was heard, Capt. William Green answered," the chaplain noted. At the conclusion of the service, a wreath was laid on the monument by Peggy Harris, State President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW and Paul T. Moore, the State VFW Commander. The wreath ceremony was followed by a 21-gun salute from the Virginia Army National Guard and the playing of Taps by Staunton Police Officer Thomas E. Lerner.

As Taps was being played, a group of VFW members marched



The family of Capt. William Green — sons, William and Reginald, and their mother, Alethia — stand at the Tuskegee airman's monument in Gypsy Hill Park. The marker was dedicated May 20.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

solemnly over to the American Flag which was flying at half staff. Slowly the flag was raised to its full height and then lowered and folded into a triangle. Warner Mills — a veteran, friend of Green's and the inspiration behind the monument — clutched his comrade's flag to his breast, walked over to the Green family and presented it to them.

With the ceremony, flag presentation, and granite marker bearing Green's likeness in bronze, Capt. Green had finally received the recognition and honor he was denied in 1944. For Mills, the man who worked so hard to make it possible, the day's events left just the hint of a catch in his voice and a tear in his eye.

Green was an inspiration for a teen-age Mills who went on to be just about every kind of pilot imaginable from hopping from airstrip to airstrip as a bush pilot in Liberia to flying Lear jets. It was Green who provided that initial inspiration. "This job had to be done," he said in reference to the Green Memorial Monument. "I have been thinking about this job for 20 years and things seemed to fall into place

once I was back here," he said of the events that have unfolded since he moved back to his hometown nine years ago.

Actually, things fell into place only because of Mills' hard work in educating people about Staunton's forgotten hero and helping to raise the \$10,754 it took for the monument.

"The National Guard has been great and the city has been great. To say thank you to the Staunton 'fathers and mothers' is not enough. They gave us \$5,000 and the plot of land and helped with all the planning. The civic organizations everywhere gave between \$25 and \$500. I will tell you what: there are some good people in this town. The people in Staunton are first rate," he said.

A few days before the unveiling ceremony, Mills arrived at the armory in order to see the monument unloaded and put securely into place. "I was there when it arrived and they put it all together and I felt kind of emotional about it. His (Green's) eyes seemed to follow me. In one sense, we have brought him home." —

summer field trip. From the Roanoke end, Ms. Smith indicated that the veterans would welcome a visit with open arms. She also pointed to Hall, the VFW liaison who got the whole program going and who made many trips to Roanoke with his car loaded with presents and messages from the students, and Ms. Kiser for making the program a success.

And, of course, there were the kids themselves. "People are so quick to talk about the bad things kids do, but not these kids," Ms. Smith said. "Who would ever think that middle school kids have this kind of interest in a group of veterans. These kids are the little heroes." —

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Students

Continued from page 4

they need things to look at," explained Ashley Houser.

Gary Theiss expressed another wish that the students had been thinking about: "I would like to go see them." Jamie Bonos added: "I want to know more about them because they probably have so many stories to tell."

As the students reiterated their desire to meet their adoptees it became clear that they weren't going to let the idea die. Before the class was over they had taken the initiative to circulate a list with their names and phone numbers so that Ms. Kiser could organize a



Notes from the road

In this issue, *Augusta Country* staff writer Nancy Sorrells takes us on an egg-straordinary pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. and gives us an inside look at the annual Easter egg roll on the White House lawn.

Folks scramble for tickets to annual Easter egg roll

Companies shell out big bucks to entertain youngsters

By NANCY SORRELLS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Try adding these numbers and see if you arrive at any answer other than chaos:

7,200 eggs
24,000 people
4:45 a.m.
5 blocks

These are the numbers that need to be crunched if one wishes to attend the annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House.

This traditional holiday fun for children has been held on the lawn of the White House every Easter Monday since 1878. The egg roll in the nation's capital actually dates back a few years further (1872 is the first known mention of the activity) but for several years it was held on Capitol Hill.

It didn't take long for the stodgy old congressmen to put the ky-bosh on that bit of fun. Apparently the legislators felt a little undignified slipping and sliding on the remains of boiled eggs and so they passed an act in 1876 that said no part of the Capitol grounds should be used as a playground.

Easter Monday 1877 was so rainy that no one tested the new law, but in 1878 warnings were issued that



Aunt Nancy and her nephew, Justin Walker, are greeted by the "Rabbit Lady" at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll.

the law would be strictly enforced. Turns out that President Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife Lucy were not so stiff-necked about the whole thing and they invited the children to the South Lawn of the White House to roll their eggs.

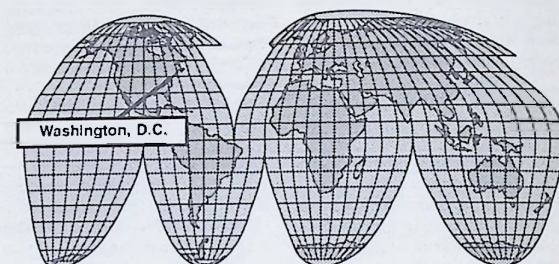
Thus was born the White House Easter Egg Roll. The event was a hit from the beginning. In 1889 there were an estimated 10,000 people on the lawn. From the very beginning

the egg roll has been an integrated event with children of all colors and economic levels romping together in the First Family's front yard.

Only during World War I and World War II, with the need for heightened security, was the event moved off the White House lawn and to other locations in the Capital.

Today the event, still free after all these years, is a must-do for many people. The catch is that the egg roll is specifically aimed at children 3 to 6 years of age. All adults must be accompanied by a child within that age bracket. My nephew, Justin, who turned 6 in February, was our ticket into the egg roll.

And he made a more-than-will-



ing entrance ticket until we awakened him at 4:45 a.m. to get dressed and get in the car for the drive to the Metro and the ride into D.C. (Later he would brag to another 6-

year-old, "I had to get up in the middle of the night to come here today.") As I drove my father and nephew to the subway station I see-
See EGGS, page 7



"Thomas Jefferson" speaks to youngsters at the annual Easter Egg Roll.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells



Yolk of the Day

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Eggs

Continued from page 6

cretly wondered who would collapse on me first: the 70-year-old man or the 6-year-old boy?

Although there is no charge to get into the festivities, one has to acquire tickets. No one is allowed in without a ticket. The National Park Service starts giving away tickets at 7 a.m. sharp at the Ellipse (the land between the White House and the Washington Monument). Each ticket has a time printed on it. Groups of 300 are let in the White House every 15 minutes. There are 18 groups. That means that there were 5,400 tickets up for grabs. The other 19,000 tickets issued that day were to special groups: area schools, special charity groups, embassy groups, etc.

Not having received a special invitation, we had to go the route of the LONG LINE. I have never waited in a line five city blocks long. Never. The line started forming at 7:30 p.m. — on Easter Sunday! We got in the line at 7 a.m. Easter Monday. Once the ticket window opened, the line moved quickly. After 45 minutes of waiting, I held three pink tickets with 11:15 (Group 8) printed on them.

Great, now we had 3 1/2 hours to kill before we could march over to the White House. Luckily there was a lot to do. We explored the exhibits at the Washington Monument and we listened to the entertainment at the Ellipse. We also ate. All of the big sponsors for the Easter Egg Roll gave away tons of food: fruit and juice (Dole Food Company), egg sandwiches (Perdue Farms, Inc.), and the Virginia Egg Council), doughnuts (Krispy Kreme), marshmallow peeps (Just Born), and shortbread



Advice for anyone participating in a White House Easter Egg roll:
"Don't roll until you see the whites of their eggs."

(Walker's Shortbread, Inc.). Now that's what I'm talking about, free food. My backpack began filling up because we had already missed breakfast and it was a sure bet that lunch was a no-go as well.

It soon became obvious that there was a people flow problem with the way groups were being gathered and marched over to the egg roll. Crowds began to form and stand in the staging area. Our 11:15 tour time came and went and we were still sitting in the bleachers waiting to be called. Finally around noon, it was time for our group to gather for the short walk to the White House.

Now things were looking up; we were actually going to get on the lawn. To get onto the lawn we had to go through security and walk through a corridor of the White House. That was where it happened — my cell phone rang! Now don't you know that I felt oh-so-hip chatting to my sister FROM THE WHITE HOUSE!

It was a short phone call because we were soon out in the sunlight on the South Lawn. We had arrived. Now we were ready to roll eggs. Or were we? First things first — Justin had to go to the bathroom!

Needless to say, the scene was chaotic. The glitch in the system was just this: Seems that people had to have set times to get into the White House, but once inside, nobody made you leave. The net effect was that as the day wore on the crowds got bigger and bigger. The line for the bathroom (boys) was 10 minutes. I did not even at-

tempt the women's line!

Scattered around the lawn were seven stages where a variety of performances were taking place. Celebrities like Julie Andrews and Ted Danson were at one stage, cabinet members and administration officials were at another. We saw no big names (the President was there to kick off the festivities that morning but we saw neither hide nor hair of him by the time we arrived shortly after noon) but Justin did get to shake hands with a Banana and Thomas Jefferson.

The Banana was part of a child-pleasing show sponsored by Dole fruit. There, adult sized fruits and vegetables (in addition to the Banana there was a Pineapple, a head of Lettuce and a Broccoli) sang tunes about eating fruits and vegetables. The Salad Sisters also per-

Thought for the day Which came first — the chicken or the egg roll?



formed a slinky little number about the same subject. Then all the kids got free cassette tapes with the songs. More stuff in the backpack.

Although the morning had started off quite chilly, by now we were standing under a warm sun. As a result, Justin's jacket and my father's hat and sweater went into... you guessed it... the backpack.

The next stop on our lawn tour was the egg roll itself. This was, by far, the most popular line for it was the raison d'être existence that we were here. A LOOONNNGGG wait brought us up to the starting line which was just for children. The adults went to the finish line to watch. At the far end of a patch of grass children were lined up 10 at a time and given a spoon. A dyed, hard-boiled egg was placed in front of each child. When the whistle blew the children were supposed to use the spoon to roll the

egg to the finish line. When the whistle blew Justin used his spoon like a hockey stick and the egg like a puck. In just two flicks of his wrist the egg had traversed the length of the race course and bounced off Granddaddy's leg. The swift course of events surprised Granddaddy so much that he stepped to the side and then backward putting his heel on Justin's purple egg which then exploded with a loud POP. The whole thing didn't take five seconds. We exited the egg roll and all the children were given a big tube full of M&Ms — more stuff for the backpack.

The next stop was an amphitheater built to resemble a giant bird's nest. All the chicks, or children, sat down on the grass inside the nest and listened to storytellers spin their yarns. The adults had to stand outside the nest in the hot sun. From there we walked by a coloring area and picked up a few pages to color later. For now, they went into the backpack.

Then it was on to the historical stage where personalities from the past came alive for the children. There was George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Benjamin Banneker, and Thomas Jefferson. Justin loved this so much he wormed his way to the stage and was soon sitting at the feet of Thomas Jefferson. After the characters finished their performance, they answered questions from the children. One little boy asked Lincoln how he got on the penny. Refusing to break character, Old Abe replied: "Why I don't believe the treasury would ever have any notion of putting MY likeness on the penny!"

It was during Lincoln's speech that I got the answer to my silent question of the early morning. My father decided he was going to exit the White House grounds and walk back toward the Metro Station where he would wait for us in an air-conditioned McDonald's that had places for adults to sit down and something for adults to drink.

Justin still had some reserve energy so he and I walked over to the place on the grounds where kids were having the most fun of all. There kids were running to the top of a steep little grassy hill, and rolling down. They were having a blast. The one and only unorganized, unplanned, unchaperoned activity and it was the hit of the day! Justin took two rolls down the grassy slopes before we were off for a final stroll around the grounds.

Leaving was no easier than enter-

ing. There was quite a line, the reason being that souvenir wooden eggs were being handed out to all the children filing past. These collector's items apparently are adorned with a different drawing every year and are highly coveted. More than a few exiting adults became quite upset when they were told that only children could get the eggs.

As we walked by, Justin chose his egg with care and then we were out of the gates and back on the city streets. Unlike everything else that had landed in his hands during the day, Justin wanted to carry his wooden egg with him back to the suhway, but I insisted it go in



Mission accomplished:
The coveted souvenir egg

the backpack. He was not going to lose that egg after all we had gone through during the day. He relented and the egg went in the all-too-heavy backpack.

We had walked only a few yards when I received the second part of my answer about when certain members of our group would wear out. "I'm tired, will you carry me?" came the feeble request from the 6-year-old. Instead of carrying him (I couldn't carry him AND the backpack), he was given a moment to sit down and rest. We then walked back to the McDonald's, refueled, and took the subway back to the car and the car back to Manassas where our journey had started so long ago. We arrived back at Justin's house at 5 p.m. The 6-year-old, by the way, had revived on the subway but had then conked out completely within two minutes of getting in the car.

It was a long day and a lot of hours in lines for a wooden egg and a chance to play in Bill Clinton's front yard, but it made for an Easter egg-stravaganza that will be remembered by Justin, his granddaddy, and his aunt for a long time. And if you were one of the other 24,000 people on the lawn that day, you know egg-actly what I am talking about. (Did you actually believe this story was going to end with only one bad egg pun?) ---

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Breed Day helps match right people to right dogs

By LIZZY MAREMMA

VERONA — Hi, my name's Lizzy, and I'm a Maremma sheepdog. I would like to tell you about a special event that I recently attended along with a number of my fellow canines.

The folks at Loving Care Pet Resort in Verona sponsored the day and they called it Breed Day. I like Diane Cline and her people at Loving Care — that's the place I go and stay when my family is out of town on vacation. The family almost never takes me on their trips, but that's okay because I don't like strangers and strange places — I'm a stay-at-home-keep-an-eye-on-the-place kind of dog.

You should have seen the variety of dogs (and their owners) that Diane had lined up for the day. There were big dogs, like me, and tiny little dogs. Actually, right next to me was a miniature wire-haired Dachshund. Now that's a funny looking dog; much smaller than the rabbit that I like to chase in my yard. And do you know that little dog threatened me? He told me he was going to tear me apart piece by piece but I just ignored him. I knew his teeth would not even penetrate my thick white fur.

Diane said that the purpose of the special day was to match the right kinds of dogs with the right kinds of people. The way she explained it, man's best friends (that's us) are genetically programmed for a certain kind of task and with a certain kind of personality to go with that job. I think what she said was, "we wanted to let people know the characteristics of the different breeds and what kind of environment they need to make sure you get the right match. There are no bad breeds, just bad matches."

At first I didn't know what she was talking about, but as I went around and met the other dogs, I began to understand. Take me, for instance. My family comes from Italy and for more than 2,000 years we have been livestock guardians



Lizzy Maremma with "part-time" handler John Taylor of Staunton.

Photos by Nancy Sorrells

in the mountains of Europe and the Middle East. Some folks even trace my ancestry as far back as biblical times. In the 1970s my ancestors were brought to America to do the same thing — guard livestock. Even my brothers and sisters and parents do the same thing. They live with a flock of sheep and keep bad animals, such as coyotes, away.

Me? I don't live with sheep, although I love them and lived with some lambs for the first two months of my life. I live with two humans now so I have transferred my guardian instincts onto them. I have to stay alert and let my family members know if harm is coming their way. If I didn't have that job to do, I would go crazy. There's nothing I like better than to sit at one of my guard posts in the yard and keep watch.

This works out well for me and my family because we live in the country, but I don't think that neighbors in a subdivision would appreciate me or my warning barks. And, although I am incred-

ibly affectionate and gentle to my family, I'd just as soon not be touched by strangers. People don't understand why I won't let them pet me. But they don't understand that my job is to alert my family that there are strangers around. Everybody tries to make friends with me but they don't know that I have more important things on my mind than being petted. I have a serious job to do and that's all I think about.

So you see, that's what Diane meant about matching the people to the dogs. Let me tell you about some of the dogs I met. There was Muffie, a 5-year-old Bichon Frise. Now there was an interesting looking dog with a head that resembled a volleyball. Muffie is white like me, but instead of a long coat to protect her from the elements, she has an interesting curly double coat which makes her look all fluffy. Muffie's roots go back to the royal courts of Europe, especially Spain.

Muffie wasn't the only bit of "royalty" there for the day. One lady had a Japanese Chin, a little 15-pound dog that looked a lot like a Pekingese but maybe a little slimmer. These dogs, which go back to the 700s, were companions to Japanese aristocracy. There was also a Shih Tzu there, and they were originally Chinese court dogs.

The different dogs were a sight to see — it's hard to imagine that we canines come in such a variety of shapes and sizes. One funny-looking fellow was named Sampson. He was maybe 40 or 50 pounds and had wrinkly loose folds of skin all over him. His owners called him a Shar Pei. Apparently Sampson's ancestors were developed in China as fighting dogs and having loose folds of skin was a desirable trait so that other dogs couldn't get a good grip during a fight.

A lot of those really strange dogs seemed to come from Asia. This one little gray dog made me do a double take. He was a hairless Chinese Crested Dog. He only had long hair on his head and legs. This guy was inside because without hair, he is very susceptible to sunburn! Imagine that. His family lineage is quite lengthy — almost as long as mine — because Chinese Cresteds have been companion dogs in China for more than 2,000 years.

At the other end of the spectrum from those small dogs was Judge, a 150-pound St. Bernard. Why, he made me look like a Chihuahua and

I top the scales at 77 pounds! His head was as big as my chest! Judge and I do have something in common — our ancestors came from the mountains in Europe. But while my family was bred to protect sheep, his was developed to search for and rescue people lost in the mountains. Judge is very big and muscular in order to plow through snowdrifts.

One interesting group of dogs there was being shown by a young fella named Luke Talley. He is a 9th grader at Fort Defiance High School and he raises and shows hunting dogs as part of his FFA project. He had some red and white Beagles and a Treeing Walker Coonhound named Blaze. Both types of hounds, I am told, have British origins and have been used for hunting raccoons, possums and rabbits. I'd like to invite Blaze over to my house one night because I have a possum that is tormenting me and Blaze would know just what to do to help.

Another working dog who was passing the day at the resort was Skip, a 12-year-old border collie. Skip told me that even though he was semi-retired, he would rather be out herding something which is an odd concept to Maremmas who need to sit quietly at their command post and assess the situation. Skip told me about some of his family members who have gotten into trouble because they weren't given a herding job to do. Sometimes they try to herd up automobiles and wind up getting injured or killed and sometimes they try to round up neighbors' livestock, but without the proper training a border collie can get into big trouble doing that, he warned.

Not only were there lots of dogs there, but there were some interesting people. One group of young people there was called the 4-H Dog Club. They were sponsoring a tattoo clinic so dogs could get an identifying tattoo put on them. Then if they get lost or stolen their family can be tracked down. I personally think that's a great idea. I know I've seen some lost dogs wandering through our property and sometimes they were pretty shook up and confused and that always makes me sad.

This 4-H club does a very neat thing — they raise dogs and take them around to visit nursing homes to perk up the residents there. The 4-Hers also take their dogs to obedience class which I think is a good

thing too. I went to class as a youngster and I use those lessons everyday. Those 15 or so kids also study different types of dogs and their jobs. For instance they visited the U.S. Customs place in Front Royal and learned about drug sniffing dogs and they learned about search and rescue dogs.

There were some other interesting people there, including two ladies who were after my own stomach. Although I don't particularly care to be touched by strangers, I can be swayed by food. These ladies, Theresa Stojek and Debbie Burns, make dog treats. Yum. They had one with garlic and one with peanut butter. I couldn't decide which one was best so I had my family buy a bag of each. These women call their business Peggy's Treats in honor of a dog friend named Peggy who has since died. Now they have greyhounds that they adopted from the racetrack. I got to meet Bianca, who is 6, and Blue, who is 10. Blue is quite handsome and a little shy like me. I am told he was a champion on the race track.

All in all I think the afternoon was quite successful and I hope the people and the dogs learned something. I tried to make a list of all the breeds that I met for the day but I could have missed someone. Anyway, in addition to the ones I've already mentioned, this is what I came up with: Collie, Maltese, Eskimo Spitz, Boston Terrier, German Pinscher, Bijon, Keeshond, Miniature Schnauzer, Pomeranian, Basset Hound, Cocker Spaniel, Papillon-cross, Boxer, West Highland Terrier, Cairn Terrier, Scottish Terrier, Dalmatian, Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Golden Retriever, Springer Spaniel, Lhasa Apso, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Rottweiler, German Wirehaired Pointer, Shetland Sheepdog, Labrador Retriever, and an English Setter.

It was an exciting day and I enjoyed it although I was exhausted from all the unwanted attention what with people touching me and all. I was glad to get home and go back on duty guarding my home and family. —

Lizzy Maremma keeps watch at the home of Augusta Country staff writer Nancy Sorrells.



Loving Care Pet Resort staff, left to right, Skylar Horn, Stacey Lawson and Diane Cline hold Winston, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, during Breed Day which they hosted recently.

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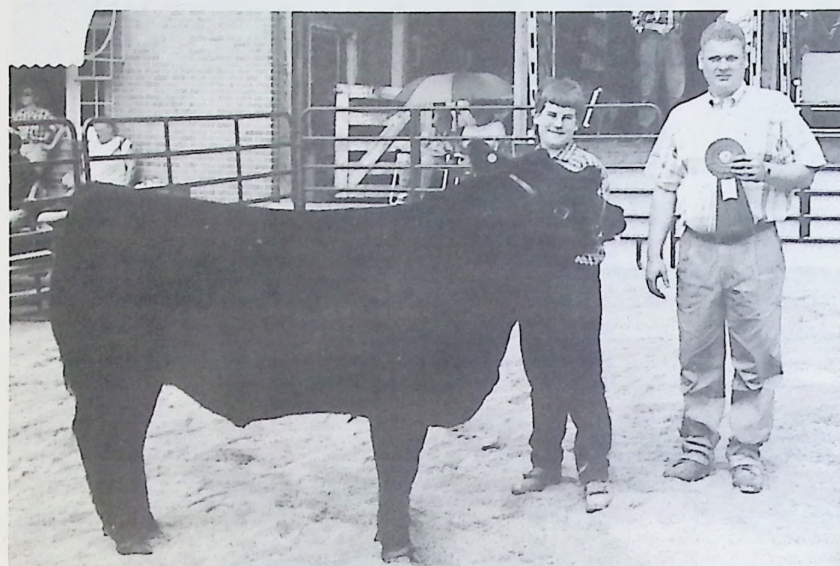
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55th annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show



GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by **WILL EARTHART, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB**, with Show Judge Scott Grenier



GRAND CHAMPION MARKET HOG shown by **NICK NYCUM, BUFFALO GAP FFA**

Grand champions selected from more than 400 head of livestock

By **BETTY JO HAMILTON**

STAUNTON -- If it had four legs and could be brushed, combed or carded it was at the 55th annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show held May 3 and 4 at Staunton Union Stock Yard.

More than 400 head of livestock paraded through the show ring during the two-day livestock exhibition, the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi River.

When all the primping and preening was done, Kaila Redifer of Parnassus, Nick Nycum of Swoope, and Will Earhart of Verona held grand champion rosettes for the animal which each exhibited.

Temperatures in the 80s and sunny skies prevailed during the two-day event, making it enjoyable for the hundreds of spectators assembled for the show and sweltering for exhibitors working their livestock in the ring. Only late in the afternoon on Thursday, when all outdoor activities had ceased, did a spatter of rain make an appearance at the occasion.

Scott Grenier, a show judge veteran and assistant professor of animal and poultry science at Virginia Tech, methodically worked his way through divisions of lambs, hogs and steers to select the grand champion animals.

After judging four divisions of lambs Wednesday afternoon, Grenier concluded the ideal market lamb was best represented by Redifer's 115-pound Suffolk wether. Thursday morning found Grenier considering market hogs with Nycum's 265-pound black and white belted barrow getting the nod. As the day heated up so did the steer competition. By mid-afternoon Grenier had found Earhart's 1,220-pound Angus to be the best of its species.

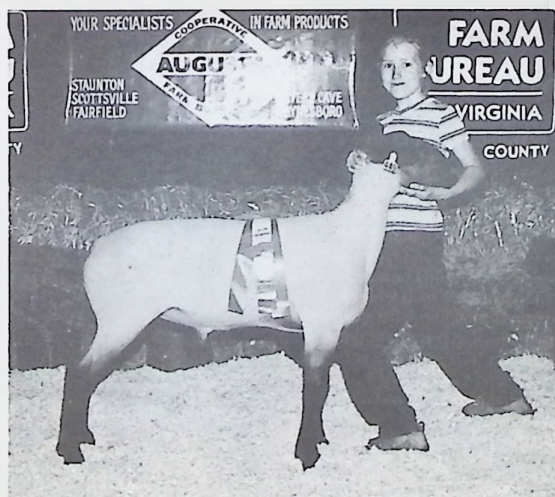
Redifer, 8, is the daughter of Doug and Jill Redifer of Parnassus. Nycum, 17, is the son of James and Brenda Nycum of Swoope. Earhart, 12, is the son of Chris and Becky Earhart of Verona.

While the grand champion animals possessed characteristics

which moved them to the forefront of their respective species, the accomplishment was no easy task. Each species exhibited represented a close finish to determine the difference between grand and reserve grand champion status.

In the lamb show, reserve grand champion honors went to a 115-pound Suffolk ewe exhibited by Ashley Balsley, 12, daughter of Sonny and Delores Balsley of Lyndhurst. Reserve grand champion honors in the market hog exhibition were awarded to a 250-pound blue-rump barrow shown by Corey Stogdale, 9, son of Ricky and Lois Stogdale of Stuarts Draft. A 1,240-pound Angus-Maine Anjou steer exhibited by Bryan Shomo netted reserve grand champion honors.

See **SHOW**, page 10



Photos by Betty Jo Hamilton

GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB shown by **KAILA REDIFER, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB**

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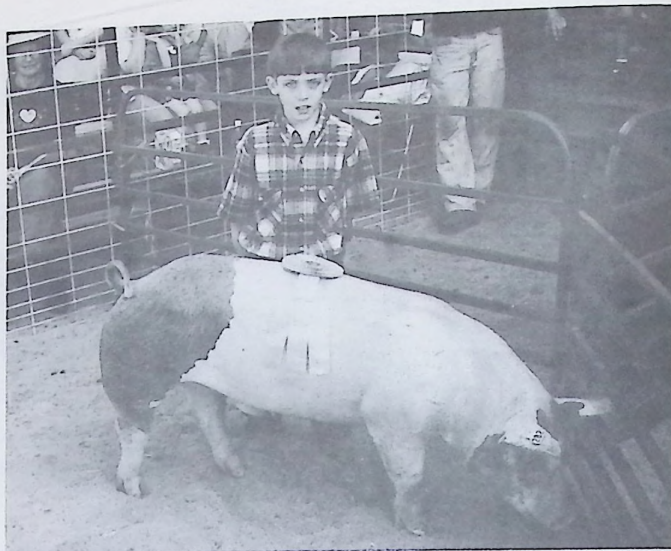
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RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION STEER shown by **BRYAN SHOMO**, RIVERHEADS FFA, with Show Judge **Scott Grenier**



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MARKET HOG shown by **COREY STOGDALE**, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB

•Show

Continued from page 9

ors in the steer event. Shomo, 16, is the son and stepson of Scott and Sally Shomo of Rt. 10, Staunton.

The winners' circle had no particular preference for age or experience. Both Redifer and Stogdale were rookie exhibitors at the event, while Nycum and Shomo are seasoned veterans of the annual show. *Balsley and Earhart filled in the gap as junior competitors who have a few years' experience to their credit.* Redifer, Balsley, Stogdale and Earhart are all members of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club while Nycum and Shomo are FFA members — Nycum at Buffalo Gap and Shomo at Riverheads.

The 2000 Market Animal Show was dedicated to Stuarts Draft businessman Larry Cohron. In 1953, Cohron was a first-year participant in the show and exhibited the reserve grand champion pen of three hogs and placed first in swine showmanship. He joined the Buyers' Committee in 1961 and continues to serve in that capacity. Much of Cohron's work occurs late in the hours after the show and sale when he and other volunteers sort, pen and load livestock for buyers.

Cohron's two daughters, June and Leigh Ann, are former exhibitors of the show. This year marked Cohron's first year as a proud grandfather of an exhibitor. For the past four years, he has served as ringmaster at the event.

Cohron was a leader of the Stuarts Draft Community 4-H Club for 20 years. He is a member of Calvary United Methodist Church, Stuarts Draft Ruritan, and the Shenandoah Valley and Virginia Angus Associations. He and his family raise Angus and Texas longhorn cattle. Cohron owns Cohron Hardware in Stuarts Draft.

Again this year the show had the support of numerous area organizations. The Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs of Staunton, and Augusta County Ruritan Clubs have longstanding commitments as the show's

sponsors. The organizations offer monetary support to the show in the form of premiums for exhibitors but also provide people-power to put on the event each year.

The show's judge had his work cut out for him from the minute the exhibition began on Wednesday afternoon with the lamb classes. Grenier's experience in the show ring includes judging shows in 24 states. He is Virginia's Extension beef and sheep specialist headquartered at Virginia Tech. He earned his master's degree and doctorate in animal science at Iowa State University where in 1988 he was the national collegiate livestock judging high individual at the contest held annually at the North American Livestock Show in Louisville, Ky. The Iowa State team also won the top team award that year. Grenier evaluated animals in the Market Animal Show not only from an industry target standard, but also considered the animals' eventual endpoint. He stressed this concern when selecting the grand champion market lamb.

"My first concern is the ultimate end product," Grenier said before selecting Redifer's lamb as grand champion. "We need a lamb that is lean, has a lot of desired product, and is structurally correct." He noted that there were "subtle differences" between the grand champion and reserve grand champion lambs. He called the grand cham-

pion lamb the "most complete" of the two. While he granted that Balsley's reserve grand champion lamb was "a bit more correct on its feet and legs," he noted that Redifer's grand champion had "just a little more muscle." In choosing the show's top two lambs, Grenier noted he compared them to the "ideal (market lamb) in his mind." He called the 208 lambs — the largest number of lambs ever exhibited at the show — "real good from top to bottom." He remarked that the lambs represented "outstanding quality," noting that this was a "compliment to the youth, parents, agents, and teachers" who help with the projects.

The lamb show was broken into four divisions with five classes in the first three divisions and four classes in the fourth division. Classes were broken down to 10 or 11 entries each.

In the show's lightweight division of lambs weighing 95-100 pounds, a 100-pound lamb exhibited by Nicholas Collins of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club won champion honors. Reserve champion honors in the division were won by a 100-pound lamb exhibited by Kaitlyn Ambler, also of the Middlebrook club. Collins and Ambler finished first and second, respectively in their class. Other class winners in the lightweight division were Ashley Kyle, Ben Napier, Jenna Temple and Natalie Sprouse.

In the light-middleweight division of lambs weighing 100-110 pounds, the champion was a 105-pound lamb exhibited by Buffalo Gap FFA member Jonathan Riley. Jack Hinton, a member of the Riverheads FFA, exhibited a 105-pound lamb which won reserve champion honors in the division. Hinton's and Riley's lambs each finished at the top of their respective classes. Other class winners in the light-middleweight division were lambs exhibited by Anna Collins, Kendall Michael, and Josh Smith.

The lambs exhibited by Redifer and Balsley won champion and reserve champion honors respectively in the heavy-middleweight division of lambs weighing 110-120 pounds. Each of the lambs finished at the top of its class in the division. Redifer's lamb was raised on her parents' farm and Balsley's lamb came from North Carolina. In addition, Redifer exhibited another lamb in another one of the division's classes which claimed first place. Other class winners in the heavy-middleweight division were lambs exhibited by Nicholas Collins and Amanda Hemp.

In the heavyweight division of lambs weighing 120-130 pounds, Balsley's second lamb weighing 130 pounds claimed champion honors. A 125-pound lamb exhibited by Meagan Carpenter of Stewart Middle School FFA won

See MAS, page 11



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MAS

Continued from page 10

reserve champion honors in the division. Other class winners in the heavyweight division were lambs exhibited by Corey Stogdale and Danielle Temple.

With the numbers of livestock and exhibitors on the increase, show organizers made the decision this year to eliminate exhibition of pairs of lambs and pairs of market hogs from the show. It took Grenier almost four hours to work through the classes of lambs exhibited on Wednesday afternoon. An early start Thursday morning on the market hogs proved beneficial to the heat-sensitive porkers but still saw the exhibition continuing until almost 11 a.m.

It required a host of volunteers holding panels to keep the hogs from finding comfortable spots along the shaded side of the show ring during the exhibition. When Grenier had finished sorting out champions from the three divisions of market hogs, he paused to talk through the differences in the group.

"You really had an awfully good group of market hogs," he said of the 71 he reviewed in the exhibi-

tion. "This is a good, useful set of hogs. They are sound and good on their feet and legs and show the right combination of product and muscle, leanness and cutability. They represent those things we want to see in a market hog."

Ultimately it would be Nycum's hog which was deemed the one "most complete" in the exhibition. Nycum's hog came from Indiana. The reserve grand champion hog exhibited by Stogdale came from Pennsylvania.

The market hog show was split into three divisions with three classes in each division. In the lightweight division of hogs weighing 220-235 pounds, a 225-pound hog exhibited by Emily Curry of the Buffalo Gap FFA won champion honors. It was followed by a 235-pound hog as reserve champion exhibited by Katie Leonard of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club. Curry's and Leonard's hogs each won their respective classes in the division. The other class winner in the lightweight division was a hog exhibited by Ashleigh Hinson, also of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club.

In the middleweight division of hogs weighing 235-245 pounds, champion honors went to a 240-pound hog exhibited by Amanda Hemp of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club. Reserve champion honors were won by a 240-pound hog exhibited by Balsley. Hemp's and Balsley's hogs placed first and second respectively in their class. Other class winners in the middleweight division were hogs exhibited by Austin Johnston and Grace Gutshall.

The hogs exhibited by Nycum and Stogdale won champion and reserve champion honors in the heavyweight division of hogs weighing 245-270 pounds. Each of these hogs also placed first in their respective classes. The other class winner in Division III was a hog exhibited by Jillian Begoon.

The steer exhibition was the culmination of the show portion of the 4-H and FFA event. With only a couple breaks throughout the remainder of the day, Grenier finished judging the 127 steers by about 4 p.m. When he had finished selecting champions from the steer show's four weight divisions he

See STEERS, page 12



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB shown by ASHLEY BALSLEY, MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB

Market Animal Show results

LAMB SHOW Division I, Lightweight 95-100 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. A. Kyle, MDL 4-H; 2. K. Marshall, WW 4-H; 3. C. Earhart, MDL 4-H; 4. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 5. D. Malcolm, MDL 4-H; 6. J. Lyle, BG FFA

CLASS 2 — 1. B. Napier, BM FFA; 2. B. Reeves, NR 4-H; 3. B. Williams, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Rohrbaugh, SM FFA; 5. K. Michael, FD FFA; 6. M. Smith, MDL 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. N. Collins, MDL 4-H; 2. K. Ambler, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Collins, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Hinton, RHS FFA; 6. J. Kraft, MDL 4-H

CLASS 4 — 1. J. Temple, MDL 4-H; 2. C. Mish, MDL 4-H; 3. M. Lawson, MDL 4-H; 4. K. Michael, WW 4-H; 5. J. Massie, WW 4-H; 6. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H

CLASS 5 — 1. N. Sprouse, WW 4-H; 2. M. Smith, MDL 4-H; 3. W. Pyles, CLC 4-H; 4. S. Lam, BG FFA; 5. J. Temple, MDL 4-H; 6. R. Swartzel, SDHS FFA

CHAMPION — Nicholas Collins
RESERVE CHAMPION — Kaitlyn Ambler

Division II, Light-middleweight 105-110 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. A. Collins, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Crosby, BM FFA; 3. J. Botkin, BG FFA; 4. S. Williams, MDL 4-H; 5. I. Swortzel, SDM FFA; 6. S. Tuennemann, MDL 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. J. Hinton, RHS FFA; 2. C. Harris, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Keaton, MDL 4-H; 4. C. Jarvis, LM 4-H; 5. B. Dunsmore, WW 4-H; 6. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. K. Michael, WW 4-H; 2. L. Michael, LM 4-H; 3. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 4. M. Miller, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Lyle, BG FFA; 6. A. Pegg-Joplin, MDL 4-H

CLASS 4 — 1. J. Riley, BM FFA; 2. B. Shomo, RHS FFA; 3. C. Stogdale, MDL 4-H; 4. R. Riley, BG FFA; 5. C. Shinaberry, BG FFA; 6. C. Snyder, MDL 4-H

CLASS 5 — 1. J. Smith, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Williams, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Brown, CLC 4-H; 4. K. Ambler, MDL 4-H; 5. E. Switzer, MDL 4-H; 6. J. Truxell, BG FFA

CHAMPION — Jonathan Riley
RESERVE CHAMPION — Jack Hinton

Division III, Heavy-middleweight 110-115 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. N. Collins, MDL 4-H; 2. B. Glass, FD FFA; 3. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Brown, CLC 4-H; 5. P. Castle, MDL 4-H; 6. H. Castle, MDL 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. K. Redifer, MDL 4-H; 2. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. R. Miller, RHS FFA; 5. A. Keaton, MDL 4-H; 6. J. Riley, BM FFA

CLASS 3 — 1. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 3. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. M. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Shomo, RHS FFA; 6. B. Williams, MDL 4-H

CLASS 4 — 1. K. Redifer, MDL 4-H; 2. B. Reeves, NR 4-H; 3. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 4. A. Keaton, MDL 4-H; 5. R. Grogg, BM FFA; 6. T. Jarvis, RHS FFA

CLASS 5 — 1. Amanda Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. S. Willis, ACD 4-H; 3. R. Riley, BG FFA; 4. M. Garland, FD FFA; 5. R. Brown, MDL 4-H; 6. C. Shinaberry, BG FFA

CHAMPION — Kaita Redifer
RESERVE CHAMPION — Ashley Balsley

Division IV, Heavyweight 120-130 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. C. Stogdale, MDL 4-H; 2. S. Willis, ACD 4-H; 3. M. Lawson, MDL 4-H; 4. M. Slaven, WW 4-H; 5. A. Kyle, MDL 4-H; 6. B. Keaton, MDL 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. M. Carpenter, SM FFA; 2. B. Glass, FD FFA; 3. J. Hinton, RHS FFA; 4. A. Hinton, RHS FFA; 5. A. Hinson, MDL 4-H; 6. K. Nulty, MDL 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. D. Temple, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Shafer, WW 4-H; 3. B. Shafer, WW 4-H; 4. L. Mish, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Pitsenbarger, BM FFA; 6. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H

CLASS 4 — 1. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 2. M. Carpenter, SM FFA; 3. R. Miller, RHS FFA; 4. B. Napier, BM FFA; 5. M. Garland, FD FFA; 6. A. Pegg-Joplin, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION — Ashley Balsley
RESERVE CHAMPION — Meagan Carpenter

GRAND CHAMPION — Kaita Redifer
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION — Ashley Balsley

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP — 1. Meagan Carpenter; 2. Kaitlyn Ambler; 3. Ashley Balsley

SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP — 1. Amanda Hemp; 2. Jimmy Crosby; 3. Rosalea Riley

HOG SHOW Division I, Lightweight 220-235 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. E. Curry, BG FFA; 2. C. Shinaberry, BG FFA; 3. N. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Christian, MDL 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. A. Hinson, MDL 4-H; 2. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Riley, BM FFA; 4. M. Garland, FD FFA; 5. R. Grogg, MDL 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 2. B. Burton, SH 4-H; 3. M. Garland, FD FFA; 4. A. Hinson, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION — Emily Curry
RESERVE CHAMPION — Katie Leonard

Division II, Middleweight
235-245 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. A. Hemp, MDL 4-H; 2. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 3. C. Stogdale, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Riley, BM FFA; 5. A. Pitsenbarger, BM FFA

CLASS 2 — 1. A. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Napier, BM FFA; 4. M. Williams, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Burton, SH 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. G. Gutshall, SM FFA; 2. R. Riley, BG FFA; 3. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 4. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 5. V. Burton, SH 4-H

See RESULTS, page 20

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Market Animal Sale grosses \$210,397; \$80,860 over floor

AC staff report

STAUNTON -- Livestock sold through the 2000 Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale grossed \$210,397 with more than \$80,860 being in excess of the floor price. Gross receipts from 1999 were \$177,000 with \$72,000 of that being in excess of the floor price.

If 4-H and FFA members learn nothing else from their Market Animal Projects, they learn very quickly what a fluctuating supply-demand market means to them in dollars they earn on livestock. For this reason the club and chapter members look each year for support from local businesses to help them break even on their animal projects.

Businesses from Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta, Rockingham and Rockbridge counties came out in full support of the Market Animal Sale. Part of each youth's project work is to acquire bidders for their animals by writing to or visiting businesses to solicit support for the sale. Busi-

nesses have always supported Augusta County youth by purchasing livestock at the Market Animal Sale and in turn reap the rewards of the positive public relations generated by supporting the youth.

As usual, the pavilion at Staunton Union Stockyard was packed to capacity for the May 4 sale of steers, hogs, and lambs by 4-H and FFA members. Business leaders showed strong support for the club members' project work. Businesses and individuals buying livestock got a little boost themselves this year with floor prices on livestock showing marked increases for all three species.

Auctioneers for the sale were Robbie Reeves, H.C. Wise and Jeff Showalter.

An overview of the 2000 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale and prices follows.

Grand Champion steer
1,220 pounds, graded choice
Exhibited by Will Earhart
Purchased by John Zinn and

Roller Shifflett for \$1.70/pound or \$2,074/head
Reserve Grand Champion steer
1,240 pounds, graded choice
Exhibited by Bryan Shomo
Purchased by Matthew Fredrickson for \$1.35/pound or \$1,674/head

The 127 steers sold at the Market Animal Sale had an average weight of 1,178 pounds and brought from \$72.50 to \$147/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$82.50 to \$97.50/hundredweight. Only four steers in the sale fell below \$80. In 1999, prices ranged from \$82.50 to \$142.50/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$87 to \$90/hundredweight. Only one steer in the sale fell below \$82.50 at \$80. In 1998, prices ranged from \$79 to \$127/hundredweight, with most ranging from \$87 to \$95/hundredweight.

Floor price on 89 steers grading choice and prime at the 2000 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale was bid \$67/hundredweight by Taylor

Packing. Steers averaged \$27/hundredweight over the floor price. There were two steers which graded prime. Floor price in 1999 was \$61/hundredweight on choice and prime steers.

Floor price on 36 steers grading select was bid \$61.75/hundredweight, by Staunton Union Stock Yard. Floor price on steers grading select in the 1999 sale was bid \$58.35/hundredweight.

Prices at the 2000 Market Animal Sale were indicative of nationwide markets which are up sharply over the three-year cycle from 1997-1999, with most markets bottoming out in 1999. Steer, lamb and hog floor prices at the 2000 Market Animal Sale each posted double-digit increases on a percentage basis with steers increasing almost 10 percent, lambs up 20 percent and hogs up a whopping 40 percent. These increases represent a break in depressed market prices which livestock producers have experienced in recent years. The floor price at the 4-H and FFA Market Animal Sale reflects the value of slaughter animals sold through regular markets.

Grand Champion single hog
250 pounds, yield grade 1
Exhibited by Nick Nycum
Chuck's Convenience Store for \$3.40/pound or \$850/head
Reserve Grand Champion single hog
215 pounds, yield grade 1
Exhibited by Corey Stogdale
Purchased by L.E. Wood Equipment for \$2.40/pound or \$600/head

Market hogs sold individually numbered 48 with an average weight of 240 pounds. Prices ranged from \$100 to \$220/hundredweight with most falling in the \$135 to \$150/hundredweight range.

Individual sales on hogs showed improvement over 1999 figures when prices ranged from \$115 to \$130/hundredweight.

Floor price bid on 21 yield grade US 1-2 market hogs and 2 yield grade US 3 was \$46/hundredweight by Dinnerbell Meats. Hogs averaged \$1.04/pound over the floor price. In 1999, the floor price on hogs was \$33/hundredweight. In 1998, the floor price bid on market hogs was \$36/hundredweight. The U.S. slaughter hog market dipped to depression-era lows in 1999. It all but collapsed in December 1999 when slaughter hog prices

dropped as low as \$8/hundredweight. The market has recovered some but has yet to reach 1997 levels when slaughter hogs were bringing \$55.25/hundredweight.

Grand Champion single lamb
115 pounds, Blue O
Exhibited by Kaila Redifer
Purchased by CFW Intelos for \$4.85/pound or \$557.75/head
Reserve Grand Champion single lamb
130 pounds, Blue O

Exhibited by Ashley Balsley
Purchased by Nelson County Cable, Tea Time Farm, Dunlee Electric and S&S Service for \$8.75/pound or \$1,137.50/head

A total of 139 lambs which averaged 110 pounds were sold individually at the Market Animal Sale with prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$5/pound with most falling in the \$2.25-\$3 range. In 1999, prices ranged from \$1.20 to \$4.60/pound with most falling in the \$1.50 to \$2.20/pound range.

In the 1998 sale, single lamb prices ranged from \$1.50 to \$4.30/pound with most falling in the \$2 to \$2.30/pound range.

Floor price on 68 Blue O lambs averaging 108 pounds was bid \$1.06/pound by David Hite. Floor price on one Red O lamb weighing 95 pounds was \$1.08 1/4 by Miller Lamb. Lambs averaged \$1.85/pound over the floor price.

The 1999 floor price on Blue O lambs which averaged 108 pounds was \$88.50/hundredweight. Floor price in 1998 on Blue O lambs with an average weight of 107 pounds was bid \$80/hundredweight.

In 1997, Blue O lambs brought \$1.25/pound the week prior to Easter. The market dropped 32 percent during 1998 to 85 cents/pound during the first week in April. The floor price on Blue O lambs at the 1999 Market Animal Sale reflected a 10 percent recovery in market value of slaughter lambs from 1998 prices.

Although the lamb market traditionally reaches its highest point annually just prior to religious holidays in the spring, the lamb market has remained strong this year. Some predictors indicate the market trend will continue to show vigor through the remainder of 2000. Eastern U.S. sheep producers have benefited from the upward swing in the lamb market which is influenced by ethnic buyers of lamb in the northeastern U.S. —

Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show Three-year price trend

	FLOOR PRICE			BUYER-SUPPORTED PRICE RANGE		
	2000	1999	1998	2000	1999	1998
Steers (choice)	67.00	61.00	63.75	82.50-97.50	87.00-90.00	87.00-95.00
Steers (select)	61.75	58.35	61.35	NA	NA	NA
Hogs	46.00	33.00	36.00	1.35-1.50	1.15-1.30	55.00-1.62 1/2
Lambs	1.06	88.50	80.00	2.25-3.00	1.50-2.20	2.00-2.30

•Steers

Continued from page 11

took time to make remarks about each division champion steer.

In the lightweight division of steers weighing 925-1,105 pounds, the champion was a 1,005-pound steer exhibited by Neal Buchanan of the Riverheads FFA. Grenier noted that Buchanan's steer had "nice balance, was sound and deep enough in the rib." He also commended it for being "extremely desirable" in its finish and structure. The reserve champion in the lightweight division was a 1,085-pound steer exhibited by Jonathan Coleman of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club. Other class winners in Division I were steers exhibited by Doug Grimm and Sarah Williams.

In the light-middleweight divi-

sion of steers weighing 1,105-1,170 pounds, the champion was a 1,160-pound steer exhibited by Ryan Miller of the Riverheads FFA. Grenier called Miller's steer "awfully good" and granted that the steer had "tremendous muscle and cutability." Reserve champion in the division was a 1,140-pound steer exhibited by Garrett Johnston of the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club. The steers exhibited by Miller and Johnston each finished at the tops of their respective classes. Other class winners in Division II were steers exhibited by Carrie Heizer and Alex Brown.

The show's heavy-middleweight division produced the eventual grand champion of the event. Earhart's steer won champion honors in the division of steers weigh-

ing 1,170-1,240 pounds. Grenier called Earhart's steer "big bodied, big boned, and sound with a soft look." He noted that the steer was "deep bodied" and that he might want to "fancy him up" a bit. Earhart purchased his steer from Ivy Dell Acres in Weyers Cave.

Reserve champion honors in the heavy-middleweight division went to a 1,240-pound steer exhibited by Carrie Brown of the Riverheads FFA. The top steers in the heavy-middleweight division each won their respective classes. Other class winners were steers exhibited by Jeff Buchanan and Amanda Hemp.

In the heavyweight division of steers weighing 1,240-1,450 pounds, champion honors were collected by the steer exhibited by

See CHAMPIONS, page 18

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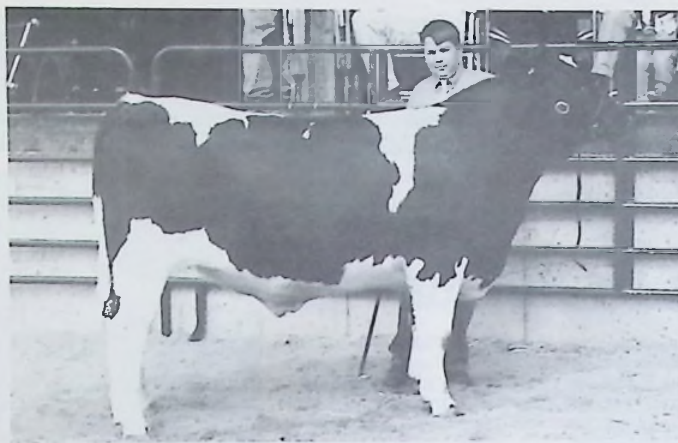
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CHAMPION JR. HOG SHOWMAN



BEN HEIZER
MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB
CHAMPION JUNIOR STEER SHOWMAN



MEAGAN CARPENTER
STEWART MIDDLE SCHOOL FFA
CHAMPION JUNIOR LAMB SHOWMAN

Augusta Country honors youth for showmanship

AC staff report

STAUNTON — Five Augusta County youths won showmanship honors at the 55th annual Market Animal Show to claim \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds sponsored for the event by *Augusta Country*.

Neal Buchanan, a member of the Riverheads FFA, claimed two of the top senior showman awards — one for hogs and one for steers. The senior showmanship award for lambs was won by Amanda Hemp of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

In junior competition, winners were Meagan Carpenter of the Stewart Middle School FFA for lambs, Ashley Balsley of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H club for hogs and Ben Heizer also of the Middlebrook club for steers.

"These showmanship winners, as well as the other exhibitors called back for the showmanship contest, set an example to be followed by every exhibitor in the show," noted *Augusta Country* publisher Betty Jo Hamilton. "It

takes a lot of hard work, effort, and patience to prepare these animals for the show. The young people, their parents and leaders are to be commended for the outstanding work they do each year with these projects. But it all finally boils down to the exhibitor and the animal in the show ring and that's what showmanship is all about."

"Natural, cool, collected and consistent" were words show judge Scott Grenier used to distinguish the champion showmen from their fields of competitors. He commended all exhibitors for their showmanship efforts.

"I want to compliment all these exhibitors for doing such a fine job," he said. "Obviously they've worked hard to get to this point."

In the junior lamb showmanship competition, Grenier called back what he called "17 really good junior showmen." He complimented each of the 17 for making it back to the final showmanship competition.

"They get the most out of their lambs in terms of making them

look their best," he said. Grenier pointed to "three young ladies" who he singled out as being "exceptional" in working with their lambs. "They've done a great job," he said.

Following Carpenter as grand champion junior lamb showman were Kaitlyn Ambler and Balsley, both of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. Carpenter, 12, is the daughter of Michael and Mandy Carpenter of Springhill. It was her second consecutive year to win the junior lamb showmanship award. This was her fourth year exhibiting at the show.

In the senior lamb showmanship contest, Grenier was looking for the same qualities as he found in the junior competitors although he expected some real polish to show with the veteran exhibitors. Of the 13 seniors called back for competition, Grenier noted that "all have done a really solid job." Hemp was the exhibitor he singled out for what he called a "fabulous job" being the "most efficient" with her

lamb. Having exhibited lambs for a number of years, Hemp, 16, is a former winner of the showmanship award on the junior level. She is the daughter of Michael and Katrina Hemp of Middlebrook.

Following in second and third place, respectively, in the senior lamb showmanship contest were Jimmy Crosby and Rosalea Riley, both of the Buffalo Gap FFA. Riley won the top award last year in the senior category.

In selecting the top junior hog showman, Grenier said he looked for the individuals who maintained control of their pigs, kept them moving at a slow pace, and held the swine about 10 to 15 feet away from the judge.

Balsley was the junior competitor whom Grenier chose as the champion junior hog showman. She was followed in second and third places, respectively, by Robert Grogg and Katie Leonard, both members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club. Grogg also finished second in last year's junior

hog competition.

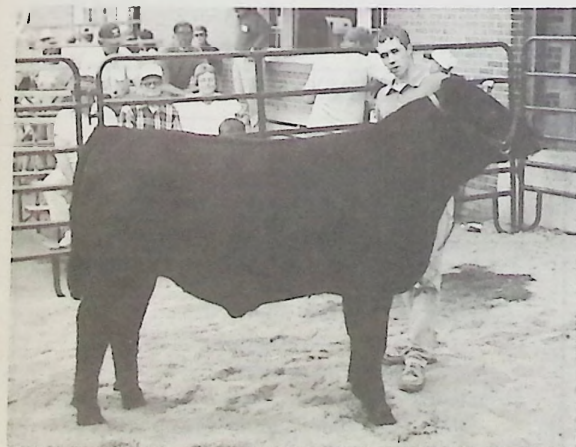
Balsley, 12, is the daughter of Sonny and Delores Johnston of Lyndhurst. It was the third consecutive year in which members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club swept the junior hog showmanship competition.

For the champion senior hog showman, Grenier chose Buchanan as the top swine exhibitor. A senior at Riverheads High School, Buchanan is the 18-year-old son of Kay and Lacy Buchanan of Dutch Hollow. It was the second consecutive year in which Buchanan claimed the top award in senior market hog showmanship.

Emily Curry of the Buffalo Gap FFA placed second and Doug Grimm of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club placed third in senior hog showmanship.

In steer showmanship, Grenier brought a select group of six showmen back to the ring for the junior showmanship competition.

See *SHOWMEN*, page 20



NEAL BUCHANAN
RIVERHEADS FFA
CHAMPION SENIOR STEER SHOWMAN



AMANDA HEMP
MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB
CHAMPION SENIOR LAMB SHOWMAN



NEAL BUCHANAN
RIVERHEADS FFA
CHAMPION SENIOR HOG SHOWMAN

Schoolhouse News

BMMS Ag Day helps students learn about farm livelihoods

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CEDAR GREEN — For the third year in a row, Agriscience teacher Sally Shomo and her FFA students welcomed Augusta County farmers to the 6th grade classrooms at Beverley Manor Middle School. And with the farmers came their livelihoods: plants, trout, llamas, horses, sheep, bees, tractors, cows, and turkeys. "Our purpose," Mrs. Shomo said, "is to show students that agriculture is more than cows and plows."

John Parker, executive director of Virginia's Pork Industry Board, came to the agriculture event to dispel the myth that pigs are dirty and stupid. "Pigs cannot sweat," he told the students. "Therefore, they cool themselves by wallowing in a mud hole. But if you give them

a clean pool they will stay clean."

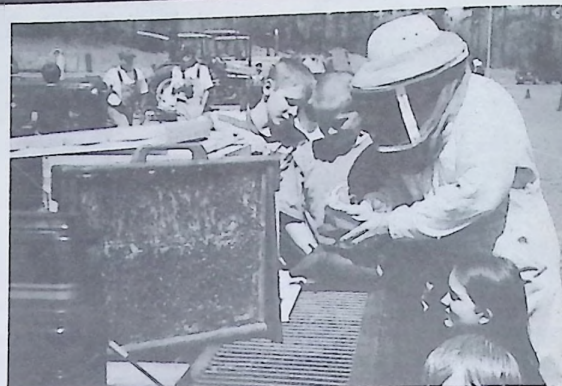
He also extolled the scientific findings declaring that pigs are highly intelligent, actually smarter than dogs. Parker shared that Sir Walter Raleigh brought the first pigs to America. Then the Indians taught the early colonists how to salt the meat and today Virginia is known world-wide for its country hams.

Harry Crosby of Cros-B-Crest Nurseries spurred the young students' minds to remember the requirements for healthy plant growth. "What is it that all plants need to grow?" he queried. Raised hands revealed the correct answers of water, sun and soil. Fred Hollen, President of the Shenandoah Bee Keeper Association, gave the listeners more than just the honey making purpose of bees. Hollen

commented, "Beeswax is used to make no-drip candles. It is also used in hand cream, Chapstick, and lipstick." Student faces screwed up in pain as Hollen told how multiple sclerosis patients are helped by receiving a 100 or so bee stings per week.

Outside the school building, students swarmed around a sheep shearing demonstration and then learned from Earl McCray about farm equipment safety.

"Seventy percent of tractor accidents are rollovers," he commented. He encouraged students not to ride double on tractors. Eighth grade FFA student, Nikki Andrews couldn't pick a favorite presenter or exhibit. "I love them all and I think the 6th graders do too. This is just a fun day for all of us."



Fred Hollen, an apiarist, demonstrates bee husbandry to sixth grade students during Beverley Manor Middle School's Ag Day.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

Riverheads band, chorus travel to Myrtle Beach

By KIM McCRAY

More than 50 Riverheads High School band and chorus members set out May 11 on a pilgrimage to Myrtle Beach, S.C. The trip had been looked forward to for some time. All the students and their adult chaperones were very eager to depart from RHS. So at 2 p.m. that afternoon everyone anxiously boarded the charter buses and set out for a week-end of fun and competition.

The following day, the competition for bands began at Myrtle Beach High School. Later in the afternoon, the chorus sang at the Carolina Forest Education Center. Of course after all the hard work of performing, the students did receive a well-deserved break that evening. They ate at the Hard Rock Cafe and spent time shopping and swimming at the beach.

Saturday brought more of the same, except that the group which performed that day was the colorguard. In the evening, an awards presentation was held at Myrtle Beach High School. The Riverheads band did very well, receiving first places in concert band, jazz band, colorguard, jazz rhythm section, and drum major (Emily Ritchie) and second place in marching band. The chorus also did well, receiving first in the division in mixed choir, treble choir, and men's choir.

On Sunday, after some more pool and beach time, the students reluctantly packed their bags, and said goodbye to Myrtle Beach. All participants enjoyed the trip thoroughly and hated to leave the sunny beach. Now many are wondering where next year's trip might take them.

Staunton-Augusta Rotary honors Tech School students

STAUNTON — If the students honored recently at the Staunton-Augusta County Rotary Club's Technical Awards Banquet are any indication of the quality of the next generation's workforce, this country is in good hands.

The six young men and one young lady were selected because they were the best in their field of study at Valley Vocational-Technical Center in Fishersville.

Giving the keynote address at the dinner, which was held at the Staunton Holiday Inn, was James Madison University president Linwood H. Rose. "Learning is a personal exercise," Dr. Rose told the students. "Ultimately you must ask yourself what it is you want to accomplish."

"In this fast-paced world in which we work, there are many things which will tug and pull, but you must never lose sight of the priorities in life. You must constantly pursue excellence in everything you do," he added.

Dr. Rose left the award winners with some advice for daily living: "Make it a life habit to think every day about how you can improve yourself."

Each student honored during the evening's program received a plaque from the Staunton-Augusta Rotary Club presented by club president Donald Steger, as well as scholarships from Blue Ridge Community College and Valley Vocational-Technical



BEAVER



BOTKIN



HENDRICKS



KEYES



MOWEN



SMITH



THOMAS

Center. Presenting the Blue Ridge awards was John Dever, Dean of Instruction and Student Services at BRCC. He gave six students a three-credit scholarship and one student a full two-year scholarship. John Avoli, Tech school principal, gave each student a scholarship good for one adult evening course at the school.

The award winners were from six different specialty fields, but all represented the cream of the crop. Two students, Ryan Beaver and Joseph Botkin, were selected from the Auto Service Technology class. Beaver, a student at Stuarts Draft High School, is already employed at Baugher Chevrolet. He enjoys

working on hot rods and plans to attend BRCC after graduation.

Botkin already works at Obaugh Ford. He is from Fort Defiance and is active in the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America and enjoys hunting and dirt track racing. He plans to continue working in the automotive field.

Jason Hendricks was selected as the top student from the A/C & Refrigeration Department. He is

See TECH, page 17

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Riverheads FFA members receive honors at banquet

AC staff report

GREENVILLE — The Riverheads High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America honored its members during an awards ceremony held in conjunction with the group's 38th annual banquet held recently at the school.

Members were recognized for outstanding achievement in chapter project work for the school year 1999-2000.

Chapter adviser Eugene McIlwee presented the chapter's Blue and Gold Award for outstanding achievement to Neal Buchanan and Drew Glenn. Buchanan was presented the Star Chapter Farmer award and Glenn was named the chapter's Star Agri-Businessman. The two seniors each received \$100 from the Missy Clemmer Scholarship Fund and scholarships from the Middlebrook Ruritan Club. Dennis Clemmer, president of the Middlebrook Ruritan Club made the scholarship presentations.

McIlwee presented the DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award to Buchanan, who is the

chapter's outgoing president. Recognized as the outstanding student in ag mechanics was Scott Huntley.

Buchanan presided over the banquet. He made note of a number of the chapter's achievements during the year.

Chapter officers named Cherie Taylor, Hugh Westfall, Jerry Arehart and Russell Hardy Honorary Chapter Farmers for 2000.

Star Greenhand awards, given in recognition of outstanding achievement for first-year FFA members, were presented to Jason Shultz and Cole Heizer.

Earning State Degrees this year were chapter members Carrie Brown, Jason McIlwee, Sarah Huntley, Jack Hinton, Adam Glenn, Justin Fravel, Todd Jarvis, Timmy Simmons, Amanda Hemp



BUCHANAN



SHULTZ



HEIZER

and Aaron Root.

Scholarship awards were presented to Scott Huntley, senior; Hemp, junior; Brian Brooks and Bruce Brooks, sophomores; and Heizer, freshman.

Proficiency award winners included the following individuals:

Drew Glenn, Scott Huntley, Brian Brooks, and Bruce Brooks, agriculture mechanics; Stephanie Branch and Simmons, landscape management; Buchanan, Hemp and Erin Lowry, diversified livestock production; Buchanan, Heizer, Hemp, Adam Glenn, Frank Dull, Chris Butler and Jack Hinton, beef production; Drew Glenn, fruit

and vegetable production; Simmons, agricultural processing; Jason McIlwee, specialty crop production; Root, Jason McIlwee, Simmons, Drew Glenn, and Adam Eavers, home and community development.

Also, Hemp, Jack Hinton, Phillip Miller, Drew Glenn, Josh Smith and Angela Hinton, sheep production; Simmons and Jeff Groah, agricultural electrification; Simmons and Jonathan Coleman, agricultural sales and services; Brown and Drew Glenn, outdoor recreation; Branch, Drew Glenn, Brian Wrenn, and Angela Hinton, poultry production; Jamie Shippe, dairy production; Branch, agricultural communications; Drew Glenn and Fravel, turf and grass management; Drew Glenn and Root, forest management; Hemp, swine production; Drew Glenn, extemporaneous speaking; Heizer and Shultz, junior prepared public speaking; Jonathan Coleman, senior prepared public speaking; and Buchanan and Drew Glenn, leadership.

The chapter's parliamentary procedure senior team was recognized

for its third-place win in the federation contest. Team members were Buchanan, Root, Lowry, Coleman and Dull. The chapter's parliamentary procedure junior team was recognized for its second-place win in the federation contest. Team members were Heizer, Shultz, Ryan Herndon, Jeremy Arehart, Matthew Chandler, Timmy Decker, Fravel, Pamela Proffitt and Ashley Keaton.

RHS FFA members competing in the Block and Bridle Livestock judging contest were Buchanan, Coleman, Heizer and Hemp. The team placed fifth in oral reasons and third in sheep. Buchanan was fifth high individual in the contest.

Forestry team members honored included Drew Glenn, Decker, Heizer and Root. The team placed third in federation.

Recognized for his participation in the tractor operator contest was Bryan Shomo.

Greenhand and chapter farmer pins were presented to chapter members depending on their years of membership in FFA.

Staunton Rotary recognizes outstanding youth

STAUNTON — For the 71st consecutive year, the Staunton Rotary Club recognized outstanding local youth at its High School Code of Ethics Award Luncheon at the Holiday Inn on May 9.

Every year members of the club present to the senior class at each local high school a short program about the High School Code of Ethics. The eight points of this code are based on the golden rule and were developed in 1929 by Staunton Rotarians C.K. Brown and Boyd H. Payne, both former educators.

Staunton Rotary Club members who presented the Code of Ethics programs this year were Patrick Clarke, William Elliott, Carl Lind,



HOWDYSHILL



CHEN



KINCAID



BROWN



BELL



HEVENER



LOMBARD



CANTWELL

Morris Peltz, Oakley Pearson, Chip Yates, and Katharine Brown.

Members of the senior class at each school select a boy and a girl among their classmates who best exemplify the values of personal

conduct expressed in the Rotary Code of Ethics. These students are the recipients of the annual award. They attend the award luncheon along with their parents, their high school principals and guidance counselors as guests of the Staunton Rotary Club. Each student received a framed certificate. A brass plate engraved with the award winners' names is added to a large plaque exhibited at each school.

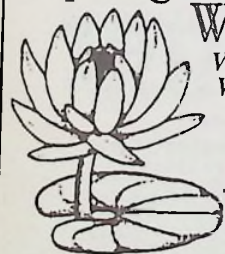
The guest speaker for the lun-

cheon this year was Thomas E. Camden, director of the George C. Marshall Museum and Library in Lexington. Camden spoke of the high ethical standards held by the modest and unassuming Marshall, a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute who became Chief of Staff of the United States Army during World War II. As Secretary of State under President Harry Truman, Marshall developed the famous Marshall Plan which

helped save war-torn western Europe, and which earned its author the Nobel Prize for Peace.

The award winners for the year 2000 are: Aimee Beth Shull, See *ROTARY*, page 19

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Gap students to present drama

BUFFALO GAP — The Buffalo Gap High School drama club will present "The Dining Room" by A. R. Gurney at 7 p.m. on June 2 and 3 in the Buffalo Gap High School auditorium. Admission is \$3 and \$1 for students and senior citizens.

"The Dining Room" presents brief scenes, comic and serious, in the lives of the owners through the years. The script calls for an ensemble cast, and the actors are Eryn Clawson, Amber Clements, Kyle Barss, Jaclyn Bennett, Laura Holmes, Joe Demelis, Regina Pruitt, Cory Buckles, April Kiracofe, Justin Wilborn, and Will Martz. English teachers Chris Cleary and Emily Baas are directing, and Ed O'Connor, shop teacher, has designed and is leading the construction of flats.

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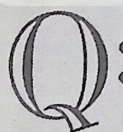
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References provided upon request.

The Hitching Post

Prevention is the key to avoiding stable vices



Q I'm looking to buy a horse. Can you tell me what "common stable vices" are and how they start? Is it possible to buy a horse with a vice such as "cribbing" and change the habit?

Common stable vices are bad habits horses have that may or may not affect your decision to buy. In order to answer your questions I will name and describe four of the most common stable vices. I'll talk about some preventive practices and then I'll explain the possibilities of their correction.

First, there is cribbing (also closely related to chewing). Cribbing is when a horse takes his top

teeth and sets them on a fence rail, stall door, or post and commences to suck air into his lungs. This is very annoying to those of us who don't do that kind of thing. It can cause serious problems such as colic and cosmetic problems such as the passing of gas. (I've had to follow a cribber in the lesson ring, and believe me it's no picnic.) Wood chewing is when a horse actually chews on the object and pos-

sibly ingests the slivers.

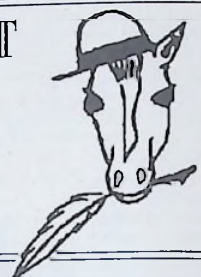
Second is weaving. Weaving is when a horse stands in his stall and weaves his weight back and forth from one foreleg to another. Weaving is definitely a mental disorder that stems from boredom.

Third is barn sour. Barn sour is when a horse is so stall bound or herd bound (another stall buddy) that he races back to the barn every chance he gets. It is dangerous for the rider as well as annoying to someone who has paid for his food and lodging and can't get his money back with a decent ride.

Fourth is gate sour. This is common with beginner horses and lesson horses. The horse continually stops at the gate in the hopes that the "ride is over." Riders are hard pressed to get the horse to move from that spot. It is annoying because the horse is saying the "ride is over" before it's actually begun.

I would like to describe some preventive practices for each vice in the hopes that riders can avoid these problems. The first two, cribbing and weaving, can stem from boredom especially in a stall-kept horse. Prevention can consist of "toys" or rubber balls hung in the horse's stall for play. Horses LIKE to play. If it is possible to get proper turn out each day then problems will be kept to a minimum. Prevention starts with remembering how the prob-

I.B. HOOFINIT
From
the
Horse's Mouth



lem starts. Too much time on a horse's mind can make it look for ways to amuse itself.

The second two problems come from poor riding habits. Riders have allowed poor behavior to start and it has become an issue. Barn sour horses may like the safety of their stalls because something has frightened them on the trail. Or they have become so attached to a barn buddy that they can't bear the thought of being away from them. Riders did not take care of the problem at the early stages and the problem becomes serious. Prevention of barn sour horses can start with preventive riding such as being consistent with a riding schedule, removing or rotating stall buddies as part of a plan, and maintaining discipline on the trail. That means not letting the annoyances

get past the point to where they become habits. Annoyances are signals to discipline early and often easily. Take advantage of those annoyances by recognizing their potential. Gate sour horses are often caused by riders who constantly dismount at the gate and put it in the horse's mind that the "ride is over" at that point. Why not cut the deal short? A good rider will dismount at different places each ride so that the horse does not associate one spot with the dismount. This prevents the horse from seeing any one place as being the end of the ride.

Problem correction is important. Cribbing and weaving are annoying vices, but they do not necessarily affect your riding perfor-

See HORSE, page 17



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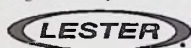
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Awards cap year for MAS exhibitors

AC staff report

SANGERSVILLE — The Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show wrapped up its 55th year with the presentation of awards at a banquet held recently at the Sangersville-Towers Ruritan Hall.

Junior 4-H member Ashley Balsley of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club won the George Beam Memorial Award and was the Virginia Pork Industry Association's Sweepstakes Winner. The sweepstakes award is based on points tallied for hog class placings and showmanship. The Beam award is given annually to the individual who amasses the most points in lamb showing.

Senior hog showman Nick Nycum who exhibited the grand champion market hog won the Carl Grove Memorial Award. Nycum is a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA.

Junior 4-H member Corey Stogdale of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club won the Alton Lewis Award for the show's top first-year exhibitor. Amanda Hemp, a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club and the Riverheads FFA chapter, was awarded the R.L. Coffey Junior Achievement Award for earning the most points in exhibiting lambs, hogs, and steers at the show. Corey is the son of Ricky and Lois Stogdale of Stuarts Draft. Amanda is the daughter of Michael and Katrina Hemp of Middlebrook.

The Jim Coffey Memorial Award was presented to Will Earhart of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club who exhibited the 2000 grand champion steer at the show held May 3 and 4 at Staunton Union



BALSLEY

STOGDALE

HEMP

HEIZER

Stock Yard. He is the son of Chris and Becky Earhart of Verona.

The award was established in 1998 in memory of long-time Ruritan and Market Animal Show supporter Jim Coffey. The award, a silver belt buckle, is given annually to the individual who exhibits the show's grand champion steer. A plaque also is engraved with each year's winner and rotates from year to year. The award will be retired if an individual exhibits the grand champion steer three times.

U.S. Savings Bonds in the amount of \$100 each were presented to the event's showmanship champions. The awards are sponsored annually by *Augusta Country*.

Receiving bonds were Hemp, senior, and Meagan Carpenter, junior, lamb showmanship; Balsley, junior hog showmanship; and Ben Heizer,

junior steer showmanship. Neal Buchanan received a \$200 bond for winning both the senior hog and senior steer showmanship awards.

Six individuals received awards from the Augusta County Feeder Calf Association for beef performance. These awards are given to steer exhibitors and are based on the animal's average daily rate of gain (ADG).

Receiving a first place ribbon for beef performance was Heizer of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club who exhibited a steer with an ADG of 4.36 pounds. Second place went to Christina Mish, also of the Middlebrook club, for her steer which gained 4.08 pounds per day. There was a two-way tie for third place with steers which had ADGs of 4.05 pounds. These awards were presented to Gina Smith of the

Buffalo Gap FFA chapter and Cole Heizer of the Riverheads FFA. Fourth place for beef performance was presented to Hemp for her steer which gained 3.97 pounds per day. Fifth place for beef performance was awarded to Cassandra Phillips of the Augusta County Dairy 4-H Club for her steer which gained 3.94 pounds/day.

Awards for recordbooks included the following individuals.

Senior, blue awards: Ben Burton, Emily Curry and Joshua Smith, hogs; Jimmy Crosby, Curry, Scott Lam, and Smith, steers; and Curry, Lam, Smith and Mary Winegard, lambs.

Senior, red awards: Mark Garland and Grace Gutshall, hogs; Jason Alford, Carrie Brown, Garland, Bobby Perkins, Aaron Shiflett, Bryan Shomo, Isaac Swartzel and Rachel Swartzel, steers; and Burton, Katch Cassidy, Crosby, Garland, Adam McCune, Shomo, Isaac Swartzel and Rachel Swartzel, lambs.

Junior, blue awards: Kaitlyn Ambler, Balsley, Valerie Burton, Meagan Carpenter, Anna Collins, Nicholas Collins, Maggie Crosby, Emily Giles, Robert Grogg, Andrew Heizer, Sarah Heizer, Chris Jarvis, Ashley Kyle, Katie Marshall, Ben Napier, Ali Painter, Corey Stogdale, Ashley Pitsenbarger, Daniel

Pitsenbarger, Ashley Puffenbarger, Brandon Reeves, Natalie Sprouse, Jenna Temple, Samantha Tuennermann, Ben Williams, Mary Williams, Stephanie Willis and Loretta Winegard, lambs; Balsley, Alex Brown, Jonathan Christian, Grogg, Stogdale, Ben Williams and Mary Williams, hogs; and Brown, Christian, Earhart, Andrew Heizer, Sarah Heizer, Mark McCune, Ben Napier, Evan Shiflett, Ashley Shiflett, Puffenbarger, Ben Williams and Mary Williams, steers.

Junior, red awards: Cameron Brown, Randy Brown, Hannah Burner, Hunter Castle, Patricia Castle Ashleigh Hinson, Chris Hughes, McCune, Weston Pyles, Bryan Shafer, Mark Shafer, Morgan Slaven, Erin Switzer, Danielle Temple, Michael Tuennermann, Beth Wine, Jaclyn Wine and Jessica Wine, lambs; Burton, Valerie Burton, Hinson, Ashley Pitsenbarger, and Daniel Pitsenbarger, hogs; and Hunter Castle, Hinson, Hughes, Ashley Michael, Timmy Michael, Reeves, and Sarah Williams, steers.

Premiums for class placings also were presented at the banquet. The show is sponsored annually by local Ruritan clubs, the Rotary Club of Staunton and the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce. —

•Tech

Continued from page 14

from Riverheads High School and is active in forensics, soccer, and his church youth group. He plans to attend BRCC and transfer to a four-year college.

Timothy Keyes, from Waynesboro High School, received the award as the top Drafting and Design student. He is active in track and Civil Air Patrol. He plans to

attend BRCC and transfer to a four-year college where he wants to pursue a career in aeronautics.

Joseph Mowen, from Waynesboro High School, won top honors in the Culinary Arts department. He participates in Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, band, track, cross country, soccer and the school newspaper. Upon graduation he plans to attend a culinary arts school in Germany where he has received a one-year scholarship.

In the field of Office Administration, Katie Smith earned the top award. A Buffalo Gap student, Miss Smith participates in Future Business Leaders of America, Future Homemakers of America, B.A.D.D., basketball and softball. She is currently employed by Augusta Eye Associates and plans to continue work in the office administration field upon graduation.

The final student honoree was

Erie Thomas, who was selected the top student in the Law Enforcement field. A student at Wilson Memorial, Thomas was also the recipient of the two-year scholarship from BRCC. He is employed at Summit Square Retirement Home, and participates in bowling and basketball. He plans to attend BRCC and transfer to a school where he can obtain a degree in criminal justice. ---

•Horse

Continued from page 16

mance. (Unless you have a problem with your horse passing gas in the show ring. You may want to get the judges attention, but maybe not THAT bad!). Barn sour and gate sour are important to the performance of the horse. Barn sour horses can be dangerous and you should definitely think twice about your purchase if you do not feel capable of working on such a problem. Gate sour horses can be annoying, but they are not as dangerous. This problem will take some work (using the preventive practices described), but can be corrected with time and patience.

To correct cribbing some owners have used a device called a cribbing strap which goes around the horses throat latch and tightens up around the throat when the horse tries to suck wind. It minimizes the damage, but does not necessarily cure the problem. This might be the best hope for a constant cribber.

To correct weaving you might consider pasture turn out with other horses. This might or might not work depending upon the seriousness of the problem. This might be a problem you can learn to live with.

To correct a barn sour horse will take a great deal of work and patience. Depending upon the situation that caused the problem

(spooking, barn buddy, etc.) you will have to work to change the behavior and prevent it. I recommend a lot of transition work which will develop a good communication base between you and the horse. Transition work also makes the horse "listen" to the rider. If the problem stems from a barn buddy you might try to work into that role yourself. Grooming, fussing, and constant attention can make you turn into that barn buddy, which is convenient on the trail! If you feel the problem is serious then you might need the help of a professional trainer.

A gate sour horse may take some serious discipline (in the form of a crop) to begin the change, but in time it can be corrected by remembering the preventive practices. Teach the horse the ride can end anywhere at anytime. I had one

trainer who tacked me up, brought me out to the ring, mounted and dismounted a few times in different places and brought me back to the barn. It was a great lesson to show me that I just can't predict human nature!

To make a long story short, there are many trainers who make a living correcting problem horses. I am a firm believer in prevention, but if you decide to purchase a horse with a stable vice then you will have to decide how to correct or live with the problem. Take it "from the horse's mouth," a stable vice can make the horse a "good" buy, but if you invest in the correction you will increase the animal's value as well as improve the horse's health and well being. Bad habits can stem from poor conditions. Change can be for the better!—

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Country Crossroads

Reflecting pool reflections

May 2000

Dear Maude:

For the last few weeks we have been busier than usual. As one walks along the streets, one sees people with very serious looking faces. It is obvious that they have most important issues with which to deal. It seems as if the politicians are trying to make it look as if they are DOING THINGS. After all, there is an election coming up. With Hillary running for the Senate, and all the publicity that she is getting, it is hard for them to forget. Not so hard, however, that they forget to have all those little social affairs at which they raise money. And in our office, we have been so busy that I have not had a minute to myself for pleasure. But at least I have my trip home to plan for and to take my mind off the work.

So far I have managed to unpack only one box of my warm weather clothes while all the wool suits still hang in the closet waiting for their trip to the cleaners. If I don't have time to do some personal chores soon, I am afraid I may have to take a Saturday and head for Filene's. Fortunately for my pocketbook, but unfortunately for my love of shopping, now that we have moved the office, I have to walk several blocks to get to my favorite store. When we were at the old office it was so easy to pop in!

I really missed being right around the corner from the store last week when I had to help the boss with a power luncheon that he and one of his friends were giving up on the Hill. There I was with several really nice wool and silk dresses in the closet and the temperature at August levels! With all of the work, I could not take off for a couple of hours to go shopping, and that is when the first box of my warm weather clothes got unpacked. I found something that would do, but I really did not feel as if I looked my

best. But I got myself as nicely dressed as I could and headed off to do what I could to help.

At noon the next day, some of my friends in the office and I were discussing these "power luncheons." Just what are they? Well, a luncheon is supposed to be a light meal at midday. I am not sure that description fits the luncheon I was assigned to help with. The man who is the boss' friend has a large, beautifully decorated townhouse on Capitol Hill. He had his housekeeper bring in a couple of her friends and they chopped and sliced and made numerous trips to the gourmet shop and had ready to set on the table a huge tray of very fancy fresh fruit, a big bowl of chicken salad, another of salmon salad, some cheeses and breads and chips and cookies. It was not necessarily what I would call "light," (even though the serving plates, especially the salmon, were very light when they were finished!) So it must be the word "power" that describes this kind of function.

Just for fun, we looked up "power" in the big Webster's dictionary in the office. We found "the ability to compel obedience." I am sure that the boss and his friend would like that very much, but I doubt the politicians (there were four members of the House in attendance, along with another six or so senior staff members) had that in mind when they attended. We also found "...the capability of acting or of producing an effect." That was a little closer — everyone there was acting as if they were the most important of people. And indeed, it produced an effect on me, but probably not the one they had in mind.

As we continued perusing Mr. Webster's explanation of such an attractive word, we found many references to control, authority, jurisdiction, command, and strength. We knew that most people at the luncheon had those qualities

foremost in their minds. However, about halfway down the dictionary page we found one definition we particularly liked. Power can be "the product resulting from the continued multiplication of a quantity by itself." Well, perhaps that is the best one yet — the hosts were in hopes of the luncheon serving as a means to increase their incomes to the third power.

Unfortunately the time allotted for our office lunch (which was indeed, light, and certainly not powerful,) was over long before we were able to consider all of Mr. Webster's explanations of our word for the day, and we had to get back to our desks where so much work was waiting for us. But the mood had been set. As we all looked at the pile of VERY IMPORTANT stuff before us, we began to think. One of my coworkers said to me, "Can you remember what was going on last year at this time. What bills were being discussed or passed?"

I thought about and realized that I could not remember. I cannot even remember where I put my favorite pair of spring shoes, let alone what the boss was interested in a year ago!

So, how important is it really? So, Hillary is running for the Senate. Whose Senate seat will she be taking? Can anyone remember? (The departing member would be quite distressed to know that it took three of us five minutes to think of his name.) The boss would be even more upset if he realized how we often spend our lunch hour!

If I have to stay up until after midnight tonight, I intend to find the rest of my summer clothes and begin packing for a few vacation days and my long anticipated visit home. (Now, that's the power of escape!)

Give my love to everyone,
LuLu



By Roberta Hamlin

Butterfly-weed a welcome sight along summer roadways

By MARK GATEWOOD



There must be something about the color orange that makes it hard for plants to produce; there just aren't that many orange flowers out there. Take away the day lilies, which aren't native, and you're left with the true lilies and not much else, except the nice piece of eye candy which is popping out on our roadways this month, the butterfly-weed.

I first see butterfly-weed each year on my bike route along Roman and Slate Hill Roads. It also blooms in the median of the interstates; even at 65 miles an hour, you can't miss its bright orange presence. You may also know it by its older name, pleurisy root.

The plant has a history of use in herbal medicine, particularly in the treatment of lung diseases. It has

been used as an expectorant, to loosen and cough up phlegm, a diaphoretic, to induce sweating, and an emetic, to induce vomiting. A member of the milkweed family, butterfly-weed does not have the milky sap characteristic of the family.

Butterfly-weed does attract butterflies though, especially monarchs and viceroys — themselves decked out in patterns of orange. Pollination, however, is accomplished by a species of wasp which is adapted to the intricate and strange design of the flower. I won't begin to try to describe a milkweed flower. You've just got to look at it for yourself. It's apparently not a tremendously successful pollination mechanism, as very few seeds are produced relative to the number of flowers.

If enjoying butterfly-weed

through the windshield isn't enough for you, it makes a super garden plant in a sunny perennial border. Transplanting from the wild is not recommended because it's hard to get all of the root and your transplant will perish. Better to go to your favorite nursery and get the biggest container-grown plant you can find. I did this last summer in a little project to re-establish native plants in the revegetating old field behind my house.

I will warn you that, in my experience, butterfly-weed tends to be a late sleeper the first spring after it's planted. I purchased my plant in August and planted it in full bloom. It set seed and died back for the winter. The next spring, I didn't even start looking for it until mid-May. May went, June came and no butterfly-weed. I was sure I'd lost

it. Then, in mid-June, just as the roadside plants were coming into bloom, my plant came up. Unfortunately, that was a drought year, and the plant didn't bloom, despite all the water I carried up the hill. I hope the plant spent the summer establishing its root system and getting ready for better days to come.

There's one other thing about butterfly-weed that's kind of exceptional: it's a native plant which thrives on roadsides. So? Well, most roadside plants are European or Asian imports — weeds, we may say — which can be easily established in disturbed soil. As a plant habitat, the roadside doesn't have much going for it: it's hot, dry and subject to mowing, if not herbicide spraying. Butterfly-weed is a survivor, and a welcome sight on the summer roads of Augusta country. —

•Champions

Continued from page 12

Shomo which would become the show's eventual reserve grand champion. Grenier commended Shomo's steer for being "put together well structurally." He said the steer was "very attractive, had a straight line and tracked just a notch wider (than the champion from Division III.)" He noted Shomo's steer

was "very fresh and handled well and was put together well structurally." Shomo purchased his steer from Donnie Michael, a Mt. Solon beef cattle producer.

Reserve champion honors in the heavyweight division went to a 1,250-pound steer exhibited by Jillian Begoon of the Willing Workers 4-H Club. The steers exhibited by Shomo and Begoon finished

first and second, respectively, in one of the heavyweight division's classes. Other class winners from Division IV were steers exhibited by Carrie Brown, Cassandra Phillips, and Ben Heizer.

The total number of animals exhibited in the 2000 edition of the Market Animal Show was up over the 1999 numbers. Exhibitors brought 406 animals to the 2000

show and only 380 made it to the show in 1999. There were 349 animals exhibited in the 1998 show. Lamb numbers continue to climb, but only slightly. There were 208 lambs exhibited at the 2000 show and 196 in the 1999 show. Lamb numbers were at 158 in 1998. Due to increased interest in the lamb and hog exhibitions, 4-H and FFA members were limited to two lambs and two

hogs for the 1999 show. The pairs competition in lambs and hogs was eliminated this year due to time parameters of exhibiting the animals.

Hog numbers continue to show a slight increase at the show. Numbers have increased from 65 in 1998 to 67 in 1999 and 71 in 2000. Steer numbers made a slight resurgence at the 2000 show with 127 mak-

See NUMBERS, page 20

•Rotary

Continued from page 15

daughter of Mrs. Sharon Shull and the late Donald W. Shull and James Edward Howdyshell, son of Jim and Sue Howdyshell, Buffalo Gap High School; Champin Chen, Fishburne Military School; Candace Elizabeth Kincaid, daughter of Sharon and Don Flory and Ricky Kincaid, and Michael Lawrence Brown, son of Anthony and Carol Brown, Fort Defiance High School; Ali Danielle Bell, daughter of Donald and Peggy Bell, and Darin Christopher Hevener, son of Boyd and Dianna Hevener, Grace Christian School; Mary Rose Lombard, daughter of Kathleen Lombard, and Andrew Cantwell, son of Henry and Marge



WHITECOTTON



BOTKIN



FORNADOL



SACKETT



DICKINSON



DEANER



FREEMON



HARLOW

Cantwell, Guardian Angel Academy; Karen Dawn Whitecotton, daughter of Larry and Barbara Whitecotton, and Adam Ashley Botkin, son of Donald and Karen Botkin, Highland High School; Kathleen Nicoletta Fornadel, daughter of Ron and Mary Jo Fornadel, and Matthew Steven Sackett, son of Allen and Leda

Sackett, Riverheads High School. Also, Katherine Elizabeth Ray, daughter of Craig and Sandy Melton and Danny and Debbie Ray, and Johannes Pikel, son of Brigitte Pikel and Gottfried Pikel, Robert E. Lee High School; Margaret Lee Dickinson, daughter of Mrs. Gail Dickinson of Charlottesville, Stuart Hall; Joni

Corinne Stuart, daughter of John and Regina Stuart, and Marcus Lee Harris, son of Roscoe and Belinda Harris, Stuarts Draft High School; Torii Lynn Deaner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Deaner of Lynchburg, and Jamon Le'Kiefe Freeman, son of Mrs. Gwen Freeman of Richmond, Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind;

Rebecca Gordon Cunningham, daughter of Dr. Mike and Kathy Cunningham, and Brent Adam Harlow, son of Walter and Vickie Harlow, Waynesboro High School; Kathryn D. Maupin, daughter of Robert and Susan Maupin, and Benjamin John True, son of Jack and Wanda True, Wilson Memorial High School. —

•Postal

Continued from page 3

"A man and his wife and three children were there and said that they were walking to Richmond from Bristol. He asked my father if he could spend the night at our house because he was completely broke and out of work and hoped to find something in Richmond where he was born and raised.

"My daddy gave him supper and got blankets together and they went up in the mow and slept. The next morning, we gave 'em breakfast. Even though things weren't so plentiful for us, we always had enough to share," she said.

In the fall 1939, Mary Evelyn danced upon her life's calling. Miss Betty Bateman, the postmaster of Fishersville, asked Mary Evelyn if she would come in to help with the Christmas mail, mostly hand stamping letters. Because she felt she could use a little extra cash for Christmas, Mary Evelyn agreed

to help. "We had cent and a half stamps and you had to watch your math on those!" she recalled.

Mary Evelyn had been helping out like that for almost two months when Christmas rolled around and Miss Bateman took sick with double pneumonia. "Miss Bateman's brother came in on Christmas Eve and told me that I would have to do it alone. I'd never looked at the books, I'd never done anything but stamp. That's the way I learned."

Within a few more weeks the postmaster had retired and Mary Evelyn found herself as the acting postmaster. All of a sudden people were asking Mary Evelyn if she was going to take the civil service exam for the job. In order to take the exam, one had to be a registered voter, so Mary Evelyn went to the registrar's house in order to register to vote. It turned out that the registrar also wanted the postmaster's job, so anytime Mary Evelyn stopped by to register, he made himself unavailable.

Finally, with the deadline growing closer, Mary Evelyn went to the fellow's house and inquired about his whereabouts. The man's wife indicated that her husband had gone to town and would be back later in the evening. "I'll just wait," Mary Evelyn

said. So she plunked herself down in a chair and resolved to wait for his return. Four hours later he showed up and she registered to vote.

She passed the subsequent exam and was appointed postmaster on May 1, 1940. Thirty-four years later, in 1974 she retired. During her years the Fishersville P.O. went from low fourth class to low first class. "It was interesting to watch the post office and the community grow," she said.

"The (first) post office was located at the top of the hill — the main drag of the town on property which Betty Bateman owned. The building had a glass partition with two small windows for customer service. Little glass boxes were available for patrons' mail, a drop box for outgoing mail was under one window. The middle part of the office had a home built table, a pot-bellied stove, a homemade cabinet for necessary forms for handling mail, especially report forms, insurance forms, money order forms, and a daily cash book. A little tin box for money, and oh, yes, the rocking chair which was used quite a lot. The back end of the building had two desks which were used by rural carrier 2 and 3 out of Waynesboro and Staunton," remembered Mary Evelyn of her new

place of employment.

"During the war those were trying days. I tried to help everybody when sending packages to servicemen," she said, indicating that she only lost her cool once. That was when a man came in with a package so poorly wrapped it wouldn't have made the trek to Waynesboro, much less overseas.

It took her a while to learn all her duties. She didn't realize that the post office boxes were to be rented and neither she nor her predecessor Miss Bateman ever charged rent. That changed the day the postal inspector came in and made Mary Evelyn reimburse the postal service the back rent out of her own pocket!

"I helped a lot of people tend to business. Helped them fill out money orders and applications," she remembers. Her assistant was an African American named Ruffner Brown. He delivered special delivery letters and three times a day he hung the big mail pouch on a crane so that the passing train could pick up the mail. Those mail pouches went out by train until the 1960s when the mail delivery was taken over by trucks.

A lot of the special touches she added to the Fishersville office were not in any official handbook. Like the way she created a fireplace scene in the building for Christmas every year, and the way she put out a mailbox for Santa's letters.

One humorous incident in more recent years occurred when one of

her assistants unknowingly hung the American flag upside down one morning. Before they knew what was happening three navy men, recognizing the sign of distress, burst into the building and wanted to know where the emergency was!

"The salvation of my post office was the rehabilitation center," recalled Mary Evelyn. That facility brought in extra mail and allowed the Fishersville post office to improve its services and gain a higher rating. "One time in the 1960s they assigned the Easter Seal mailing to the rehab center. We went up there and had 10 tons of mail! We had to order a special box car to pick it all up. That mailing really shot us up there. We went from fourth class straight up to second class."

Since retiring from the post office, Mary Evelyn has kept busy writing, attending church (She had one run of 14 years of perfect Sunday school attendance), and supporting groups like the SPCA and the historical society.

Her career path was not one she had ever planned, but when the job became hers she made the most of it. And with the independent-minded character that has always defined Mary Evelyn McChesney, she certainly made her mark on the Fishersville community. In the end, what it came down to was that the job of postmaster was not about the U.S. mail, it was about the people sending and receiving the mail. "I loved working with the people," she said. —

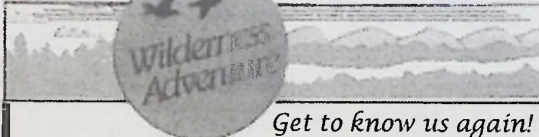
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Gladiator plot thin; action thick

We were not even out of the theater when Hannah's dad tried to influence my soon-to-be-written review of *Gladiator* by frowning and waving two fingers in my face. "No plot! It's *Spartacus*-lite!" (Clearly the man had forgotten the huge fight we had over *The Bridges of Madison County* before we had even driven out of the parking lot or he would have held his tongue!)

Gladiator begins in Germania where the Roman Legions, led by citizen-soldier Maximus, subdue the barbarian hordes. This is Rome's Vietnam, and the aging Emperor Marcus Aurelius worries that his imperial ambitions for Rome will not be a proud legacy. In a vain attempt to be remembered for restoring the Republic, he chooses Maximus, a Spanish general beloved by his men, to succeed him rather than his own son,

Commodus. Commodus is none too happy with this turn of events. The poor dear has waited his entire life for his father's approval only to have it denied just when it seems within his grasp.

Like any ambitious, corrupt Roman, he kills his father, frames Maximus, and sentences him to die. Of course, if the story ended here *Gladiator* would be only 34 minutes long rather than 2 hours and 45 minutes. Predictably Maximus escapes the executioner's sword. He returns home to find his family slaughtered and his estate in ruins. To add insult to injury, he is kidnapped and sold into slavery.

Fate finds him in some backwater of the empire fighting in a fleabag coliseum. His vow to avenge himself and his family keeps him going and soon he is a minor celebrity. Back in Rome,

Commodus orders the gladiator games reinstated in an effort to distract the masses from both the bubonic and republican plague. He is, of course, unaware that Maximus, the celebrated Gladiator known only as the Spaniard, is now in Rome with plans to settle the score.

Director Ridley Scott's (*Alien*, *Thelma and Louise*) attempts to recreate the great Roman Empire epics of the 1960s is short on plot and his cast of thousands is digital.

But with Russell Crowe, a talented Australian actor, starring as Maximus, who's paying attention? Crowe (*L.A. Confidential*, *The Insider*) turns in a convincing, physical performance that proves bad things happen to good people, even 2,000 years ago.

Joaquin Phoenix (*8MM*, *Walking the Dog*) as Commodus makes a vain attempt to bring a little sym-

pathy to a man about whom nothing good can be said and he falls flat. Phoenix plays the evil emperor as a whining, sniveling coward — the real Commodus would have eaten Joaquin for lunch. A better actor — one like Derek Jacobi (*Hamlet*, *I, Claudius*), who plays the noble Senator Gracchus — could have had more fun with the role.

Notable actors Oliver Reed (*The Bruce*) as Proximo and Richard Harris (*Camelot*, *Patriot Games*) as Marcus Aurelius have fun with their performances.

Given its title, you know that *Gladiator* is not about a Sunday school picnic. Violence is a given. If you are bothered by it, don't go.

If you expect nothing more than potato chip pleasure, *Gladiator* fills the bill. Hannah's mom gives *Gladiator* three bananas fully admitting she is a sucker for anything that remotely resembles history. Let the summer movie season begin!!! Rated R for violence. ---



Numbers

Continued from page 18

ing the grade. The 1999 steer show featured 117 animals. Steers numbers just barely exceeded the 1998 mark when 126 steers were exhibited.

Master of ceremonies for the event was June Cohron. Ribbon bearer was Jerilyn Sheets representing the Augusta County Farm Bureau Federation. Ringmasters were Scott Shomo, David Fiske, and Shirley Kaufman. —

Results

Continued from page 11

CHAMPION — Amanda Hemp
RESERVE CHAMPION —
Ashley Balsley

Division III, Heavyweight
245-270 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. C. Stogdale, MDL 4-H; 2. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. R. Grogg, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 5. R. Riley, BG FFA

CLASS 2 — 1. J. Begoon, WW 4-H; 2. A. Balsley, MDL 4-H; 3. E. Curry, BG FFA; 4. A. Pitsenberger, BM FFA; 5. S. Williams, MDL 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. N. Nycum, BG FFA; 2. J. Begoon, WW 4-H; 3. T. Davis, MDL 4-H; 4. N. Buchanan, RHIS FFA; 5. D. Pitsenberger, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION — Nick Nycum
RESERVE CHAMPION —

Corey Stogdale
GRAND CHAMPION — Nick Nycum
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION —

Corey Stogdale
JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP — 1.

Ashley Balsley; 2. Robert Grogg; 3. Katie Leonard

SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP — 1. Neal Buchanan; 2. Emily Curry; 3. Doug Grimm

STEER SHOW

Division I, Lightweight

925-1,105 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. N. Buchanan, RHIS FFA; 2. K. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 3. C. Hughes, MDL 4-H; 4. J. Shultz, MDL 4-H; 5. T. Michael, WW 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. D. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 2. T. Michael, WW 4-H; 3. C. Snyder, MDL 4-H; 4. E. Curry, BG FFA; 5. C. Earhart, MDL 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. J. Coleman, MDL 4-H; 2. Ca. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 3. W. Earhart, MDL 4-H; 4. C. Snyder, MDL 4-H; 5. K. Burford, MDL 4-H

CLASS 4 — 1. S. Williams, MDL 4-H; 2. R. Riley, BG FFA; 3. J. Lyle, BG FFA; 4. H. Castle, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Heizer, MDL 4-H

CHAMPION — Neal Buchanan
RESERVE CHAMPION —

Jonathan Coleman
Division II, Light-middleweight

1,105 - 1,170 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. Ca. Heizer, RHIS FFA; 2. L. Grimm, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Alford, SM FFA; 4. A. Shiflett, WW 4-H; 5. L. Bean, WW 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. A. Brown, CMB 4-H; 2. A. Hinton, RHIS FFA; 3. J. Riley, BM FFA; 4. Ka. Shomo, MDL 4-H; 5. Kr. Shomo, MDL 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 2. A. Michael, SM FFA; 3. L. Shaver, FD FFA; 4. A. Keaton, MDL 4-H; 5. I. Swortzel, SDM FFA

CLASS 4 — 1. R. Miller, RHIS FFA; 2. G. Irvine, BM FFA; 3. R. Riley, BG FFA; 4. R. Swortzel, SDHS FFA; 5. M. Garland, FD FFA

CHAMPION — Ryan Miller
RESERVE CHAMPION —

Garrett Johnston
Division III, Heavy-middleweight

1,170-1,240 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. J. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 2. M. McCune, MDL 4-H; 3. C. Lyle, BG FFA; 4. N. Buchanan, MDL 4-H; 5. A. Hinson, MDL 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. A. Hemp, RHIS FFA; 2. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H; 3. B. Napier, BM FFA; 4. J. Christian, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Back, CMB 4-H

CLASS 3 — 1. W. Earhart, MDL 4-H; 2. S. Williams, MDL 4-H; 3. J. Leonard, MDL 4-H; 4. B. Reeves, NR 4-H; 5. A. Shiflett, WW 4-H

CLASS 4 — 1. C. Brown, RHIS FFA; 2. M. Williams, MDL 4-H; 3. G. Johnston, MDL 4-H; 4. R. Cox, MDL 4-H; 5. J. Riley, BG FFA

CHAMPION — Will Earhart
RESERVE CHAMPION —

Carrie Brown
Division IV, Heavyweight

1,240-1,450 pounds

CLASS 1 — 1. B. Shomo, RHIS FFA; 2. J. Begoon, WW 4-H; 3. B. Perkins, MDL 4-H; 4. C. Lyle, BF FFA; 5. B. Heizer, MDL 4-H

CLASS 2 — 1. C. Brown, RHIS FFA; 2. M. McCune, MDL 4-H; 3. C. Bazzrea, BM FFA; 4. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 5. B. Shomo, RHIS FFA

CLASS 3 — 1. C. Phillips, ADC 4-H; 2. H. Jones, BG FFA; 3. G. Smith, BG FFA; 4. I. Swortzel, SDM FFA; 5. A. Hemp, RHIS FFA

CLASS 4 — 1. B. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 2. J. Crosby, MDL 4-H; 3. Co. Heizer, MDL 4-H; 4. K. Cromer, MDL 4-H; 5. M. Garland, FD FFA

CHAMPION — Bryan Shomo
RESERVE CHAMPION —

Jillian Begoon
GRAND CHAMPION — Will Earhart
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION —

Bryan Shomo
JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP — 1. Ben

Heizer; 2. Will Earhart; 3. Garrett Johnston

SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP — 1.

Neal Buchanan; 2. Bryan Shomo; 3. Jonathan Coleman ---

Showmen

Continued from page 13

In determining the top junior steer showman, Grenier said he looked for the exhibitor who "gets the job done efficiently and is cool and calm." He gave particular note to how each exhibitor set the feet on his or her steer pointing out that the manner in which the feet are set will help the calf look its best.

Heizer, 11, was Grenier's choice for champion junior steer showman. He is the son of Bill and Suzanne Heizer of Middlebrook. Following him in second and third places, respectively, were Will Earhart and Garrett Johnston, both of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Buchanan collected his second senior showmanship award of the day in the steer class. He was fol-

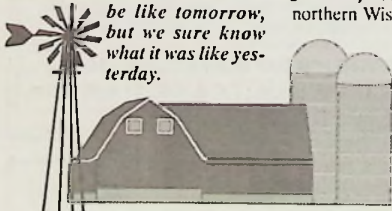
lowed in second place by Bryan Shomo of the Riverheads FFA and Jonathan Coleman of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Due to the number of senior showmen selected for the competition, the event was split into two heats. Ultimately Grenier narrowed the field to a select group of exhibitors who vied for the top spot. It was Buchanan who won the judge's nod as champion senior showman. Coleman won the senior award for steer showmanship in 1999.

Savings bonds from *Augusta Country* were presented to the five champion showmen at the Market Animal Show banquet held May 18. Each top showman received a \$100 bond for winning his or her species. Buchanan received a \$200 bond for winning senior hog and steer showmanship. —

Yesterday's weather

Most newspapers include a weather forecast in each edition. But we try to be a little different at Augusta Country. We may not know what the weather will be like tomorrow, but we sure know what it was like yesterday.



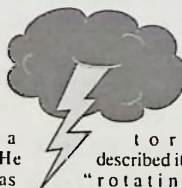
June 6, 1975 — A tornado, reportedly spinning backwards (spinning clockwise), was sighted near Alva, Okla.

June 13, 1889 — Forest fires in northern Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota were in the process of destroying millions of dollars of board feet of timber.

June 20, 1928 — A farmer near Greensburg,

Kans., looked up into the heart of a nado. He described its walls as clouds lit with constant flashes of lightning and a strong gassy odor with a screaming, hissing sound."

June 28, 1975 — Lee Trevino and two other golfers were struck by lightning at the Western Open golf tournament in Oak Brook, Ill. —



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