

Economy and weather blamed

Fair attendance down again



BEAN QUEEN -- Jane Irene Rodammer, 19, daughter of Otto and Irene Rodammer of rural Vassar, was crowned Tuscola County Bean Queen last Thursday at the fair. Sara Lee Brown, 18, of N. Jacob Road, Cass City, was second runner-up.

The economy has taken its toll again. This time at the Tuscola County Fair.

With less money to spend, fewer people came to the fair as attendance at the event dropped for the second straight year, according to Walter Jackson, fair board of directors president.

General admission sales were 16,150, in addition to 361 season passes purchased. That number compares with 17,223 general admission tickets sold last year and 459 season passes.

And, according to others, the problem is all around.

"People from the carnival said all the fairs they've been to have been down," Jackson said.

Another factor that may have led to poor attendance was some bad weather. Rain dampened the spirits of many fairgoers.

"If it didn't rain right here in Caro then it rained nearby," he explained.

Even so, some events at the fair enjoyed successful turnouts. Jackson said the demolition derby, tractor pull and motorcycle races

were the top three drawing cards at the fair.

An estimated 2,000 spectators turned out to watch automobiles and their drivers attempt to destroy each other. In fact, bleacher seating became overcrowded and some viewed the action up close from the infield in front of the grandstands.

Jackson said he won't know until about one month from now how the fair did financially.

He guessed the fair would break even this year but added they usually turned a profit in past years.

Although plans have not yet been set in motion, next year's fair will probably have some added attractions since it is the 100th anniversary for the festival. Among the displays Jackson hopes to have are an antique section, depicting earlier fairs, and a parade.

Blue and red ribbon winners from area 4-H clubs from which results were available are as follows:

KNIT WITS

Kimberly Wildman--blue: pillow, collection, photography, macrame, gift wrap (with county honors), ceramics (county honors), cooking, frozen dessert. Red: hobbycraft and plants.

Shannon McIntosh--Blue: houseplant, ceramics, macrame, gift wrap, collection, hobbycraft (county honors), pillow (county honors), photography, cooking. Red: potholders.

Suzanne Grassmann -- Blue: photography, collection (county honors), story, gift wrap, cooking; Red: macrame, pillow.

Anne Polk--Blue: cooking, houseplant, hobbycraft,

photography, rug, ceramics, gift wrap (last three with county honors).

Chris Polk--Blue: photography (county honors), hobbycraft; Red: pencil drawing.

Tammy Kady--Blue: macrame, hobbycraft, photography, pillow, cooking.

Michelle Jones--Blue: photography, house plants, ceramics, gift wrap, macrame, cooking (last four with county honors).

Kathleen Andrakowicz--Blue: hobbycraft.

Maureen Andrakowicz--Blue: macrame, pillow.

Jennifer Baker--Blue: houseplant, hobbycraft, pillow, macrame, cooking, gift wrap, short story, ceramics (last four with county honors); Red: papier-mache and pencil drawing.

Lisa Edwards--Blue: hobbycraft, gift wrap, photography, cooking, rug (county honors); Red: pencil drawing.

Stephanie Kady--Blue: rug (county honors); Red: cooking, macrame, plant, photography.

Andrea Mandich--Blue: hobbycraft, cooking, collection; Red: photography, plant, macrame, embroidery.

Heather Merchant--Blue: sewing, ceramics, gardening, photography, macrame, gift wrap (county honors), leathercraft, cooking.

Dan Merchant--Blue: ceramics, woodwork, leathercraft.

Chuck Merchant--Blue: vegetable gardening, ceramics, leathercraft (county honors); Red: woodcraft.

Troy Reehl--Blue: cooking, macrame, pot holders, photography, hobbycraft (county honors); Red: pencil drawing, gift wrap.

Norbert Reehl--Blue: photography, houseplant, gift wrap, hobbycraft, cooking; Red: pencil drawing, macrame.

Brent Reehl--Blue: photography, house plant, gift wrap, cooking, pencil drawing, hobbycraft.

Kendra Reehl--Blue: macrame, pencil drawing, gift wrap, tissue holder, rug, cooking, creative writing,

health display (county honors); Red: photography, knitting, crocheting.

NORTH ELKLAND

Mark Hirn--Woodworking, ceramics, home design, food preparation (all blue with county honors), freezing (blue).

Lisa Hirn -- Food preparation (blue with county honors), freezing, photography, ceramics, liquid embroidery (all blue).

Julie Sugden -- perennial, plant, hooked rug, drawing, original, photography (all blue), cooking (red).

Lori Sugden -- perennial, house plant, centerpiece, home design, original craft, leisure sports, collections, (all blue), copper tooling, photography (both red).

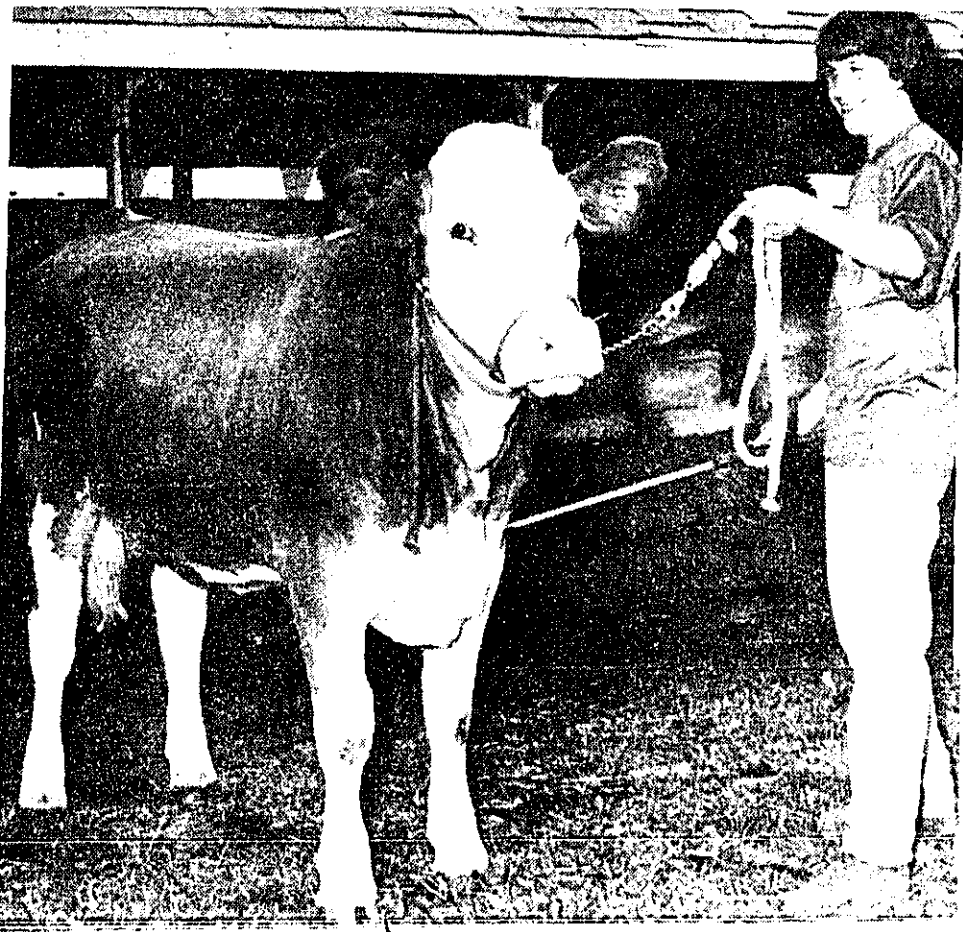
Julie Vargo -- planter, embroidery, knitting, pencil, oil painting, watercolor, short story, (all blue with county honors), photography (two blue ribbons, one county honor), entomology, collection (both blue), cooking (two blue).

Old tractors to be on display at fairgrounds

The Thumb Area Old Engine and Tractor Association will hold its annual show Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Caro fairgrounds.

The show will run from daylight to dusk all three days.

On display will be old tractors and steam and gas engines.



TWO WINNERS -- Greg Daily, 17, had the champion female all-breeds beef winner at the fair, shown here, and first place in lightweight steer. The May-King 4-H Club member is the son of Jim and Beverly Daily of M-46, Mayville.

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Rowdy citizen arrested for causing ruckus

David Lee Nichols, 18, of 4417 Woodland Street, was arrested by Cass City police early Sunday on a charge of creating a public disturbance following an incident in the Church-Leach-Main Street area.

Officers were notified about 1 a.m. by Joseph Gruber of 6432 Church Street that someone had knocked his bird feeder off its post and knocked over his bird bath, breaking both into several pieces.

In his garden, several corn stalks were knocked down and a ladder thrown into his tomatoes.

A short while later, two women told the officers their friend was running through yards screaming and hollering.

Police then saw Nichols coming from a back yard on Leach Street that connected with Gruber's yard and placed him under arrest. He was taken to the county jail and later released on bond, pending appearance in district court.

Police have obtained a warrant from the prosecutor's office charging Nichols with creating a public disturbance and have requested a second warrant charging him with malicious destruction of property under \$100.

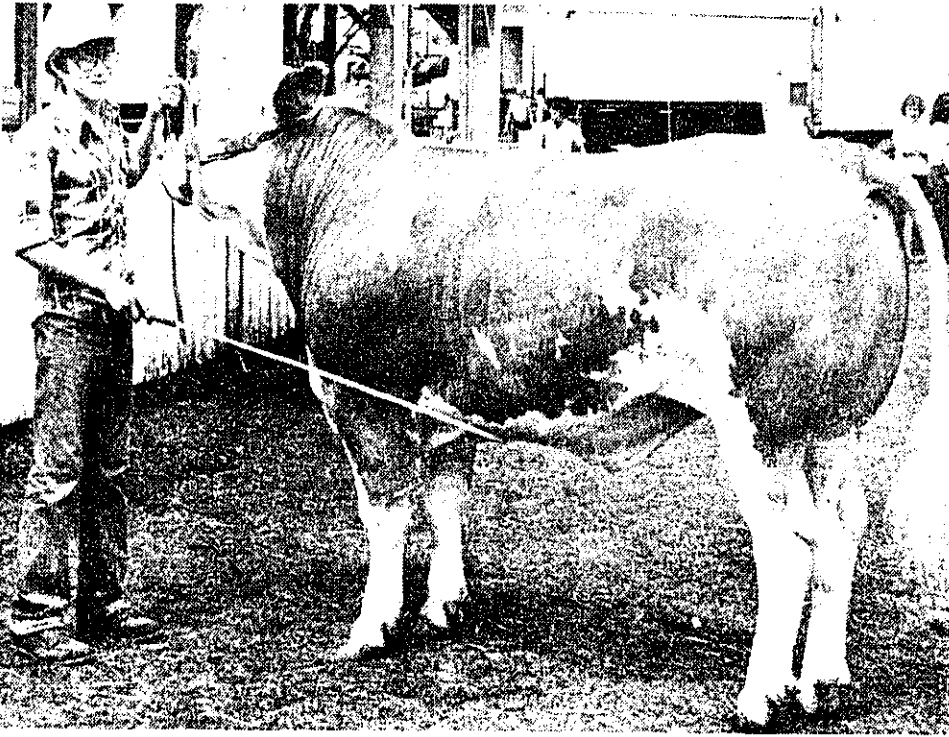
Village police arrested Thomas M. McGee of 6225 Lakeside Drive on charges of driving under the influence of liquor and driving with license suspended after stopping his car on Maple Street at 2:55 a.m. Friday.

He was released from the county jail the same day, to await appearance in district court.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael R. Miracle, 18, of 6825 Gilford Road, Deford, at 11:15 a.m. last Thursday on a charge of driving without a license after stopping his motorcycle at Kingston and Decker Roads.

He was also cited on a charge of failure to have eye protection, the original reason for his being stopped.

He was released from the county jail the same day, pending appearance in district court.



RATE OF GAIN was a new category for steers at the Tuscola County Fair and the winner was Tim Ruggles, son of Fred and Nancy Ruggles of M-46, Kingston. His 1,275-pound Simmental gained an average of 3.02 pounds per day between Feb. 15 and July 28. His sister, Beth, came in second, her steer gaining 2.97 pounds per day. They belong to the May-King 4-H Club.



RESERVE PEN -- Randy Severance, 17, (left), receives an assist from Scott Hobart in holding his two lambs, judged the reserve champion pen. Randy won first place in lamb showmanship and first in sweepstakes showmanship. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Severance, Severance Road, Decker, and a Cass City FFA member.

Film party wraps up program

The Rawson Memorial Library summer reading program will end Thursday, Aug. 14, with a film party starting at 1 p.m. at the library.

That will be the last day for those participating in the program to finish their books and turn in their reports.

At least 30 children have read the minimum 10 books so far, according to head librarian Barbara Hutchinson.

The films to be shown on the 14th will be "Paul Bunyan," "Pups is Pups" and "Orphan Lions." Those who read the minimum number of books will receive a certificate.

The summer story hour for very young children ended last Thursday.

Money may talk -- but it's not talking quite so loudly these days.

