

New Dairy Princess 1986



Marie Henhoeffler, of the Teeswater area, has been selected as the Bruce County Dairy Princess at the Bruce County Holstein dance in Teeswater, last Saturday. The 17-year-old Grade 12 student at S.E. Madill Secondary School, in Wingham, is the daughter of George and Phyllis Henhoeffler. She is no stranger to the dairy business, as she helps milk 38 Holsteins and two Brown Swiss cows on the family 90-hectare



Dairy Princess title at the CNE next August. Sandra Benninger, 17, of Mildmay, and Sheila Osborne, 20, of Ripley, were runners-up in the contest.

farm. She is also this year's Bruce County Queen of the Furrow, secretary of the 4-H dairy club and of the 4-H council in Bruce County. She will compete for the Ontario

Nineteen-year-old Donald Duprey, of Port Elgin raced to a second-place finish in the women's 400-metre hurdles event at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland, Monday afternoon. According to the "the experts", Donald didn't have much of a chance at reaching the finals of the event, let alone winning a medal, but she changed all that

McKinnon leaves OMMB for vice-chairmanship of Canadian Dairy Commission 1986

A chapter in the history of local dairy farming ended recently with the announced resignation of Ontario Milk Marketing Board Chairman Ken McKinnon.

However, the record of Mr. McKinnon's years of work on behalf of milk producers is far from complete, as he will continue working for the dairy industry as Vice Chairman of the Canadian Dairy Commission.

When a new OMMB Member is elected, it will mark the first time since the Board was formed that Ken McKinnon will not represent the dairy farmers of Huron, Bruce and Grey Counties. Appointed to the original Board when the OMMB was set up in 1965, Ken became the first representative of local farmers when regional elections were introduced three years later. He has subsequently been re-elected four consecutive times by the milk producers of Huron, Bruce and Grey Counties.

Mr. McKinnon remembers the late 1950s, when he first took an interest in the marketing of milk. The local dairy industry was a lot different in those days.

"It was mainly an industrial milk area before the OMMB was set up," Ken says. "Grey County could sell table milk in Owen Sound, and a bit to Toronto, but Huron and Bruce didn't have access to fresh milk markets. In many cases, producers didn't know how much milk they could sell on a given day."

That lack of security, combined with anger over a sudden drop in the federal support price for powder, opened the young McKinnon's eyes about the marketing of milk. He started attending meetings and was elected to the Board of the Ontario Concentrated Milk Producers' Marketing Board. The early 1960s were exciting years. Dairy farmers realized changes needed to be made to the milk marketing system. Supply management, however, seemed too radical for many farmers. The result was a lot of heated debate.

In the end, orderly marketing won the debate and supply management was introduced after the OMMB was established in 1965.

"The Board has helped dairy farmers stabilize their income, given us the confidence to reinvest in our farms and increase our productivity," he says.

The McKinnon farm is a case in point. After taking over the farm when only 15-years-old, Mr. McKinnon had expanded the herd to 60 head by the late 1950s. With the introduction of supply management, and the choice by the three McKinnon boys to farm, a major expansion was completed in 1975. A new barn with a milking parlour was built and the land base was expanded. With additional land purchased in 1979, the McKinnons now farm 950 acres. About 110 cows are milked every day out of a herd of 250 head.

The fifth generation of McKinnons now share the management of the farm with their father. Despite his full-time commitment to the OMMB since he was elected Chairman in 1977, Ken still found time to handle the financial and management side of the operation.

A great believer in improving efficiency, the farm now has a computerized feeding system. Milk recording and computerized accounting also are an important part of the farm's management tools.

In terms of Region 11, Mr. McKinnon considers the Graduated Entry Program and the pooling of transportation costs two major benefits the OMMB has brought to the area.

Although the OMMB is much different today than in the late 1960s when the fluid milk system was introduced and the national industrial milk structure being debated, or the 1970's when the dairy industry stabilized, Ken still sees the need for strong, local representation.

"We need a new Member who is willing to make a commitment to Region 11," he says. "That commitment is more than just attending meetings or working long hours. It must be a commitment to serve the Region for more than one term (four years), because it takes that long to learn the complexities of the milk industry."

Mr. McKinnon's new position is based in Ottawa, but he still plans to call Port Elgin home. He will commute and continue to take an active interest in Cedarbank Farms.

Since he is only a youthful 58, he also hopes to continue his lifelong interest in minor sports and to spend time with his eight grandchildren and supportive wife, Freda.

Cattlemen in Bruce favour check off

Dec. 1986

Bruce County beef producers have often led the way in voicing complaints about their provincial association, but that did not stop them from backing the Ontario Cattlemen's Association at its convention in February.

Meeting in Underwood last Wednesday, the Bruce County Cattlemen's Association voted to make it mandatory that a portion of receipts from all cattle sales go to the provincial association. They also locked their 12 convention delegates into a block vote for the change.

But the local association maintained its view, contrary to the provincial group's free-market leanings, of a need for a supply-management agreement. The cattlemen passed two resolutions calling on the OCA to help organize a province-wide referendum of all producers on supply management.

Local cattlemen voted 73-29 to end refunds, or in other words, for mandatory checkoffs. The provincial group wants the money to help meet expected costs of beef advertising and a new market information system.

Currently, the group receives one fifth of one per cent of the selling price of cattle sold in Ontario, about \$2 million last year. But it must return the fee, known as a checkoff, to anyone who asks for it.

Refunds amounted to about 19 percent of the total in 1986. Ontario Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell has said he will go along with a compulsory checkoff if two thirds of the delegates to next month's convention agree.

James Jacklin, a Chesley-area farmer, introduced the checkoff resolution that was eventually passed.

"The matter is whether we're willing to pay a compulsory checkoff. On a thousand pound steer that's about two dollars...will you pay your \$2 like a good citizen and own your company?" Jacklin told the meeting.

Former Dobbinton man is honoured

By Ivy Dentinger

Melville Palmer, son of Louis Palmer of Owen Sound, received the award for extension work as a professor of agricultural engineering at Ohio State University. The society, with headquarters in St. Joseph, Michigan, has 11,000 members around the world.

Mr. Palmer received the award from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers for his "contributions to the healthy climate of the American countryside."

A graduate of Ontario Agricultural College and Ohio State, Mr. Palmer specialized in work on rural water supply and home sewage disposal issues. He has directed an annual course for land improvement contractors for 30 years and served as executive secretary of the Ohio Land Improvement Contractor's Association for 17 years.

The Gunlogson Countryside Engineering Award is presented annually to honour contributions to a healthy country climate and "to a viable economy for its small towns."