

Six Legs, Two Tails 'Spider' Bovine Oddity

Spider is a six legged, two-tailed Holstein steer who is the number one attraction around Rockwood in North Halton County.

The two and a half year old bovine, owned by auctioneer Max Storey of R.R. 4, Rockwood, probably is the most photographed, written about, studied and visited steer in the entire area. And 256 persons lined up to see the extra pair of legs suspended from behind its neck when Spider was the featured attraction at Rockwood Carnival earlier this year.

Storey has offered Spider for sale, but his asking price has always proved too high for buyers. The steer was one of the few cattle chosen to remain on the 200 acre farm when Storey sold most of his 80 head herd last month.

Spider will soon have some more cattle to keep him company. Storey plans to buy more steers for beef purposes this winter.

Researchers from the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, visited the farm to see Spider. They were interested in what abnormality caused the steer to grow two additional legs, one pointing forward and one backward, as well as an additional tail. They wanted to buy the steer and take it back to the college, but again the price was too high.

Meantime, Spider carries on a normal life, with no problems in feeding or moving around resulting from its extra limbs.

Susan Chisholm Delegate Development Conference

A recent meeting at North Halton Golf & Country Club by members of District 12 Professional Development committee of the Ontario Secondary school teachers' association finalized plans for its upcoming conference in Toronto.

The conference will be held January 24 in the Automotive Building in Exhibition Park, Toronto.

Chairman of the District Professional Development Committee is Tom Ramautarsingh of Georgetown District High School, and the vice chairman is Ron Davis of Central Peel Secondary School.

Each of the 17 schools in District 12 has elected a representative to the conference. Miss Susan Chisholm is Georgetown's delegate.

In all 1,076 teachers will take part. Because of the incoming county board of education setup, this will be the last development conference for Georgetown teachers with Central Peel, Mississauga and other high schools outside of Halton. All schools in the District will be closed on the date of the conference.



THE POPULAR POINSETTIA

The most popular flowering plant for Christmas, according to many florists, is the poinsettia. The plant was brought to the U.S. more than 125 years ago by Dr. Joel Poinsett, from Mexico who was the American ambassador to that country. According to one legend, a poor Mexican girl, who was heartbroken because she had nothing of beauty or value to offer the Virgin Mary, plucked some weeds from the side of the road and placed them at the foot of the holy statue. The plants were miraculously transformed into the scarlet brilliance that we associate with the poinsettia today. In Mexico, many people still call the flower "Flor de Noche Buena"—the flower of the Holy Night.

THE LUCIA BRIDE SWEDISH TRADITION

The Lucia Bride is the symbol of the beginning of the Christmas season in Sweden. Each family chooses one of the daughters, often the youngest to portray St. Lucia. On December 13th, St. Lucia's Day, she rises before the rest of the family. Dressed in white and wearing a crown of lighted candles, she goes to each room wakening sleepers and offering them coffee and freshly baked buns.

Merry Christmas



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