

Best of two worlds for Queen Victoria

It's been almost one year since Miss Acton 1978-79 was chosen. For reigning queen, Victoria Lenisky, it has been a year of experiencing the best of both worlds.

Victoria spent the first five months of her reign as Miss Acton attending the usual local events, dances, dropping the puck on the Sabres' opening game, the annual Beardmore Christmas party and as Victoria says, "enjoying the thrill of representing my home town."

The last seven months of Victoria's year has been spent in Paris, France pursuing a career as a model. Victoria completed her grade 12 at Acton high school in January, and left for Paris for two months of modelling experience.

After her two months in Paris she moved on to Italy for three months of assignments and then returned to Paris for two more months before returning home to represent Acton Fair in the Miss CNE competition.

Although Paris and Acton are miles apart, both in distance and life-style, Victoria said she wouldn't trade her reign as Miss Acton or her modelling career in Paris for anything.

"I have been exceedingly lucky. Not many girls have this type of opportunity given to them. First to become Miss Acton, which was a big thrill. I am proud to have been chosen to represent Acton. Secondly, going to Paris, a totally new country

away from my family, making it on my own."

Victoria said she has been doing both beauty and fashion photography modelling. A slim 5'8", Victoria appears to have an ideal model's figure, however experience has shown her she is not tall or skinny enough to excel to runway modelling. "As it is now I am constantly trying to lose weight. Models always seem to be fighting off those excess pounds," she said.

Victoria says the life of a model is very unpredictable. "Models spend at least 50 per cent of their time on go-sees. The agency sets up appointments and the models spend the day visiting prospective clients," she said.

Contrary to popular belief Victoria said models really don't wear much makeup. "The photographers and magazine people really don't like a lot of makeup. They like the young girls with a fresh, natural look," she said.

Victoria said she has enjoyed her year as Miss Acton but feels she didn't make the most of the opportunity. "If I had been here more I think I would have met more people and been able to attend more functions," she said.

After coming back to her R.R. 2, Rockwood home, Victoria said it feels good to see school friends and family after seven months away. "Modelling is not as glamorous as most people think. Loneliness really hurts and as a model "you have to believe in yourself. This is probably where people get the idea that models are snobbish and egotistical. They have to think highly of themselves and believe in their own ability."

Victoria arrived home from Paris, Sunday, August 12, and went down to the CNE competition on the Tuesday. "I would have enjoyed the competition more if I had gone to the fair board convention in February. Most of the girls knew each other from the convention," she said.

To Victoria the CNE competition was not that important. "I won the Miss Acton and that is special to me, it's all I wanted," she said.

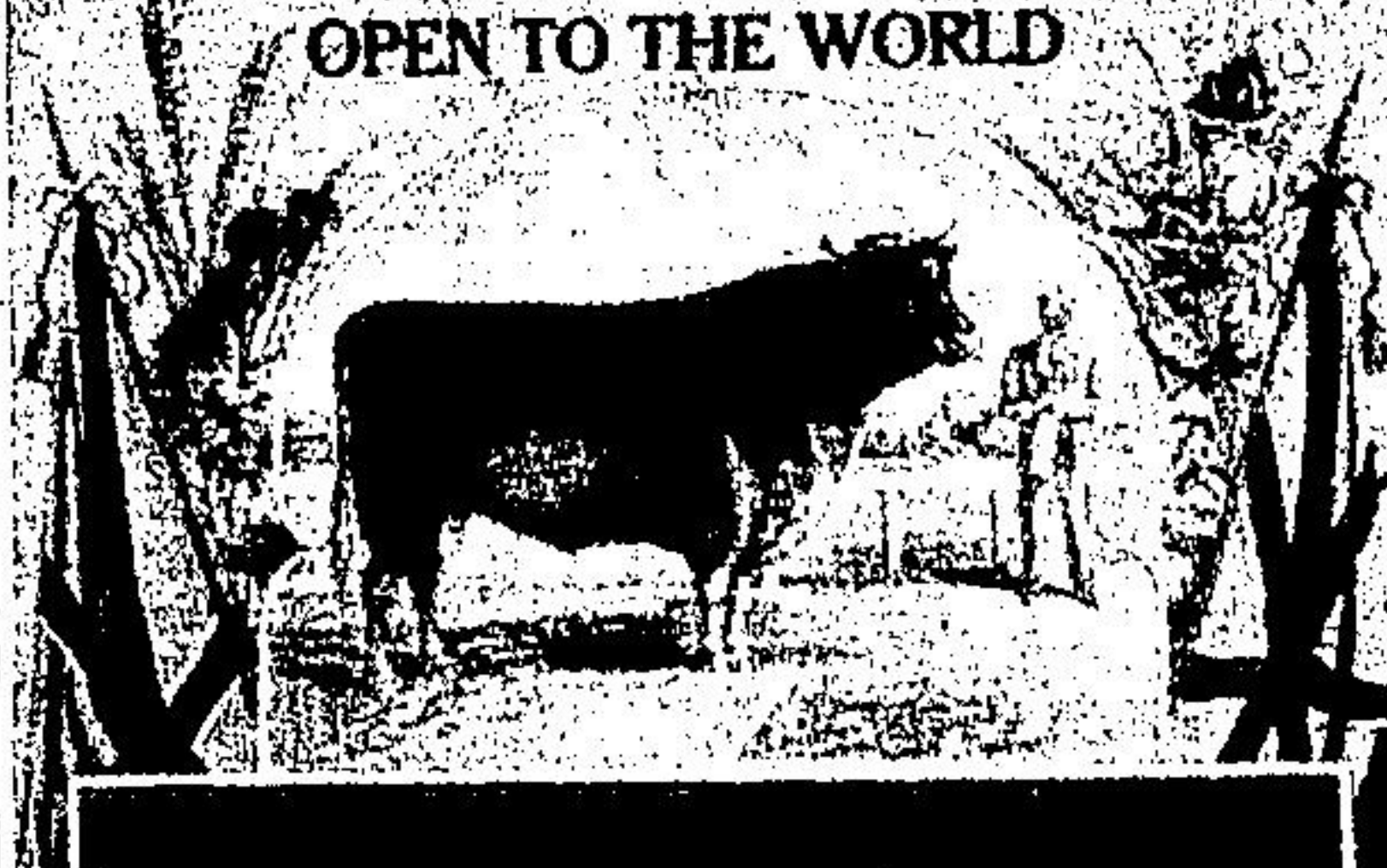

Even though her trip home to Acton was a welcome break from the often hectic pace in Europe, Victoria's visit is short-lived. As soon as she receives her visa, Victoria will be leaving for a two month modelling assignment in Tokyo.



"Queen Victoria."


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