

# Former fair queens reminisce at 150th event

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN  
The Champion

While a night of pounding rain prevented some Miltonians from visiting the Milton Fall Fair Saturday morning, it was going to take more than that to keep diehard fans away.

Yes, Saturday morning was quieter than usual. And by noon, it was clear that a number of activities would have to be cancelled or re-worked.

But the rather loud sound of rain boots schlepping about in soggy fields and the undeterred laughter of kids proved, once again, that Miltonians are troopers.

"Considering the weather, we did very well," said fair president Charlie Tilt, despite the cancellation of the tractor pull and horse hitch. "I'd like to thank Milton for acknowledging the fair's 150 years." There were a number of displays set up and activities to help celebrate the fair's birthday.

The opening ceremonies included about two dozen past fair ambassadors. Perhaps the most notable was Janet Guimond, who was crowned the Halton 4-H Queen in 1969. Ms Guimond arrived from New Brunswick Friday to reminisce with fellow past ambassadors and pay tribute to those good old days. "I remember the fair to be a happy day," Ms Guimond said. "I felt proud to represent the 4-H."

Joyce Gowan, the 4-H Queen in 1972, travelled from Hamilton for the day.

"I have wonderful memories of the fair," Ms Gowan said. "The fair was a good part of growing up."

Local dignitaries also recognized the importance of the fair's birthday.

"Even though agriculture has evolved and the county's changing, the (fair) tradition continues on," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline. "It's part of our heritage, and we want it kept as strong as possible."

Outside, in the ever-popular food area, vendor Beverly Bordeau was mentally preparing herself for the throngs of kids and adults who would soon be lining up for fried Mars bars.

"They look like pogos," she explained. "It's a frozen Mars bar on a stick, and then it's dipped in funnel cake batter and deep fried. They're really popular now."

Vendors sold everything from temporary tattoos to mylar balloons to clothing. Fortunately, most of the vendors sold their wares beneath sturdy tent-like structures.

Cambridge resident Mike Dooley, who ran the Watkins product tent, said he sets up his booth in the same manner rain or

shine, so he's never caught unaware by the weather.

"These tents are designed to take the weather," he said.

But there were a few unlucky vendors who found the rain a force too strong to be reckoned with.

"Not everybody has this caliber of awning. Two were completely destroyed last night," Mr. Dooley said, pointing to a tarp once resembling a roof that was still sagging from the pool of water it had gathered.

The midway was just gathering steam at about noon Saturday. Rick Alward, a carnival worker, said even if it were to start raining again, most of the rides would continue running. "They go until there's no people left," he said.

Eden Mills resident Ed Langevin took his 'Little Brother' from the Big Brothers organization to the fair for the day and was spending some time in the poultry building. "This is the first fair I've been to in Milton. So far it's great," Mr. Langevin said.

Although the pair was disappointed the tractor pull was cancelled, Mr. Langevin was simply enjoying spending time with his 12-year-old 'Little Brother'.

"We just got matched up in the spring. This is one of the great things we're doing," he said.

For many kids, one of the best parts of the fair is seeing their crafts and projects on display in the kids' building — many bearing first, second or third ribbons.

Samuel Ganton, 12, walked quickly to the kids' building, excited to see if his castle model had won.

"Where's my castle? Must find castle," said Samuel as he searched frantically.

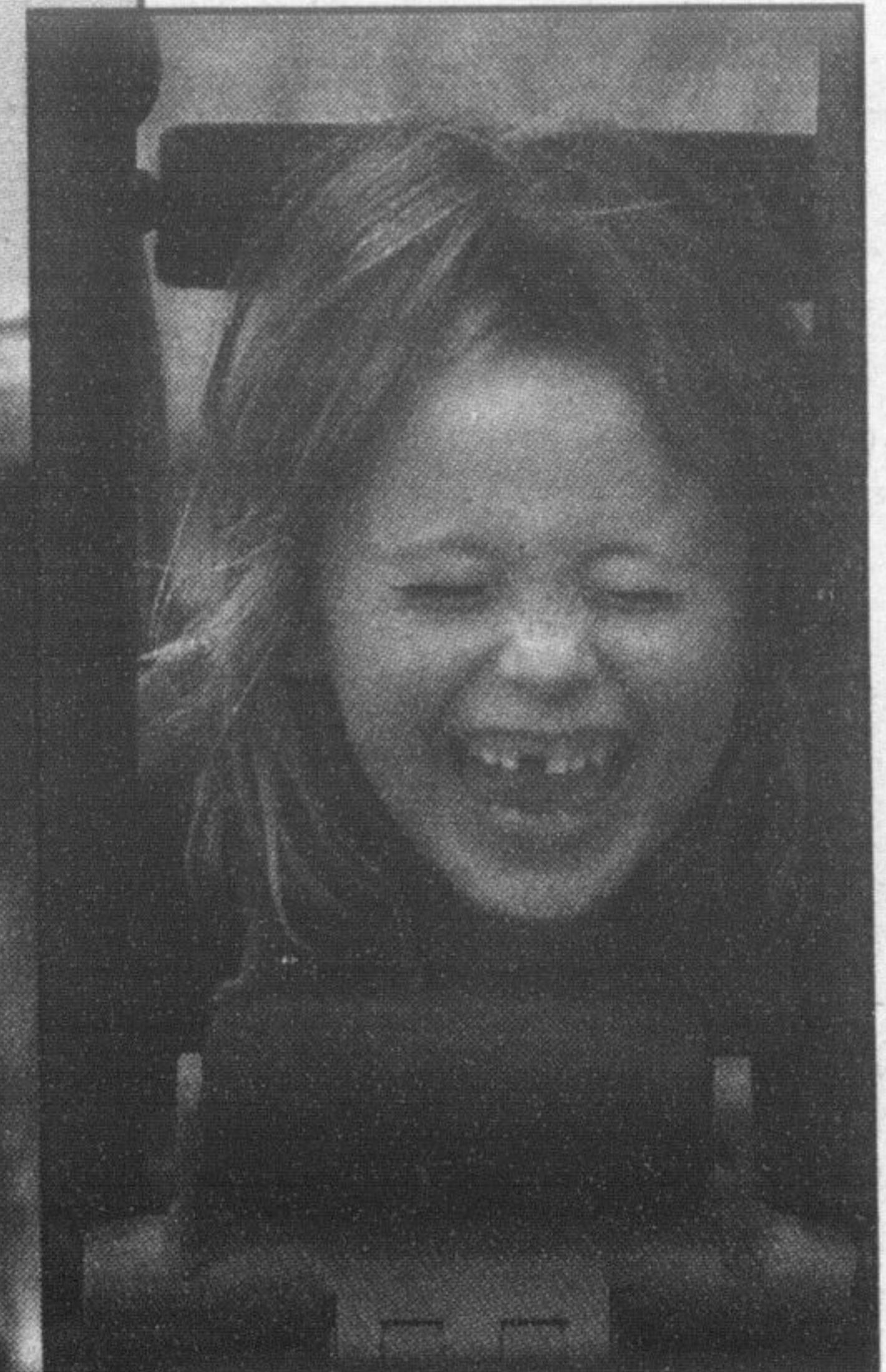
He smiled when he saw that a blue second-place ribbon sat neatly beside the well-constructed silver castle, made from plywood, juice cans and toilet paper rolls. Samuel's father, Richard, said his son wants to be an architect when he grows up.

Derek Jones, a grade 2 teacher at Brookville Public School, said he helped the children in his class prepare their entries for the fair.

"They love it," Mr. Jones said of the annual competition. "They like it when they win a prize and get to come and see something that's theirs."

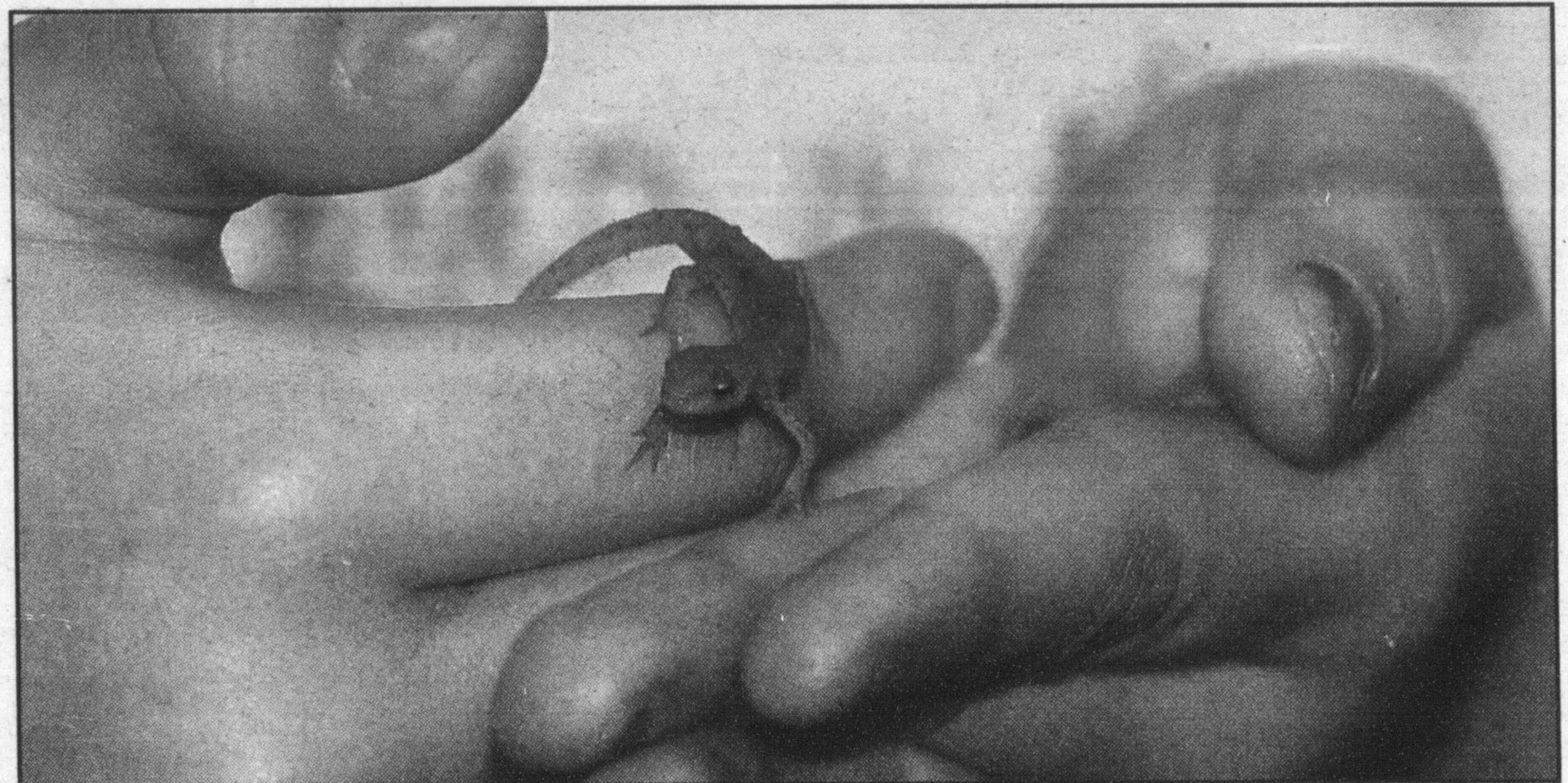
As he checked the results of his class's section of coloured pictures, Mr. Jones said: "I'm just excited for the kids. A lot of them have tried really hard and it's exciting when they're rewarded."

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At left, 12-year-old Jacob Plowman gets ready to compete in the Junior Showmanship class of the Youth Beef Show with 'Miss Daisy' — an 18-month-old Heifer. Jacob and Miss Daisy took first place in the class Saturday afternoon. Inset, young fall fair visitor Stefanie Basket, 6, enjoys all the thrills of the midway's cliff hanger ride.

Photos by  
GRAHAM PAINE



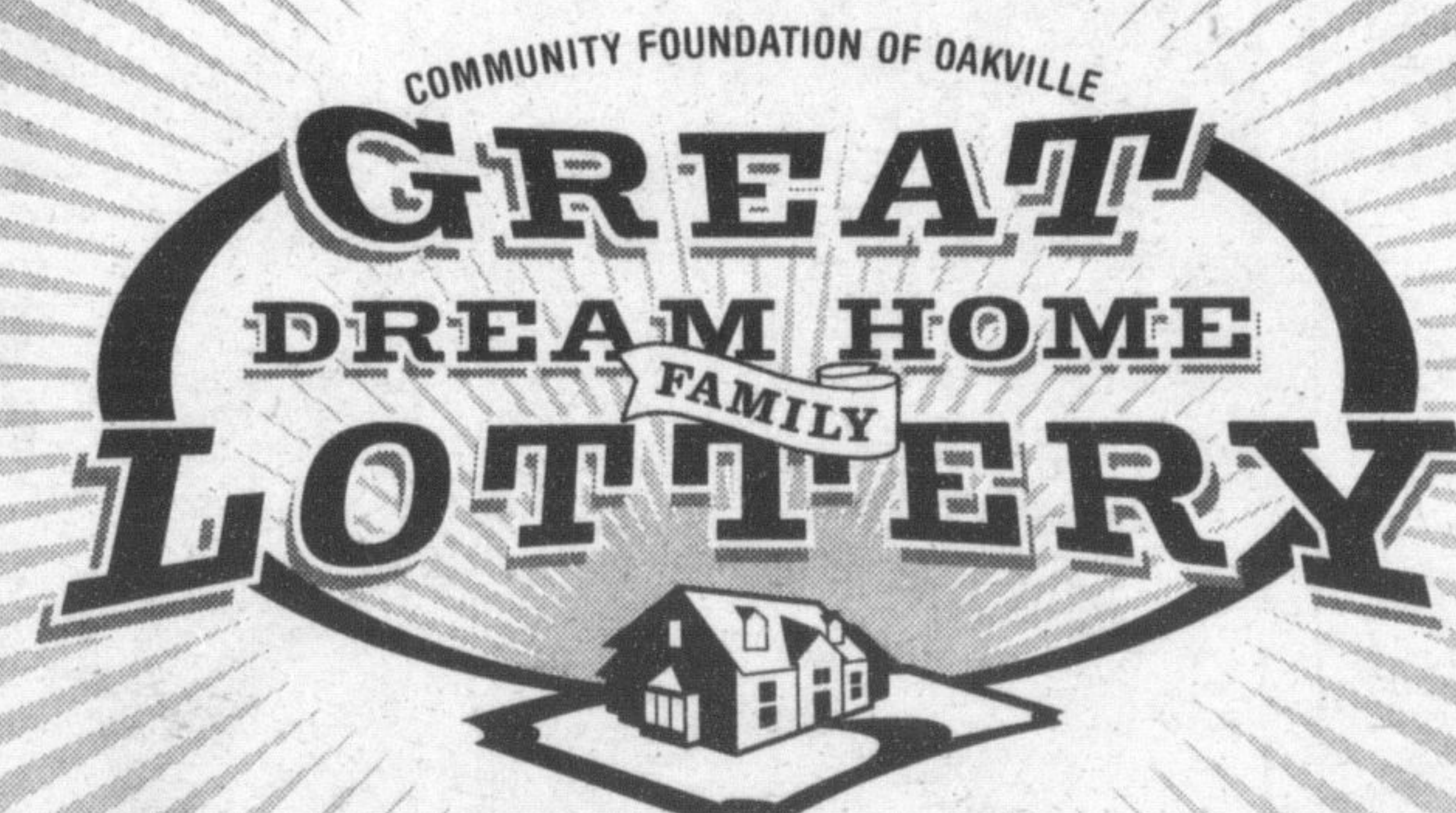
The children's pet show at the fall fair Saturday morning featured a wide variety of pets, such as this pet newt, shown by Breanna Haringa in the most unusual pet category.

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