

Markham Fair '82

Local farmer set to take reigns

By T. ROGERS GARDHAM
Tradition is the key word when one talks to Barry Little, a 42-year-old dairy farmer and 1st vice-president of Markham Fair. His farm on the north side of Steeles Avenue, at R.R. 2, Markham, has been owned by his family since it was settled in 1834 and he is the third generation to live there and work the land.

When visited recently he was busily filling the loft of his barn, built in 1915, with cut straw for cattle bedding. While methods of farming have changed and the barn loft is now filled with the assist-

ance of two tractors and a mechanized farm wagon, with one man supervising the flow of straw to the mow of the barn through a door-sized opening in the side of the barn 30 feet in the air, the basic needs of cattle husbandry continue to be filled.

Barry remarks that he is constantly amazed at the adaptability of the structure of the barn to today's methods and at the foresight of the builders.

Barry, his father and grandfather before him, have owned a herd of prize-winning Jersey cattle, since Grandfather Little

established the herd in 1891. It is the oldest continuing Jersey herd maintained in one location in Canada. Tradition!

It should come as no surprise then that Barry's first major exhibit at Markham Fair in 1952 was a Jersey calf. He admits that he also entered exhibits at the Poultry and Pet show. He also recounts how his neighbor across the road, Maurice Hamill, president of the Fair in 1962, nominated him for Junior Director in 1959, when he was still attending Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. He became chairman of the Jersey cattle show in 1962, and has been associated with the Fair organization pretty well ever since. Barry is slated to be president of the Fair in 1983.

Over the years Mr. Little has seen many notable changes in the Fair. In the past, due to

the size of the Fair, many of the changes in buildings and show rings were completed by large "work bees" composed of area farmers. Today the Fair has become much larger and more diversified, as a result much of the organizing work is of a specialized nature, with grounds and building rentals requiring implementation of techniques more commercial in nature. As a result he feels the directors today require a broader, more comprehensive knowledge of the Fair.

Barry explains, "The midway and commercial areas of the Fair have grown since I began. In earlier days most of the concession and food booths were provided by ladies' auxiliaries and churches."

He also indicates that the agricultural impact of the Fair has changed with more and

larger classes with increased prize money. He also believes the quality of livestock entered has improved over the years, particularly at Markham Fair.

Barry exhibits at various fairs in Ontario: Richmond Hill, the CNE, and the Royal Winter Fair among them. He is also a judge for Jersey cattle competitions but is unable to do as many as he would like due to time constraints. He is also a member of the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club and the Cedar Grove Community Club.

Throughout his Fair activity, his wife Aileen is a great support according to Barry. She "does the book work for the shows and is also on the committee for the display 'Christmas Collections' in the Ladies' Homecraft Building." The Littles' helpers, twin daughters Kim and Kelly, and son Christopher, are also active assistants at Fair time.

"When my grandfather showed cattle at the CNE," says Barry, "He drove (walked) the herd to the grounds and it took two days with an overnight stop at a relative's place in Don Mills. Today herds are trucked many miles to get to the Fair and the cost has risen dramatically." As a result, we have had to increase prize money to attract more competition. Still," he adds, "the main reason for attending is the pride in having the best cattle on show."

For example, last year at Markham Fair, the 'Grand Champion' male and female Jerseys went on to win at the Royal Winter Fair.

Barry wants to see new approaches to showing various classes. This year a commentator will provide the Fair visitor with a description of what the judges are looking for, explain what is happening, and provide information on special aspects of the breed. He says, "The ultimate display would be a full scale milking set up to show the daily milking process."

As well this year, there will be a new class of beef cattle at the Fair for Semmental cattle which are "reddish-brown and white spotted" animals. Beef cattle now range through classes for Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, Semmental and

Charolais, as well as a Commercial Steer Show and Auction on Saturday. The dairy breeds will be represented by classes for Ayreshire, Guernsey, Holstein and Jersey.



Barry Little, destined to be the 1983 president of the Markham Fair, is the third generation of his family to farm in this area. — Don Bernard

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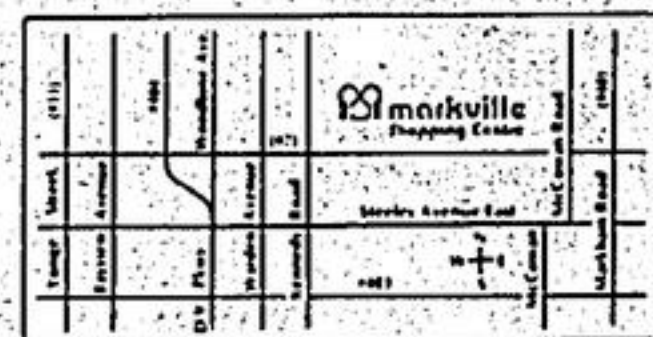
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Markham area Guides and Brownies will be well represented at the Markham Fair this year. The ladies auxiliary will have a food booth at the fair offering such goodies as home baking, sandwiches and beverages.

Photo exhibition opens next week

Image '82, a juried exhibit of black and white silverprint photographs, opens at Stouffville's Latcham Gallery on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m.

The show is open to all photographers, who could win prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 for their work. The exhibit will be on display at the gallery until Oct. 31.

According to a brochure, the exhibit is open to all photographers. A total of three photos can be submitted by each photographer and all must be black and white silverprints. All works must be framed and ready to hang. Entry fee is \$3 per photo. Works to go in the exhibit must be delivered to the gallery 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 1, 12-4 p.m. on Oct. 2 and 12-4 p.m. on Oct. 3. The gallery is located in the Whitechurch-Stouffville Library, located on Main Street in Stouffville. For information call 640-2395.

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