



THREE TIME CHAMPION

Shirley Matheson is shown with Romeo National Velvet, the big Hereford sire that has been senior and grand champion at Charlottetown for the past three years. Owned then by Gordon Matheson, Hunter River the big fellow is now in the Shed Acre farm Hereford herd at Union Road North. He won the all-beef bull championship here two years ago.



DEVELOPED FINE HERD

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Matheson, Hunter River, developed the fine Hereford cattle herd that was sold a few months ago to the Shed Acre farm owned by Island Development Company at Union Road North.

Matheson family possesses high showmanship record

"He's the best beef bull I ever saw" was the enthusiastic comment of Gordon Matheson, Hunter River on Romeo National Velvet the herd sire he sold a few months ago to Shed Acre Farm which is owned by Island Development Company. E. H. (Ernie) Himmelman who bred Romeos, will likely not agree with this but Gordon rates the Romeo bull even over the sire. Whiter National Velvet, the imported English bull that was a Royal-Winter Fair Grand Champion several years ago. Mr. Matheson admits that the sire was a better show bull but he thought Romeo was "a thicker, a better beef bull," and that's rating him really high. Romeo is now at Shed Acre Farm, Union Road where almost the entire herd, 34 females and two bulls, Romeo and one of his sons, are now a part of the herd that's aiming, I was told recently, at 100 breeding females, which would mean approximately 300 animals in all.

Showing the Matheson herd were Shirley and Heather Matheson, the pretty, look-alike sisters who brought glamor as well as marked showmanship ability into the showing. Shirley showed Romeo, the big White-face sire, and it was Heather who usually showed Miriam's Lass, for example, the cow that won the grand female championship three years ago and held it in succeeding years. Shirley started in show when she was two years of age, at began when she was 10. Both girls were good, apparently from the start. They received many compliments from judges who often had difficulty, though, in telling them apart. One judge at the Atlantic Winter Fair observed to Mrs. Matheson, the former Mart Vickerson, of North River that it took him sometime to realize there were actually two Matheson girls showing, as first one and then the other would bring a medal into the ring. The two girls started as 4-H Club members, as so many good showmen and showgirls do. Shirley is now a student at St.

Dunstan's University. Heather is in high school. A son, Vernon, is operating a service station at the Belvedere corner, near Charlottetown. It was ill health, actually a persistent misery in his back, that persuaded Mr. Matheson to dispose of his pure bred herd. There was also another problem. He only had 45 acres of land, which was a constant handicap to any man trying to build up a herd of sizeable proportions. Mr. Matheson still has a few pure bred Hereford bulls left but his efforts are directed now toward feeder cattle — he has about 40 at the present time — which he will develop and sell as commercial beef animals. A word of explanation regarding the decision to show the Shed Acre Farms herd at the Provincial Exhibition. The herd is not being bred and developed for show purposes, and Mr. Margison explained they would not be showing off the Island, though he has no objection if the people in charge of the herd want to show some of them at Charlottetown.

GRAND
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

breed." And W. J. (Bill) Reid, then with the provincial department of agriculture, used her as a model at various shows on the Island. Mr. Boswell recalled. A picture of four Boswell cows in this special edition, shows a production quartet that accounted for close to 350,000 pounds of milk and some are still producing. Lealand's Nina's Flash produced 100,000. Lealands Royal Flash more than 95,000 and the other two were Margaret Rose and Victoria 7th who is now carrying the service of a British Columbia sire and expected to freshen soon. All four were sired by Leitchcroft Gay Champion that their son, the late Edward Boswell, sent down from the Leitchcroft farm near Toronto where he was working at the time. Champion was sired by a Scottish bull Lessnessock World Champion, owned by Montgomery Brothers and out of Westburn White Clover considered one of their finest cows. Leitchcroft Gay Champion's mother was out of a daughter of Cherry Bank Gem Third, and the "Steadfast" bull mentioned already, was out of a full sister of Gem.

male and the reserve junior male champion, among other things last year. It was much easier to get into farming efficiently when Mr. Boswell was a young man than it is now. Those were the days of the plow and harrows, hay-mower and the rake. Keith had a manure spreader which few had in those days. And he had a binder which not every farmer had then either. A binder cost about \$125 back around 1910 — it cost more when Keith started to farm, but there was no comparison between it and the expensive combine of today. For \$1,000 in those days a man could gather up a pretty efficient bunch of machinery and there were few who had that much money laid out in the equipment to run a farm. The same amount wouldn't buy one good machine today. Keith had five to six workhorses in those early days before farm tractors made the horse obsolete. Raising draft horses was profitable then with a really good animal bringing \$200 or more a sizable sum in those days. One of the horses he remem-

bers is the big Percheron Stallion he lost in his fire. The animal, owned jointly by himself and his uncle, Walter Lea, had been insured for \$1,000 but the premium was \$55,000 for the year and the insurance was dropped just a few months before the fire. He had come from Illinois and weighed 1900 pounds at three years. He also had a registered Clydesdale mare at the same time as the Percheron stallion. A cross of the two brought a big gelding of 1,650 pounds that brought \$300 from Frank Adams, Halifax who was well known to an older generation of horsemen. Standard bred horses bred at Lealands Farm included Miss Victoria — Jimmy Power raced her — Lealands who was bought by the late Willard Kelly. Southport and Lealands Pride was the dam of Sir Hal that won the Donnie Turner Stake a few years ago for 3-year olds with a purse of \$5,000. A Standard Bred mare on Lealands Farm now is carrying the service of Walter Rosecroft, Miss Victoria, incidentally, was out of Miss Possibility, sire Kalmuch. One of Miss Victoria's

But she's keenly interested in the farm and the cattle. The morning before this story was researched she had set the alarm for three o'clock to see a cow they were expecting to freshen. Edward who died in 1959 was one of the biggest factors in building the herd during the period in which he was active. A top showman he had won the championship for snowmanship at Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro when he was a student there in 1942. Jean, Mrs. Charlie Howatt, Victoria is vice-president of the Maritime executive for United Church women. Maylea, now Mrs. Ralph Anning, Charlottetown will be remembered as the lady who was Women's Institute supervisor in previous years. David who is director of physical education and alcoholic studies for the province, has his master's degree in physical education from Springfield, Mass. Ruth, Mrs. John Schiller, Moncton has her associateship in music. Alan is taking his master's degree at Purdue University and Bryce is at home.

KITCHENER, Ont. (CP) — eight. "The time to learn French is when you are young," Mrs. Robert Camp opened an all-French nursery school here she said. "The children's minds are so flexible that they haven't any difficulty picking up a second language at the age of four."

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