

RANCHIN'

AND

RELAXIN'

By Mary Jo Wobker

Some college students dream of hopping into a car and taking off for parts unknown.

Laurie Miller, daughter of Missouri Angus cattle rancher, David R. Miller, lived that dream. Last summer, Miller, equipped with several pairs of Levis and her recently purchased '74 Camaro, left Manhattan, Kansas and headed West.

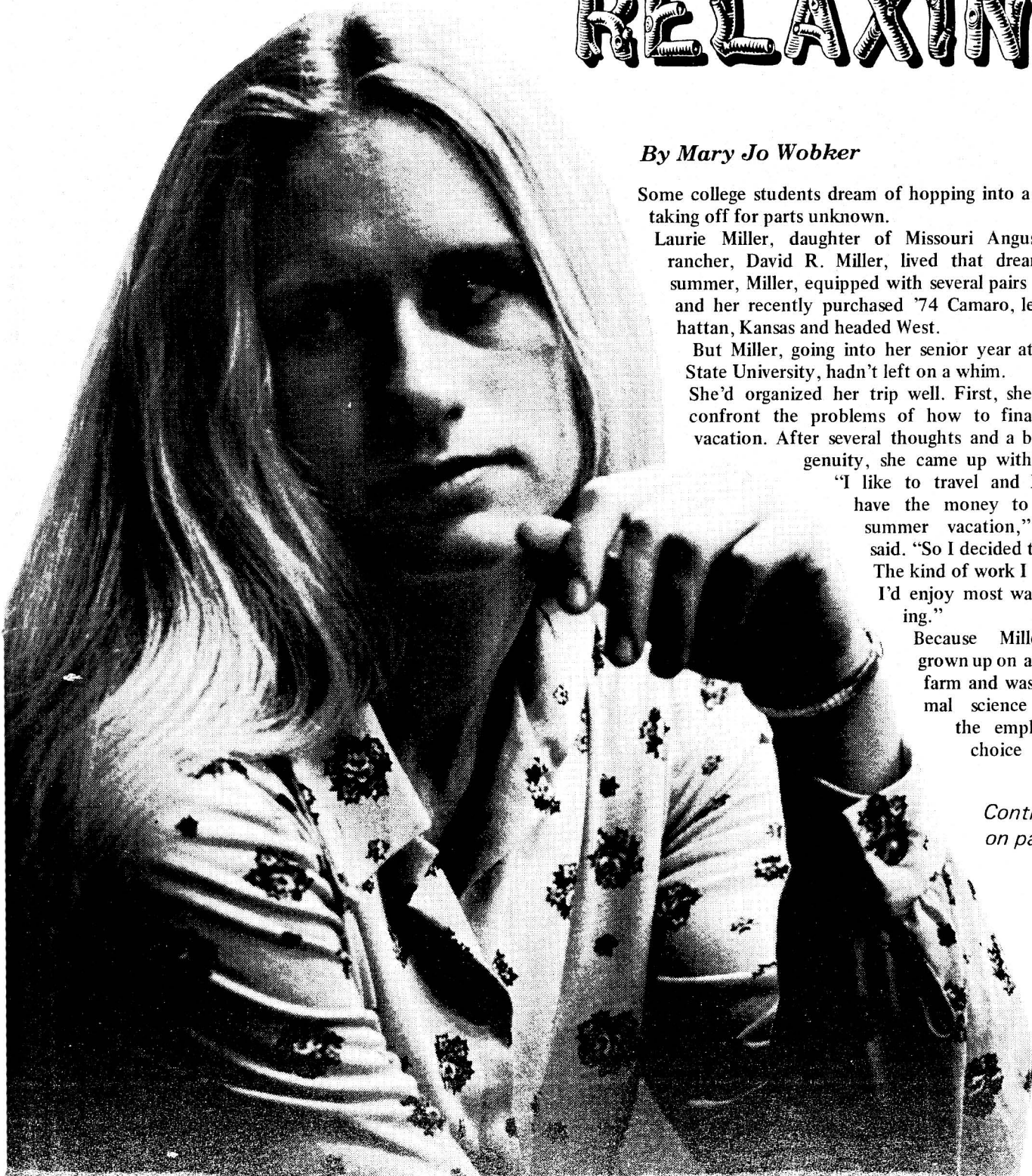
But Miller, going into her senior year at Kansas State University, hadn't left on a whim.

She'd organized her trip well. First, she had to confront the problems of how to finance her vacation. After several thoughts and a bit of ingenuity, she came up with a way.

"I like to travel and I didn't have the money to take a summer vacation," Miller said. "So I decided to work. The kind of work I thought I'd enjoy most was ranching."

Because Miller had grown up on an Angus farm and was an animal science major, the employment choice seemed logical.

*Continued
on page 118*



After deciding how she'd earn her travel money, Miller needed to decide where she'd earn it.

She wrote the American Angus Association for names of some "good ranches." From then on it was a matter of planning.

"I wrote 15 ranches and told them I'd like to earn my room and board. I didn't ask for pay but I told them if they felt my work was worth more than my lodging and meals that would be fine," Miller said.

She received eight positive responses and planned her vacation around them.

Miller left Manhattan after Memorial Day and stopped at the Norquist Ranch in Council Grove, Kansas for a week of checking cattle.

Next, she treated herself to a visit home at Sun Up Angus Ranch and then to the Garney Cattle Company, Afton, Oklahoma.

"I was really impressed with the Garney Cattle Company," Miller said, "It was really well managed and organized. Everybody had a job to do and did it. It seemed very efficient and had a great promotional program. I

Continued on page 120

RANCHIN' AND RELAXIN'
Continued from page 118

learned the most about pedigrees at the ranch and got me two real good friends, the Bramwells."

After Afton, Miller swung through Denver to visit a friend then headed toward Belgrade, Montana for some odd jobs with Chuck Callantine. A few days later, she was moving cattle at the Rolling Rock Ranch.

Miller hit the Sitz Ranch at Harrison, Montana, but visited more than worked. Then, for a change of pace, she utilized some of her other talents.

Miller is a scholarship women's basketball player at K-State. In fact, she's such a good player she competed in the 1976 University World Games in Bulgaria. It wasn't surprising that Washington State University, Pullman, accepted her offer to assist in its summer basketball camp. She spent two weeks at the camp before moving on.

"I met a friend at the camp and she said she'd put me up for a few days," Miller said. "So we went to Oregon, laid on the beach and just took it easy."

From Oregon, she headed for Calistoga, California and the La Franchi Brothers Ranch and, finally, to San Francisco for some sight-seeing.

She took advantage of coast prices and sold her car at a profit. She made enough on the deal to fly home.

Miller said she learned a lot about Angus ranching on her trip and gained information important in her college major. "But most of all," Miller said, "I gained friends." ☐