

Petey's First Show




Story by *Corinne Blender*

Photos by *Corinne Blender & Cara Bieroth*


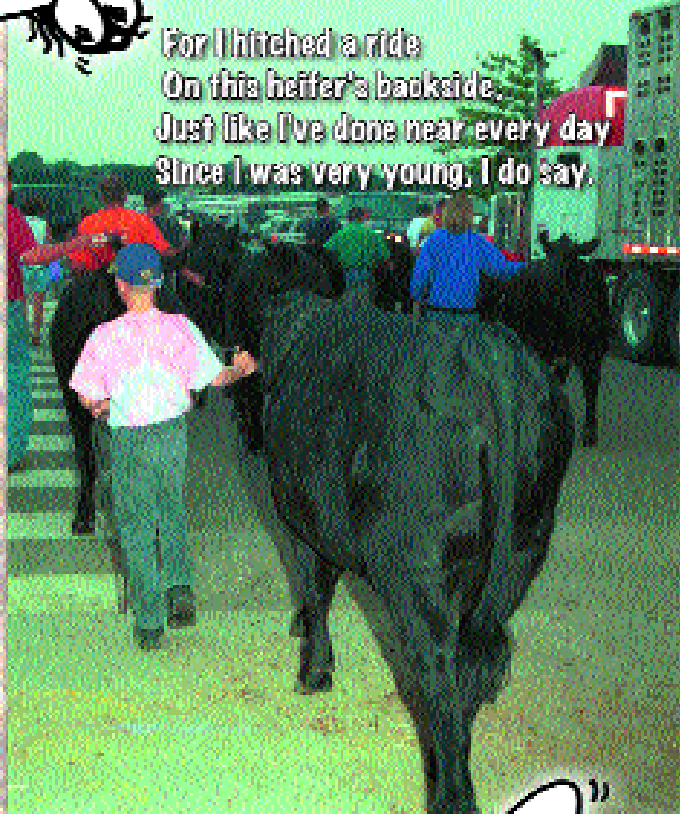


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I find myself in a place that's buzzin'.
Why, to me, this is all rather puzzlin'.

For I hitched a ride
On this heffer's backside.
Just like I've done near every day
Since I was very young, I do say.



I'm not in Kansas anymore,
So from here I must soar
On my way to explore
This new country I see before.

Hey, watch out for that fan.



There's tasty feed in this here pan.





Up go the displays —
Looks like they'll be
here for days.

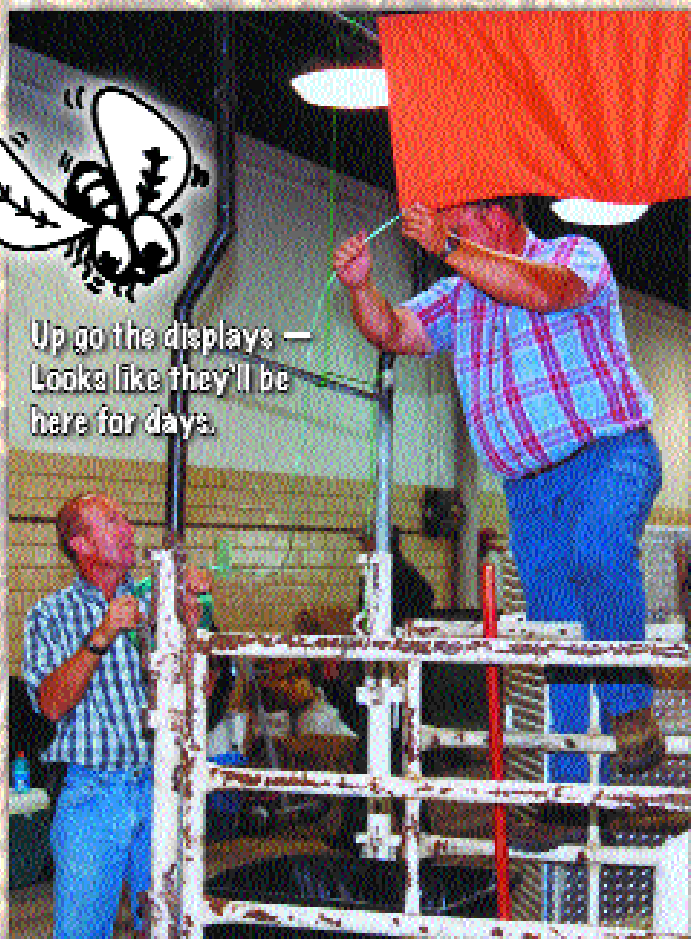
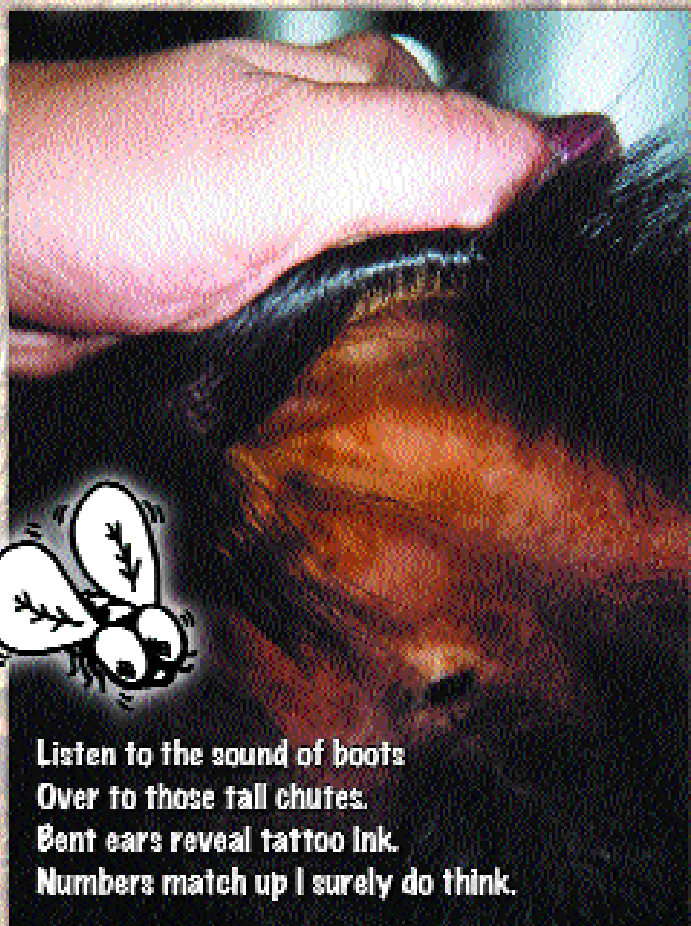


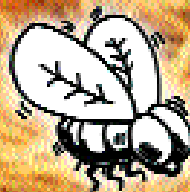
PHOTO BY SHEILA STANNARD



Wood chips tightly packed,
All hay bales are stacked.



Listen to the sound of boots
Over to those tall chutes.
Bent ears reveal tattoo ink.
Numbers match up I surely do think.



Little light is left in the day.
Time to go lay out in soft hay.

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But sooner than later
Stardust from the skies
Wakes up sleepy eyes.



Today is the show.
Come on heifer, let's go.
So it's off to the stalls
Hearing loud P.A. calls:

"First class starts at eight.
Juniors exhibitors, let's not be late."



The wash rack's plenty full
With cows, calves and bull.



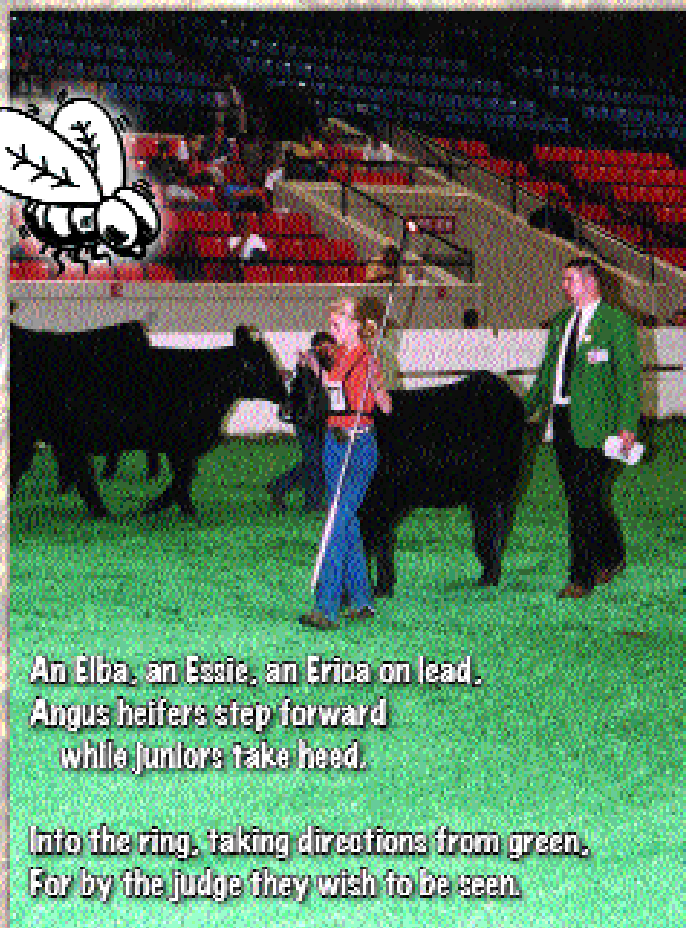
Green snakes, white foam,
All capped off with a forward comb.



Blades are a hummin'
Just like my wings.
Juniors turn helpers into beautiful things.



A cloud of black mist drifts through air.
This surely will hold all that black hair.



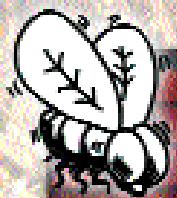
An Elba, an Essie, an Erica on lead,
Angus heifers step forward
while juniors take heed.

Into the ring, taking directions from green,
For by the judge they wish to be seen.

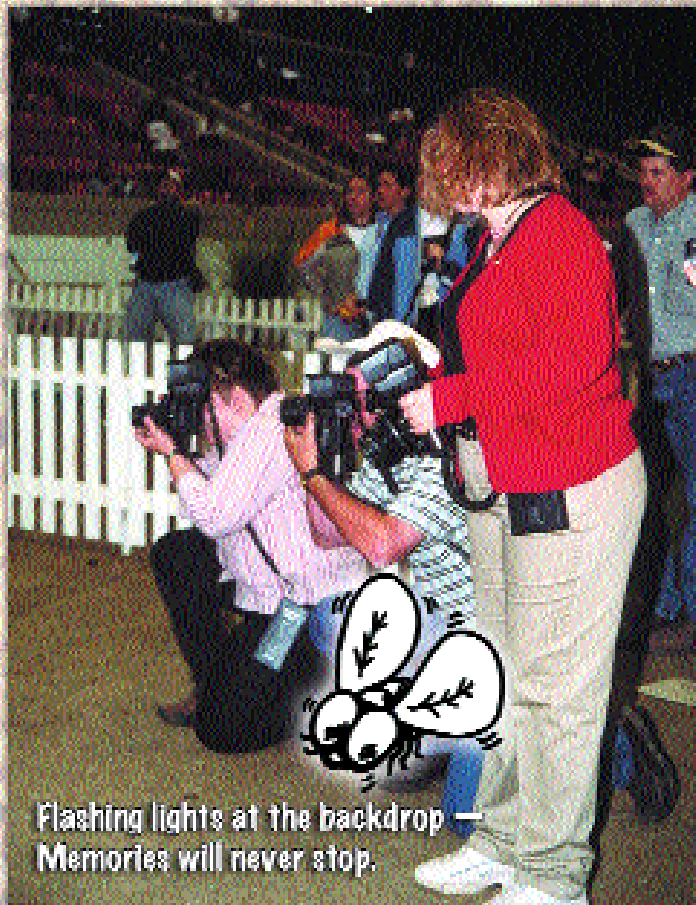


One more time 'round this ring:
A slap for purple won't sting.

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Hear the roar from the crowd
Like thunder in a cloud.

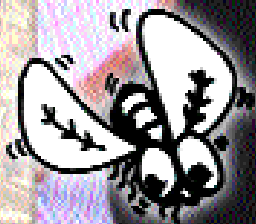


Flashing lights at the backdrop —
Memories will never stop.



I may be small,
But I still experienced it all.

I'm glad I was in tow
To see the world's largest
single-breed beef show.



The end