

FAIR TIME



Les Keller, manager of the James Lowes' Rancho del Eliseo in Bonny Doon, trims up ranch's prize bull for fair

... Just Four Days Away

By Betty Bushman

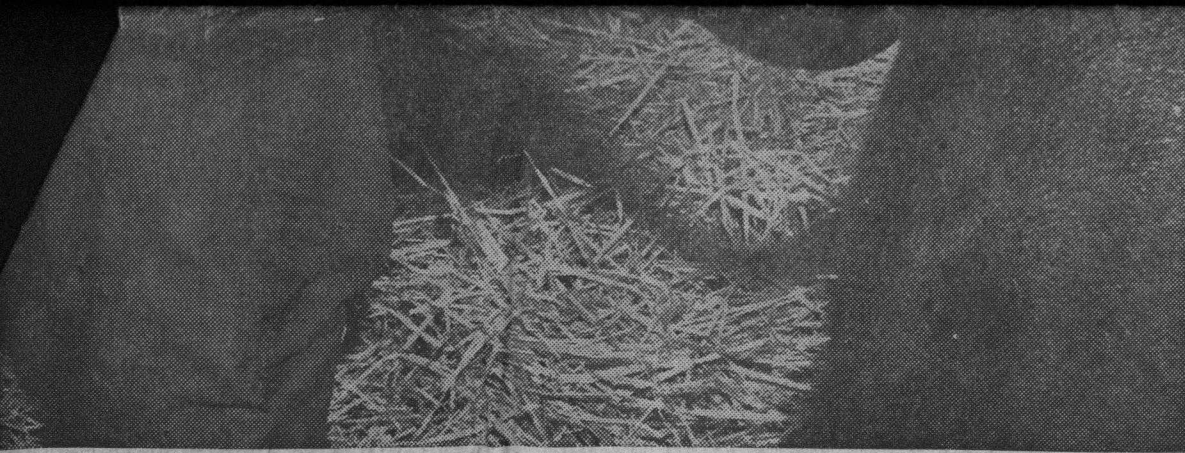
You'd think Christmas was coming, for all the excitement to be found right now in Santa Cruz county's rural areas.

Sewing machines are going full speed as aprons and dresses, shirts and skirts are being finished with more than usual care.

The prize bull gets his whiskers trimmed and his tail fluffed out—back-combed, in fact, just like the girls do it for their bouffant hairdo's.

The Big Show starts Thursday at 10 a. m., to run through Sunday at the Hecker Pass fairgrounds east of Watsonville. And according to all reports, there's going to be a record number of entries.

Among the many families who will be participating are the Les Kellers of the James Lowe ranch in Bonny Doon, shown getting ready for the big event in the accompanying pictures. The Kellers have taken part in the fair every year since 1946, showing the Lowes' prize cattle as well as helping many of the county's 4-H youngsters with their animal projects. Their



Taking the bull by the tail—to pretty it up for the fair—is Tex Burton of the Lowe ranch, watched by his awe-struck daughters, Beverly, 3, and Ellen, 9



Mrs. Les Keller supervises the apron 11-yr-old Lana Ricci is making for the fair

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II Family Interest Section

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Show horses get their coats brushed, brushed and brushed to shine like copper. Lambs get curried—while still on the hoof.

And in the kitchen, there's an extraordinary amount of cooking, canning and baking going on.

What's up?

Why, the Santa Cruz County Fair, of course!

daughters, Peggy, 16, and Barbara, 12, also have entered their steers each year since they were 10 and old enough to belong to 4-H.

This year Mr. and Mrs. Keller are serving as organization leaders for the Empire 4-H club. She also is the club's clothing leader and will have 10 of her girls exhibiting garments they've made.

Besides keeping an eye on the cattle entered, Keller has the responsibility of being the chaperon for the 4-H boys who will be staying with their livestock all through the fair.

Tex Burton, also of the Lowe ranch and the Empire club's tractor leader, will go down to the fair Friday to help show the cattle. His 11-year-old son, Wayne, will be entering his first steer this year.

—Photos by Pete Amos



Among fair's best-groomed steers will be those entered by Wayne Burton, 11, and the Keller sisters, Barbara, 12, and Peggy, 16