

GCIS: Cow Days History

By **CLEVIS JEFFRIES**
STAFF WRITER

The origin of Cow Days began on October 16, 1928, about 90 years ago.

At that time, it was referred to as Jersey Day, said Green County Public Library genealogist Laura Johnson, who presented a history of Cow Days to Green County Intermediate School students Friday celebrating Grandparents Day.

Jersey Day was held in the fall as part of a junior club exhibit to show off their animals. Merchants in Greensburg went together to purchase a purebred Jersey cow as a prize giveaway to mark the special occasion.

Johnson said that prior to that day Greensburg storeowners gave tickets for several weeks in their stores leading up to the big event to those who had made purchases.

Though it was officially called Jersey Day, most of the local newspaper ads at that time called it Give-away Day or Cow Day.

An estimated three to four thousand people were in attendance for the first Cow or Jersey Day, arriving in cars, buggies, wagons and even on horseback, she said.

Ethel Shively was the lucky winner of that first Jersey cow, the genealogist said, and merchants also had some 64 other prize drawings that day. Given away were items such as a set of white plates, a twenty-pound bag of sugar, ladies stockings, a man's hat, a watch, one gallon of syrup and a chicken.

Besides the giveaways and the 4-H Club animal shows, there were other events that day, including a junior bird-house contest, a small four-person orchestra who entertained the crowd and a plea to help the crippled children of Kentucky with local ladies and high school girls soliciting monetary support that day, Johnson said.

She noted that after one Jersey Day, the name was changed to Cow Day and was held more than one time during the year.

"Cow Day was a big success, but it only lasted for a little while. The Great Depression and hard times fell on everyone. No one seemed to have money. Cow Day came to an end for a long time," Johnson said.

She commented that in 1973 Greensburg Rotary President George Huddleston had the idea to re-



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

Laura Johnson, Green County Public Library, spoke to Green County Intermediate School students and their guests Friday afternoon about the history of the Cow Days Festival.

vive Cow Day. The fall event became a reality. Prizes were given away, including a cow and the local Rotary Club hosted the first ham breakfast that year.

In 1974, Cow Days expanded into a two-day fall event, with people traveling from all around the country to attend the festival. This time of year brought about homecomings for churches and families and a time for local high school class reunions.

Johnson mentioned that in 1979 Rotary President Gene Manno presented to the local club his idea of having a life-sized cow created that could be milked and serve as a symbol for Cow Days, she said.

Annie the Cow became a reality. A company from Wisconsin created the fiberglass

animal which was patented. Every Cow Days she is milked of her flavored liquids.

"She is the only one of her kind in the whole United States," the genealogist said.

According to Johnson, two years after the creation of Annie, Little Annie came along.

"There has always been a small price for milking Annie. For several years, the money was donated to buy milk for poor children in India. Now, the money is used by the Rotary Club through scholarships to help Green County students pay for their college education," she said.

This year Annie is 39 years of age and Little Annie is 37.

"They have been wonderful mascots for our festival," Johnson said.

Grandparents Day at GCIS



Fifth grade student Layton Scott enjoys his Ski float Friday at Green County Intermediate School, while "nanny" Susan Rainwater captures the moment with her cellphone.



Fourth-grader Elijah Bishop and "Grammy" Becky Barton, look over a book during the Book Fair Friday at GCIS.

Photos by
Clevis
Jeffries



Grandparents Betty Curry, left, and Russell and Kathy Parrish meet their granddaughter Ariel Smith before taking in the different activities Friday during Grandparent's Day at Green County Intermediate School.

1 of 7



Kentucky Healthcare Systems Designated As A Pathway To Excellence® Program



**Sharon Wright,
MSN, RN, NE-BC**
Administration



**Tracy Evans,
MSN, RN**
Information Technology



**Janette Stein,
MSN, RN**
Same Day Surgery



**Angela Wilson,
BSN, RN**
4 North Tower



**Aimee Wentz,
BSN, RN, CNOR**
Education



**Tara Huddleston,
BSN, RN, PCCN-K**
Information Technology



**Mary Bailey,
BSN, RN, NE-BC**
House Managers

Take us on your adventures!

Take a copy of the Record-Herald on your next vacation, snap a picture and send it to us. We'll print it in a future issue.



Email your photo to advertising@record-herald.com

Trusted. Supported. Awarded.