

'Lady of the Show Ring to return to '95 county fair

By ANDY OLIVER

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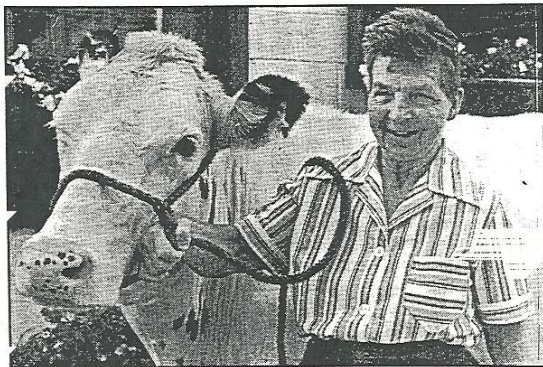
For nearly six decades, Frances Ruffi's name has been synonymous with showing champion Holsteins.

From the Green County Fair to the District Six Black and White Show, the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress and the Hokkaido, Japan, Breeder Conference, an institution.

In 1993, the Wisconsin Holstein News magazine honored Ruffi, 1123 11th Ave., with an article, bestowing on her the title of "Lady of the Show Ring."

In the show ring, she stands for all that is good and worth preserving in the tradition of showing cattle, that friendly, but serious competition among cattle breeders that promotes excellence, encourages pride and rewards farmers with more than a monthly milk check.

Those who have known her for at least some of the 57 years she has shown cattle must still recognize in this affable woman the 10-year-old girl who rushed to the barn when company came to throw



Times photo/ANDY OLIVER

LADY OF THE SHOW RING — Frances Ruffi, true to form, gets a heifer from the barn on her farm south of Twin Grove to pose for a picture. Ruffi, known as "The Lady of the Show Ring," has begun her 57th year of showing prize Holsteins.

a halter on her calf.

Her love for showing is as passionate today as it was then.

Her interest in showing cattle, engendered by her parents, John and Eva Ruffi, on their farm east of Monroe in Sylvester township, never diminished in ensuing years.

Today she credits this lifelong love to her parents for

their "support and encouragement" and their devotion "to the breeding of Holstein cattle."

"Showing is my hobby," Frances said. "I always liked it. When I was little, I enjoyed showing. I would get my calf

paper clippings and photographs to freshen her memory of the myriads of honors she earned in and out of the show