

Exhibitions kind to Judge family

An unusual success story unfolded when I visited the dairy farm of Bishan Singh Judge on Cowichan Lake Road last week. The story began when his grandmother died in India. Leaving his infant son with a relative, Bishan's grandfather Gernasha Singh left his home in the Punjab and set out to make a new life for himself.

He first worked as a policeman in Hong Kong, then came to Canada where he worked in a brickyard in Victoria on the site of the present Woodward's store. Seventeen years later, in 1923, he returned to India and brought his 18-year-old son Jager to Victoria. After working at several laboring jobs, Jager persuaded his father to buy a farm.

Together they progressed and grew, purchasing their first dairy farm on Epsom Drive near the spot where the CHEK T.V. station used to be.

Jager married and brought his wife Dhanti to the farm. She bore him three sons and four daughters, all who helped in the family business. In 1940 they moved to a larger farm on West Saanich Road and moved again in 1950 to Burnside Road. Up to this time they raised only grade cows but in 1948 purchased their first

Indo Canadian

Joan Mayo



PRIZE COW . . . The Judge family, which has farm holdings throughout the Cowichan Valley, have earned a reputation for their dairy cows at fairs and exhibitions. One such prize is Shuries Crystal Shiek.

registered holstein, a cow name Kew Farm Judy Vale.

At the Cowichan Exhibition in 1951 they won with their cham-

pion bull, Perfection Pride, then went on to win with several grand champion cows at the Saanich, Nanaimo and Duncan Exhibitions.

When Jager Singh retired he divided his business between his three sons, Joginder Singh, who started Judgevale Farm at Cassidy, now run by his two daughters Angie and Pauline, Kalla Singh, who chose the Cobble Hill area for his Hipower Farm, and Bishan Singh, whose Jager Farm is on Cowichan Lake Road next to Tansor Elementary School.

One daughter Gegander Kour and her husband own and operate Privost Farm on Drinkwater Road. All are holstein dairy farmers.

The original family farm on Bunside Road is now rented as a horse stables where they breed wesh ponies.

visited the home of Bishan and Louise Judge on Cowichan Lake Road and was shown many of the trophies and other prizes won by their prize herd. Their photo albums are filled with pictures taken at the PNE, The Spring Show at Matsqui, the Saanich Fair, Nanaimo Exhibition and the local Cowichan Exhibition where

the Judge family is well known in the holstein circle.

They showed me their many certificates of merit. One for Muirfield who was judged Best B.C. Five-Year-Old in 1982 and also won the 1982 Reserve All Western for B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The cow in the above picture, Shuries Crystal Shiek was judged Best All B.C. Five-Year-Old in 1985. This year they won the Best Mature Cow for 1986 at the B.C. Holstein Spring Show in Matsqui and the same cow won for the Best Udder In Show for all ages in 1986 at Matsqui.

Bishan and his wife Louise, who helps with the milking and regular chores as well at the book-keeping and filling in the dozens of registration papers, have 170 head of registered holsteins. One hundred of them are mature milking cows. With the help of their daughter Janette and son Daryl and wife they handle all the milking chores.

They follow the modern practice of artificial insemination and have been very successful with the more recent practice of embryo transplants.