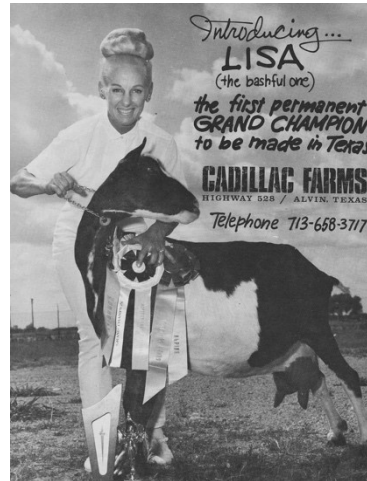


Director Emerita: Vivian Proctor



Milking parlor 1956-Ever the Showgirl!



1965 with GCH Rexwood Cadillac Lisa 6*M,

Vivian Proctor claimed that she was born on Feb. 29, 1918, in Cincinnati, OH, the only daughter of an only daughter of an only daughter. When asked why she never had children; she retorted, "It was time for that sequence to end." As a fortunate survivor of the Great Flu Epidemic of 1918, Vivian had respiratory issues her entire life. At three years of age, she announced to her mother that she wanted to dance. As a dancer, Vivian was a teenage prodigy featured at such venues as the Palmer House in Chicago. Tragedy struck their family early. Vivian's father was in the newspaper business and was one of those who decided to take the dive off the Ohio River Bridge during the Great Collapse of '29. She focused on her career and would remain obsessed with appearance/fitness her entire life. Her favorite food aphorism was "a moment on the lips and a lifetime on the hips!" Her early success allowed her to mingle with the show biz elites, even in New York. She would quip that the advantage to her birth date was that she would age very slowly since she only had a birthday every four years! One of her more stunning acts in the late 1930's was riding an elephant followed by sliding under it while it stood on two front legs.

Vivian was working at a Houston club, seeking the most economical room and board available when associates directed her to George's former nanny who operated a trailer court/boarding facility for itinerant musicians and show people. In 1944, at a communal dinner, she met the "cutest little butterball" she had ever seen, George Lucas. It was a love at first sight that would last fifty-two years. They married on January 29, 1946. Vivian put George into a fitness regimen and incorporated him into her act. "The Proctor's Devotion in Motion" soon worked major hotels in Chicago, Houston, and Havana. providing opening acts for such celebrities of the period as Dean Martin with Jerry Lewis and Liberace. One of George and Vivian's signature acts was what George described to me as the Jungle Rumble. He would appear solo on stage in as skimpy a pair of leopard skin briefs as protocols would allow and warm up the audience. Once the audience's full attention was at the stage, Vivian would make a loud "war" cry from the wings, perform a series of cartwheels, ever-increasing in speed around him, and then vault into a double somersault into the air to land standing on George's shoulders. She would be equally

marginally clothed in a leopard-skin bikini. When invited to perform on the Ed Sullivan TV show in the early 1950's, a test of wills ensued about her outfit. George insisted that the act could not be safely performed unless his hands could have direct contact to bare skin. Vivian became the first female to appear on American TV clad only in a bikini! Needless to say, the constant, repetitive impact on George's spinal column would soon take its toll. So in 1954, a decision was made to retire to their farm near Alvin, a Houston suburb. But, what to do next?

Both he and Vivian wanted to raise some sort of critter on their property. Considered options were chickens, ponies, and dairy goats. George saw a newspaper ad for a local goat show, called the secretary to get the number of a local breeder, visited that premise, drank a glass of goat milk, went back the very next day to purchase a herd of fifty bred Nubian does, and the rest is dairy goat history. So, what to do when fifty Nubians freshen within a short period of time? Why, start a goat dairy of course! George at first juggled his hours between this new venture and selling cars. Vivian became a full-time goat caregiver. The milk was distributed by a Houston dairy. A handbook ad displayed a photo of the helicopter used to transport milk very quickly through the hot climate to downtown Houston, an arrangement undoubtedly due to one of George's "special connections". The Nubians had originally been registered with AGS but were soon re-registered with AMGRA. On September 28, 1954, they joined AMGRA using their stage name Proctor and registered "Cadillac" as a prefix. In 1965, they registered a second prefix: "Thunderbird."

George and Vivian were active participants in the Gulf Coast Dairy Goat Association and hosted its show in 1961 at Cadillac Farms. George applied his skilled salesmanship craft to the dairy herd so often that a frustrated Vivian would later say that she would just get a really good string of milkers going and then he would sell most of it out from underneath her. The Cadillac ad in the 1959 Handbook claimed that they were the leading exporter of dairy goats in the nation. With the export business expanding, they were outgrowing their farm in Alvin. In 1968, without even consulting Vivian, George purchased a 312-acre ranch in the hill country west of San Antonio. At first, Vivian was not at all amused! Leakey was a very small town in Frio Canyon and the county seat of Real County in the heart of Angora hill country. Their neighbors' spreads were thousands of acres of cedar scrub.

For the first years at Leakey, Vivian missed the bright lights and bustle of the big city. One way she adjusted to this was to go off to judge in Houston and then not return for a week. During her dancing career, she had never owned an actual house, but like many show people would move an Airstream trailer from location to location. This was how she arrived at George's nanny's court. Even after she and George were married, they continued to live in a large Airstream trailer at the farm in Alvin. The Leakey ranch home was the first and only permanent home they ever had. It had been recently enlarged and renovated and Vivian did enjoy the house. She was prone, however, to close off the large original living room/parlor so that she wouldn't have to clean it! Their Airstream trailer was moved to the ranch and became worker housing. Both George and Vivian traveled a lot to judge. George often drove across the southwest to purchase export goats as well. He was inordinately fond of turquoise/silver jewelry and stopped at remote trading posts throughout New Mexico and Arizona for further

acquisitions. Both he and Vivian adorned themselves with such jewelry well before it became fashionable for other judges to do so.

The first Cadillac Spotlight Sale consignment was in 1956. After 1962, Cadillac consignments consistently commanded the highest price for a Nubian in any given sale. Five times in 1962, 1972, 1974, 1975, and 1978, Cadillac Nubians brought the highest price in the entire sale. In the 1977 show summary, sixteen different Cadillac animals won official shows and four finished championships. In 1978, those totals were fourteen and six. While Nubians predominated, there were also Alpines, La Manchass, Saanens, and Toggenburgs. George and Vivian exhibited at their last show in June of 1971.

Cadillac animals were recognized not only in the show ring, but also appeared on AR Top Ten lists and were widely valued as breeding stock. Cadillac stock was sold across the country. Foundation sires and dams were placed in many herds, including Chateau Briant, ME; Noonshine, IN; Cherry Hill, VA; Semper Fidelis, IA; Poplar Hill, MN; and Oak Ledge, NE. Most of the bucks would become AR Herd Sires; many of the does would make AR. The INBA gave them the Breeder of Excellence Award in 1987. A few favorite La Manchass would be kept by Vivian, even after George died in 1996

Both George and Vivian were movers and shakers of ADGA from the 1950's into the early 2000's. Between the two of them, they chaired or served on most every committee. Both George and Vivian became officially licensed judges in 1958, the first year of the program. Vivian always made certain one was aware that hers was issued first at the actual first such TC in early summer, while George's was at the convention in the fall.

Vivian's first committee chairmanship was Official Shows in 1966 and continued through 1973. She lived for the intricacies of show rules! So, she always shook up the BOD with her reports. She succeeded George as director in 1983 and became the watchdog of ADGA; during a second tenure as chair of Official Shows from 2001-03, official judges who filed incomplete or incorrect show reports were publicly raked over the coals. She authored Article XIII, Sec. I of the ADGA Guidebook "Judging of 4-H Grooming and Showmanship" still in use today. Vivian received the Helen C. Hunt Distinguished Service Award in 1986. She finally loosened up a bit to reveal her true age and birthdate, which she had carefully avoided revealing. Although her health prevented her from fully participating in ADGA affairs in later years, she refused to resign from the BOD, intent on preserving her right to vote. She was defeated for re-election in 2010, losing by only a single vote! That same year she was elected Director Emerita and also received the Mary Farley Award. She was proud she made it to age 92, still living in her own home paid for by dairy goats. Vivian died in 2012, closing the curtain on a truly "class act" in ADGA's history (ed.) (Adapted by Elizabeth Henning from "Cadillac, Parts I & II" United Caprine News September 2016, p. 4; October 2016 p. 8 by Steve Considine)