



Fifth grader Ken Searman with his gigantic frog.



Wood Creek students put their frogs in the circle.

A hopping good time

By DIANE HUBEL

"I don't see no p'ints about that frog that is any better 'n any other frog," Mark Twain said in the "Celebrated Jumping Frog," but chances are 39 students at Wood Creek Elementary school were thinking it as when their frogs were out-jumped.

Never let it be said that Calaveras county has more to offer than Oakland. Calaveras may have had the first frog jumping contest, but ask any student at Wood Creek and they will tell you Oakland has the best.

THE COMPETITION was rough but two frogs managed to out jump the competition rest and win a blue ribbon for their owners.

Kindergarten Luke Harkness showed the big kids how it is done when his frog took first place. Craig Moilanens, a first grader was the second place winner.

Cherrie Vaillancourt's toad Winnie proved that size is no match for spirit. Winnie was small but she out

jumped all the other frogs in the first heat.

She was all set to go on and win the finals when somebody accidentally stepped on her. (She was hopping mad about it too.) At any rate, Winnie managed to pull herself together and took third place.

BETH WADSWORTH, a sixth grader won first place in the second group. A fourth grader, David Kent took second and Michael Baers came in third.

The frog jumping contest was divided into two parts, one for grades K-3 and the other for 4-6. Since so many frogs entered it was necessary to break these groups into smaller groups for individual heats.

The first three winners in each heat went on into the finals.

The frogs were placed in a circle and left on their own to jump out. Each child had to keep track of his own frog. Contest officials tried painting numbers on each frog but it just wouldn't work.



Alan Machnak points his frog in the right direction.

Photos by Fran Evert



Cherrie Vaillancourt comforts Winnie the toad after someone stepped on it.

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