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Photo by Amy Quesinberry Couch

Will the real possum please stand up? Tommy Burnett, the 1993 Possum Queen, gets acquainted with Jessica, the 2-year-old possum who will pick the 1994 queen during this Saturday's Possum Queen Pageant at the Florida Cracker Festival in downtown Winter Garden. The spot on Queen Tommy's snout is a dab of peanut butter, which he hoped would entice the possum into liking him.

## Jessica to select new Possum Queen at Saturday's Florida Cracker Festival

By Amy Quesinberry Couch

There will be a live possum to judge Saturday's Possum Queen Pageant after all.

Save the Wildlife, Inc. has saved the day — and the pageant — by offering to provide 2-year-old Jessica to do the honors at the pageant at this year's Florida Cracker Festival in downtown Winter Garden. Main Street Winter Garden located Jessica during a frantic search for a possum after Phoebe, the marsupial who for two years chose the pageant queen, died last year.

Jessica's sponsor is Gator Jungle, where she lives. She is the education possum for Save the Wildlife, which is headed by president Cindy Westra. According to Westra, Jessica was the only baby to survive in her mother's pouch when the

tainment, along with handmade arts and crafts, historic and citrus exhibitions, live animal exhibits, a children's play area and antique cars

will be featured throughout the day at this annual event.

(See *Festival*, page 7A)

### Postal cancellation to feature Cracker Festival

By Amy Q. Couch

Collectors of postal cancellations can add one more to their collections this Saturday, April 9, at the Florida Cracker Festival in Winter Garden. Main Street Winter Garden and the Winter Garden Post Office are teaming up to offer a cancellation stamp depicting a possum and the words

booth set up at the festival, and a postal clerk will be cancelling envelopes and postcards. There is no charge for the cancellation, but postcards depicting various Winter Garden scenes will cost 25 cents apiece or \$2 for a package of eight; a pick of eight notecards will cost \$3.50. Money raised from postcard sales will benefit the Main Street program