

# Homestead

## Notes

Pat Erway, Editor



Miss Kathy Early . . .

### This Chick is PA's Newest Poultry Ambassador

By Sally Bair  
Feature

Because of the urging and interest of her aunt and uncle, pretty 18-year-old Kathy Early, Lebanon RD4, is Pennsylvania's new Poultry Queen.

Kathy said her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John Starner, Lebanon RD5, told her when she was eight years old that she should enter the poultry queen contest after high school graduation. She did just that and because she waited and matured she earned for herself the opportunity to speak up for the poultry industry around the state.

Kathy is the daughter of a dairy farmer, Lloyd R. Early, who milks 40 head of Holsteins and farms about 225 acres. She has one sister, Judy, who is nine.

Kathy said one of her chief jobs during the year will be to promote the use of eggs and poultry in the diet. She points out, "Chicken is cheaper per pound than beef and is a better buy for your money." Her favorite way of eating chicken is that old American standby - fried chicken.

Starner, a director of the Lebanon County Poultry Association, says he's quite proud of Kathy. He said she will promote goodwill for the industry and urge consumers to use more eggs and poultry. "They're the cheapest things you can buy," he adds. The Starner's sell eggs from their grocery store and he hauls eggs for Producers Pride Co-op, including trips to Philadelphia and New York. Starner said the Lebanon County Poultry Queen contest is about 25 years old, having been the first in the state.

Kathy is currently studying to be a legal secretary at the



As State Poultry Queen, Kathy received a check, a digital clock radio and, of course, the right to wear the coveted crown and banner.

National Legal Secretarial School in Hagerstown, Maryland. She said she would like to be a legal secretary in the Harrisburg or Lebanon areas when she graduates next August, perhaps working in a district attorney's office. Although she took the

academic course in school, she said, "I didn't want to spend four years in college. I wanted to be a secretary, and I enjoyed political science and history in school, so I decided to be a legal secretary." She said shorthand is hardest for her. Other courses include law,

legal terminology and typing. She added, "I really like it."

A 1973 graduate of Annville-Cleona High School, Kathy stayed busy with many school activities. Her "most enjoyable" position was being editor of the yearbook. She was also engaged in sports as a member of the hockey and tennis teams. She was a member of the Varsity Club, the chorus and Glee Club and the National Honor Society. She was selected "Girl of the Year" by the Lebanon County Federation of Women's Clubs based on scholastic achievement and activities.

A member of Cornwall United Methodist Church, Kathy is

philosophical question was about how to keep a good friend. She remembered answering simply, "By being a good friend."

Kathy says she is "very happy to have been raised on a farm." She said, "I used to help feed calves." As a good farm girl, she was a member of the South Mountain Community Club for six years.

One project she carried all six years was raising veal calves. She talked enthusiastically as she explained how you raise a good veal calf to have the pinkish meat consumers desire. "An all-milk milk replacer must be fed, which can't contain any vegetable by-products. They also can't be fed



Pennsylvania's Poultry Queen, Kathy Early, says one of her hobbies is cooking. Here she mixes pie dough for her favorite pie, cherry with crumb topping.

assistant organist and substitutes when necessary. She's been playing the organ "about eight years." Before going to college in June Kathy sang with the choir and was vice president of the youth fellowship.

Kathy beat out six contestants in the local contest before participating in the state contest at the Hershey Motor Lodge. She said, "I wasn't as nervous as I thought I'd be." In addition to being interviewed privately by the panel of judges, the six contestants had to answer several questions before the audience. Kathy's one

any water, hay or grain. They are judged at three months by their 'finish' that is, the amount of fat over the shoulders," Kathy explained. She said she never minded selling her projects, "except the one that won second place at the fair."

She explained further that veal calves must have their own elevated pens and can't be in close proximity to other calves. The reason she talked so easily about the process she said, is that she gave a demonstration at the fair on "The care and raising of 4-H veal calves."

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Mrs. Early and Kathy talk about the state contest as nine-year-old Judy listens. As

Kathy knows, it's never too early to plan to enter the contest.