

Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant

by Sally Bair
Farm Feature Writer

Saturday evening was filled with beauty, fun and fellowship as Lancaster County dairymen concluded their celebration of June is Dairy Month by crowning Diane Crider the 1974 Dairy Princess in ceremonies at the Farm and Home Center.

It was fun, that is, for everyone except the judges who found themselves confronted with six highly qualified young ladies, and they could choose but one. The toughness of their decision was reflected in the extra time they took in deliberation.

Sixteen-year-old Diane is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Crider, Nottingham RD2. She was crowned by outgoing princess Raelene Harbold, Elizabethtown RD1, and will represent Lancaster County in the state dairy princess pageant in Harrisburg in September.

Runner-up in the annual contest was Sandy Kreider, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Richard Kreider, Manheim RD3.

Chosen by the contestants themselves as Miss Congeniality was Brenda Eshleman, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Eshleman, Elizabethtown RD1.

Nearly 250 persons participated in the patio reception, which featured cheese and milk punch, and preceded the banquet. Everyone could select his favorite contestant as the girls were introduced and interviewed by David Yoder, general manager of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative. In addition to telling about themselves and their families, the girls ably answered questions pulled from a "fishbowl" about the dairy industry and life in general.

The official judges, of course, had the advantage, having spent the afternoon in individual interviews with each of the six contestants. Scoring was based on appearance, speaking ability, poise and personality.

Judges were Mrs. Carol Hess Weaver, New Holland, 1966 Lancaster County Dairy Princess; Lewis Ayers, department head, vocational agriculture, Ephrata Area School District; and Harvey Smith, Allentown, regional director, vocational agriculture.

Other contestants were Betty Jo Bitler, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bitler, Peach Bottom RD2; Christine Erb, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur N. Erb, Mount Joy RD1; and Linda Kauffman, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kauffman, Elizabethtown RD1.

The new Dairy Princess will be a senior at Solanco High School. Her parents are breeders of Guernsey cattle, and she presently owns two animals of her own. She has been in the Guernsey 4-H club for seven years, and shows her animals each year at round-up and at the Quarryville Fair.

No stranger to the barn, she told the audience Saturday night that she rotates morning and evening milkings with each of the four children in her family.

1973 Princess Raelene Harbold expressed her appreciation for the opportunity of representing Lancaster County over the past year. She told about some of her experiences, terming her appearance on the Mike Douglas TV show as the most exciting. On the show she taught Olympic swimming star Mark Spitz how to milk a jersey cow. One of her proudest accomplishments, she said, was being able to talk with elementary school children about the dairy industry and dairy products. She said she made 25 appearances as Dairy Princess. Raelene was also second runner-up in the state contest.

Music for the evening was provided by Glenn Hough, and general chairmen of the program were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gregory. Mrs. Robert Kauffman, provided the stage and table decorations. Other committee members were Mr. and Mrs. N. Alan Bair, C. P. Brantley, Milton Brubaker, William Deisley, Robert L. Kauffman, Jr., Robert H. Keen, Mrs. Samuel Myer, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Witmer, Mr. and Mrs. Clair Hershey and Elvin Hess.



David Yoder, General Manager of the Atlantic Breeders Co-operative and Master of Ceremonies for the pageant discusses a question with Princess Diane Crider.



Six area girls vied for the title of Lancaster County's Dairy Princess this year. Contestants from left to right: Linda Kauffman, Betty Jo Bitler, Diane Crider, Brenda Eshleman, Sandy Kreider and Christian Erb.



Raelene K. Harbold, 1973 Dairy Princess resigned her title when she crowned Diane Crider the new Lancaster County Princess. First runner-up honors went to Sandy Kreider.