

4-H queens look to coming reign

By SALLY BAIR
Feature Writer

For Jodi Zeamer and Robin Esbenshade the recent Lancaster 4-H Achievement Day marked the beginning of an exciting year. The girls were chosen Lancaster County junior and senior 4-H queen respectively.

For Jodi, 12, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Zeamer, 114 E. Main St., Mountville, winning the title was a real surprise.

"I was quite prepared to lose. I was nervous, but enjoyed the contest," she said. She also mentions that it was not until her name was announced as the winner that she got really nervous.

Fifteen-year-old Robin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Esbenshade, Manheim, R7, and she, too, was surprised by the announcement of her name as queen.



Jodi displays the banners she won as Lancaster County's junior 4-H queen.



Jodi's 4-H bicycle project was of great help to her. Here, she demonstrates her expertise on the bicycle.

She said, "I was more nervous Thursday afternoon waiting for the evening contest to begin. I am looking forward to meeting new people."

The two girls have already begun to work for Lancaster County 4-H by appearing on Noonday on Eight for WGAL-TV with farm editor Bob Malick. They agreed that it was an interesting way to begin their new roles.

Both girls competed against five finalists after being selected from among 35 contestants in each category. Judges met the girls during a preliminary event, and then during the formal contest on stage during Achievement Day activities. Jodi said she was "scared" during the preliminary judging.

Jodi has been a member of the Mountville Community 4-H Club for four years and has taken projects in sewing, cooking, and bicycling. She said she joined 4-H after seeing posters about it.

"My mom went to 4-H and said it was fun, so I decided to join," she disclosed.

Jodi said she's glad she joined and would recommend to others that they become involved in 4-H. She said, "I've been in a lot of things and I learned a lot of new things. I learned to cook. I learned hand signals with my bike and I learned how to fill out the record books properly. I also got new friends." Since she lives in town, Jodi said it's a good example that you don't need to live on a farm to join 4-H.

Her mother has helped with the Mountville Club in the past, and this year it was her job to make the ribbon for the 4-H'er who would represent the Mountville Club in the

Homestead Notes

county contest. So Jodi helped to make her own ribbon, before, of course, she was selected as the contestant. After she won locally she received a silver ID bracelet with a 4-H insignia on it and a charm to be engraved from the leaders of the club.

Jodi will be in the seventh grade at Centerville Junior High School. She is also a member of the Mountville Church of the Brethren and sings in the choir. A high point of her summer was going to Camp Swatara with a friend for a week. She plays the saxophone and likes to ride her bicycle, swim, and read.

Once school gets underway, Jodi will bowl with a Bantam League on Saturday mornings. And, Jodi is a "collector," or a "pack rat" as her mother puts it. Jodi says, "I collect about everything." Probably her experiences as 4-H queen will give her a few more souvenirs and memories to add to her collections.

Robin, the senior 4-H queen, belongs to the Mount Joy 4-H Club, where she has had six years of sewing, two years of cooking, and one year of cake decorating.

She is in the freelance project in sewing, and this year was selected an alternate to district dress revue.

At the contest on Achievement Day, Robin was asked what she would do to promote 4-H. She said, "I told them I would talk with city and town kids since they have leisure time. I would tell them how much fun it is, and all the nice kids you meet. I would also tell them that 4-H can help you in the future."

Robin, herself, joined 4-H because "I was always interested in sewing. I learned about 4-H through friends and decided to join." She said she had done a little sewing prior to her 4-H experiences, but now she sews about half her own clothes.

"It saves a lot of money," she points out.

Robin would encourage others to join 4-H because, "It helps make you more of a leader, and helps a lot in the future."

Robin will be a junior at Manheim Central High School. She was a manager for the girls' basketball team, a member of the Future Homemakers Association, on the yearbook staff, and a member of the Future Business Leaders of America.

She is taking business courses in school, and she hopes one day to be an accountant. She also plans to attend a Bible college.

Robin is a member of the youth group at Calvary Independent Church. She enjoys skunk, ice skating, roller skating, macrame, cooking, and cake decorating.

Robin helps with some of the work on her father's 100 acre dairy and poultry operation. She does field work,



It is Robin's responsibility to move the packed eggs onto the waiting cart.



Decorating cakes was a new project for the senior queen this year. Robin shows off two of her works of art.

such as hay baling, and helps dairy with packing the eggs from the Esbenshade's automated layer operation.

For the first time this year alternate queens were selected. Junior alternate was Lisa King, 12, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin King, 256 C Harvest Drive, Gordonville. Lisa has been a member of the Pequea Valley 4-H Sewing and Cooking Club for three years.

In her interview she answered a question about how 4-H has helped her, and recalls that she said, "4-H has helped me realize that if I do something wrong I can try again. I always try to do my best and no matter how things turn out, I know I did my best."

Lisa will be attending the seventh grade at Locust Grove Mennonite School, and it is through the school that she learned about 4-H and decided to join.

She said she had not been very interested in attending Achievement Day, but "I loved it. It helped me meet a lot of people and I'm really glad I went."

Senior alternate queen was June Grube, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weidler Grube, Manheim R7. Seventeen-year-old June has been a 4-H'er for eight years and is a member of the Lancaster County Holstein 4-H Club and the Landisville Klassy Klippers.

This year she sewed a skirt, vest, and blouse for her freelance project and was selected as an alternate for district dress revue.

A senior at Hempfield High School, June said her question at the contest involved learning to lose. She said her 4-H experiences had taught her a lot about losing.

"I think it is important to always go away smiling. Losing is an important part of life," commented June.

But June added that she has really enjoyed being in 4-H. She is very active in county activities besides her involvement in her local clubs.

The junior and senior queens are presently making arrangements to appear at the local fairs and in the fair parades, and will be attending banquets and other functions throughout the year.

Besides being attractive, the queens are articulate and personable and are looking forward to a pleasant year of representing 4-H in Lancaster County.