· Cathy Brubaker is looking forward to Chicago



models her denim outfit which has won her much acclaim and the chance to go to Chicago in November.

By JOANNE SPAHR

LANCASTER - Cathy Brubaker, 345 Running Pump Road, is leaving for Chicago on November 26 and she's not coming home until nine days later. During that time, she will be staying at the Conrad Hilton Inn with all expenses piad, and she may receive \$800 on top of that, to boot.

Surprisingly enough, she hasn't won the Pennsylvania lottery or made her claim to fame on a T.V. quiz show. Instead, she's worked hard for every inch of this dreamcome-true.

Cathy is Lancaster County's first 4-H seamstress to win in state competition, and thus represent Pennsylvania in the National 4-H Dress Revue during the National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

"I'm so excited to see it." she says, putting the emphasis on "so." What is the biggest draw for her is meeting 49 other girls from all the states in the union who "went through the same things I did."

Not overstating the issue, Cathy does admit that the competition to get this far was tough.

"We have excellent sewers in Lancaster County," she says, while mentioning that the competition was particularly stiff on the county level, but that the stress was more severe at the state competition.

"During states, I had to look my best and be at my

best the whole time," she explains. And after a whole day's worth of being judged and standing in lines to be judged, it gets a little difficult to be perfect.

She explains her success by saying, "I just happened to be lucky. There were so many nice outfits, and I just happened to have the one that caught the judges eyes."

Although Cathy fosters this realistic philosophy on competition and judging, she also knows that she spent countless hours perfecting her denim suit and that she did her best. So, when state competition came along, she just presented her completed project and "tried to be myself."

She obviously handled herself well, because after going through a battery of three professional judges one for construction, one for fit, and one for modeling and a group of 10 of Fer peers in "circle judging," she came out on top. Yet, she didn't believe it until she actually heard her name announced, because, although the top seamstresses had been announced on Tuesday night, their individual placings were kept a secret until Wednesday afternoon.

"I kept saying to myself, 'You are just lucky to have come this far,' and I tried not to get excited so that I wouldn't be let down," she remembers.

success at states, Cathy is preparing to go onto national competition.

But, surprisingly enough, she won't be judged on her garment at the dress revue in Chicago. Instead, she will be judged on a portfolio of herself which she has recently completed. The portfolio will consist of newsclippings of all her years in 4-H, a 2000 word essay about her 4-H experience, a completed National 4-H Report form, and three pages correspondence.

is really "This scholorship contest," she explains, "so we're not just judged on our projects."

The scholarships the girls in dress revue will receive are \$800, and will be sponsored by Simplicity patterns. There will be six of these doled out to the top girls.

As far as putting her portfolio together is concerned. Cathy found some parts challenging and other parts easy. One that was especially difficult for her was remembering all her 4-H activities from the time she first became involved in the program.

"I've been in 4-H for nine years," she explains. "So, things from way back can get a little vague."

She began in the Landisville Sewing Club nine years ago at the ripe old age of nine. Then, a year later, she joined the Red Rose Beef and Sheep Club and took

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Now, as a result of her reserve champion honors at the southeastern district show by the time she was 11 years old. She has remained in both clubs ever since.

Last year she placed seventh in meats judging at Penn State during state competition.

"I had a different feeling during last year's competition," she says, reflecting on the past. "This year I had a project which I had already done my best on and there was little more I

could do," she adds.
While she has excelled with her beef projects, she is not unfamiliar with success in the sewing field, either.

Two years ago she was an alternate in Lancaster County dress revue, and. during her senior year in high school, she took first place in the tailored division for the East Petersburg Women's Club sewing contest. After this success, she went on to county competition and took top honors in the student tailored division. The ensemble that took these top awards was a moss green-cranberry-navy cream plaid wool jacket with a coordinating solid moss green A-line skirt. She also made a purse to match.

She became involved with this competition through her home economics class at high school.

'My home ec courses have been a lot of help for me," Cathy admits. One of her

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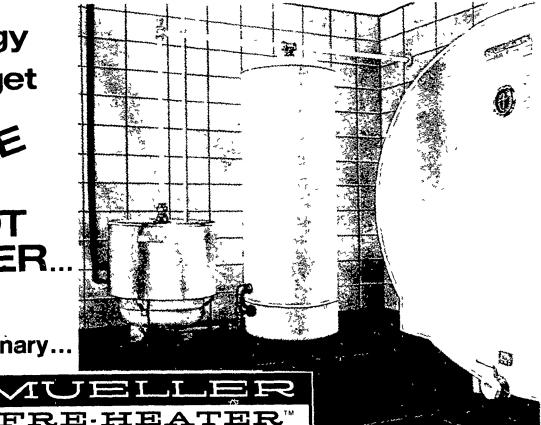
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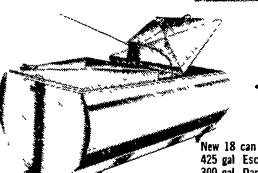
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