

Horticulture building has several 'firsts'



Farm products and garden goodies galore at the York Fair.



Donald Lanus, manager on charge of Horticulture Hall, poses with the largest pumpkin of the York Fair, which weighed in at 130 pounds.

By JOANNE SPAHR
YORK - A tour around Horticulture Hall at the York Fair last week revealed some fascinating specimens and facts. Probably the most intriguing agricultural specimen was a 130 pound pumpkin sitting among a large display of its kind. "Last year's largest pumpkin only weighed 34 pounds," commented Donald E. Lanus, manager-in-charge of the horticulture building.

Not only were pumpkins larger in size this year, but they were also more popular, according to J. W. Arnold, seasoned veteran of the fair and the person responsible for the vegetable department of the horticulture display. Arnold described the amount of pumpkin entries as "coming out our ears."

Lanus also pointed out with a twinkle in his eye that peanuts were a lot more popular this year, for some reason. And, in the vegetable line, it was evident from the large display of Indian, field, and sweet corn, that York is having an excellent crop this year.

In the fruit division, there were several indications of the type of season each different specimen was

enjoying. For instance, this year there was a very small amount of peach entries because the season was so short, whereas apples were abundant and of top quality.

Also in the horticulture building were the products of a special "Happy Birthday America" cake decorating competition. There were approximately 25 Bicentennial cakes displayed. According to Melvin Haines, who set up the display and was in charge of overseeing it, the only problem with the whole display was restraining inquisitive youngsters from succumbing to the temptation to touch.

This was also the second year for the homemade wine exhibit and, according to Lanus, the display tripled itself from the year before. There has been a steady increase in the interest of winemaking in the county recently, according to various spectators, and one reason may be the promise of wineries coming to the area. Jouko E. Savolainen, treasurer of the Southeast Grape Industry Association, also noted that only recently has home winemaking and homemade wine competition been allowed.

Held in conjunction with

the winemaking contest was a grape stomping competition sponsored by the grape growers association, which, according to Lanus, was quite a success.

"The people went wild," he commented. "If I would have known that having people stomp two bushels of grapes would have caused this much of a sensation, I wouldn't have believed it," he added. In all, four bushels were stomped, since the procedure was done twice.

Another "first" for the fair was an indoor fountain separating the flower display. Brought to the Fair by Dean Gise, who also displayed other smaller fountains from his place of business, Ornamental Concrete Products, the fountain had an eight foot diameter bowl holding 135 gallons of water, and had a changing sequence of 12 colors. Gise commented that it is the same type of fountain found at Sea World.

All the firsts, however, did not diminish the importance of all the "old regulars." For instance, this year there were over 500 more entries in jellies and preserves. That display lined one whole wall of Horticulture Hall. And, there was a huge display of delicious-looking tomatoes.

The Grange also returned with four Bicentennial entries. Eureka Grange from Dillsburg took top honors with a display called "Agriculture, The Seed of America."

While these are only a few of the displays that were on exhibit in Horticulture Hall,

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