

# Whistle corn wows Peachilicious public

By JOYCE BUPP  
York Co. Reporter

NEW PARK, Pa. - Under hot sunny skies, 4,000 fruit lovers descended upon Maple Lawn Farms, New Park, for the annual Peachilicious Festival, held last Saturday through Monday.

The gala peach harvest event was created by Gail and Paul McPherson, operators of Maple Lawn orchard, as a promotion method for the peach industry and to provide the opportunity for urbanites to spend a few hours out on the farm. Thousands of Pennsylvanians and Marylanders visit yearly to pick their own fruit, sample a smorgasboard of peach-related foods, and shop for peachy arts and crafts items.

One brand new feature this year was "whistle corn," available from Erwin L.

Miller, New Freedom R1. Miller, a steam engine hobbyist, hauled his six horsepower vertical contraption to the festival and harnessed the sizzling steam, via a hose, to cook up huge kettles of fresh sweet corn. When the ears were ready, Miller announced the fact with the piercing shriek of the engine's whistle. Upon hearing the spine-tingling sound, anyone not aware of Miller's presence at the festival would have surely guessed that a smoke-belching freight engine was puffing right up the hill through the neat rows of Maple Lawn peach trees.

Miller traces his interest in the old-fashioned power machines to his boyhood days.

"I used to walk past an old Peerless engine on my way to school," he recalled. Later, studies of the machine age revolution furthered his knowledge of the equipment.

In addition to the machine displayed to Peachilicious, Miller has a 12-horsepower stationery engine which he has used, but adds that it is presently "awaiting restoration."

"We heard there was going to be an energy shortage," wisecracked his assistant. "We're all ready."

Youth group members of the Mt. Nebo church, Delta, sold over 200 peach pies with the benefits going toward a church building fund for replacing their fire-

destroyed facilities. Ladies of the McKendree Methodist Church, Airville R2, offered a wide range of potted plants, with proceeds destined to a building fund, also.

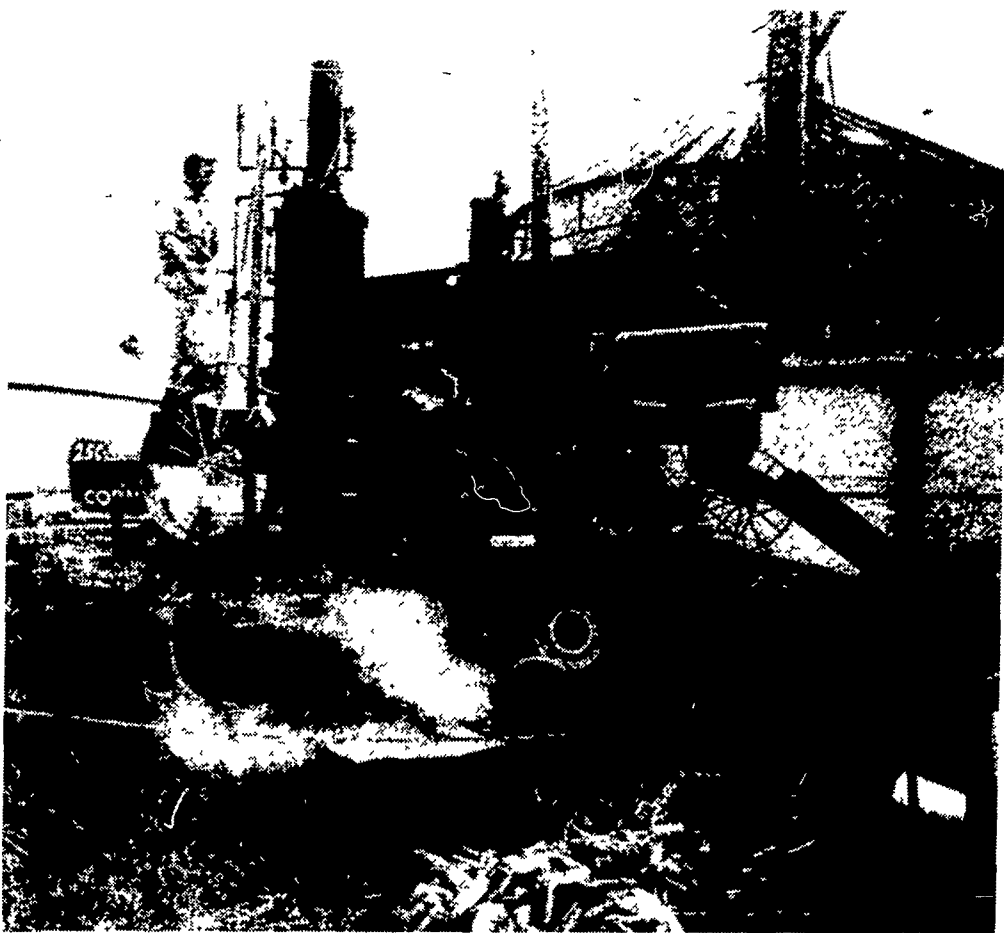
Other delectable treats included ice cream topped with fresh peaches from the dairy princess and promotion committee, roast pork sandwiches prepared by the county's Pork Producers, and peachy hot dogs and a special peach punch prepared by other participants.

Arts and crafts lovers could browse through a selection of handcrafted items, with all vendors offering some peach colored, scented or otherwise related craft tied in with the fruit being honored.

K and C Nature Crafts of Bel Air, Md., featured an unusual "peach" earring, made of carnelian agates, a gemstone imported from India.

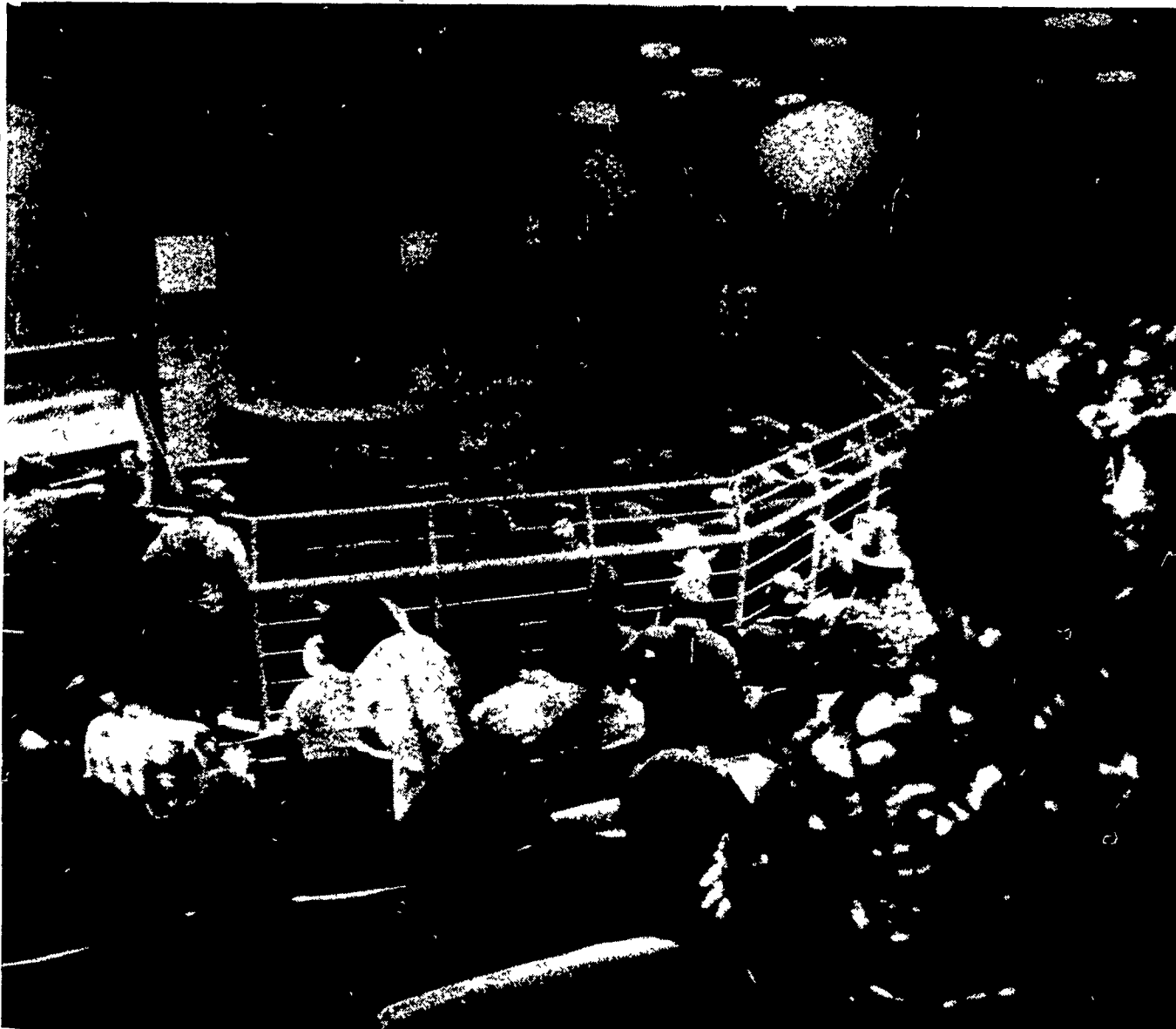
For folks looking ahead just a few months to the holidays, Warner Family crafts had designed Christmas tree ornaments from peach seeds. The tiny creations were colorfully styled as both fish and Distelfinks.

Peachilicious Weekend offered a chance for visitors to fill up with the season's last peaches. Late Summer varieties like Hale and Elberta were still available for fruit lovers to prepare one last shortcake, pie, or batch of canned peaches.



Lettin' off steam—and cooking succulent sweet corn for the Maple Lawn Peachilicious crows at the same time—was this hobby steam engine of Erwin L. Miller, New Freedom R1. When the "whistle corn" was tender and ready for smothering in peach butter, Miller summoned hungry visitors with an ear-splitting blast on the engine's melodious whistle.

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A pig in a poke (or barrel) is worth, well, quite a few pork sandwiches. York County Pork Producers members playing chef are from left: Richard Luckenbaugh, Porters Sideling, John Sinclair, Airville R2, and Lou Wambaugh, Delta R2. If you liked, there was a secret recipe peach sauce accompanying the sliced, roast pork.

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