

Lancaster leads the way in Show potato affairs

BY CURT HARLER
FARM SHOW — Gail Graybill, Manheim, assumed the crown Thursday night as the first Pennsylvania Potato Queen in almost 25 years.

Earlier, during Farm Show, the Lancaster County potato judging team swept to first place honors on the strength of a first place individual finish and several other strong scores.

Gail Graybill received her crown at the 64th annual Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers, Inc. banquet held in Harrisburg.

Gail impressed a panel of three judges with her poise during the day and topped

her performance during her two minute talk on how she would help promote potatoes if she were chosen queen.

Gail is the daughter of J. Clair and Ann Louise Graybill. She was sponsored in the first Potato Queen contest since 1957 by Graybill's Potatoes.

Gail is a member of the Future Homemakers of America and a high school cheerleader. She works at Kreider's Dairy store.

Her first appearance will be at a potato promotion on May 1.

"I'll do my best to promote potatoes in Pennsylvania," Gail promised.

Runners-up in the contest

were Kara Snowman, Coudersport; and Kay Masser, Valley View.

Other Queen candidates included: Joni Lynn Blass, Coudersport, Lisa Thompson, Shrewsbury; Karen Heyer, Nazareth; Jayne Bachman, Schnecksville, and Debra Brace, Waterford.

Meantime, Lancaster County's 4-H potato grading and identification team captured the championship held Thursday at Farm Show.

The team was lead by Cindy Risser, R1 Leola, who was high individual judge.

Others on the number one team included Yvonne Eshelman, R2 Lancaster, James Stauffer, Weaver Road, Lancaster; and Martha Trumbauer, R1 Ephrata.

The top quartet was coached by County Agent Arnold Lueck.

Second place team came from Lehigh County. Third place went to the team from Lycoming County.

Members of the winning team were introduced at the Potato Banquet.

The dinner was the largest ever with about 375 people attending.

Included in the group was Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell who crowned the queen, both deputy secretaries of agriculture, and the Secretary of Transportation, Robert Larson.

During the dinner, growers were invited to an



Gail Graybill, Manheim, was crowned Pennsylvania Potato Queen Thursday night at the 64th annual Potato Growers Banquet. Doing the honors is Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

open house at the Penn State potato seed farm to be held all day June 30 with a tour offered beginning at 1:15 p.m.

POTATO AWARD LIST
 White Skin Varieties
 1 Calvin Geiger Schnecksville 2 Hans Fritz Locke Haven 3 Herbert P. Geiger Danielsville 4 Sonia Geiger Schnecksville 5 Gene Boehert Chalfort

Red Skin Varieties
 1 Jeff Schwartz Hegin 2 Sherwood P. Geiger Bath 3 Kathleen L. Geiger Bath 4 Kashubsk Farms Drums
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Hallowell to Washington?

HARRISBURG — Speculation continued to abound during Farm Show about a possible appointment in the Reagan U.S. Department of Agriculture for Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

Sources close to Hallowell confirmed the Pennsylvania Secretary traveled to Washington, D.C. last Wednesday to talk with the Reagan people.

Hallowell also is scheduled to attend the President-elect's inauguration ceremonies in the Nation's Capital next week.

Those optimistic about Hallowell's moving to

Washington point out that neither Pennsylvania senator, nor any of the representatives, was appointed to a spot on an ag committee.

Hallowell, as a USDA assistant secretary, would be a logical representative from the Northeast. He has experience with Farmers Home Administration and with Pennsylvania's ag department.

On the other side, observers close to the Secretary point out he is happy in Pennsylvania and may be reluctant to move from a position where he knows he has a good working relation with his boss, Governor Thornburgh.—CH

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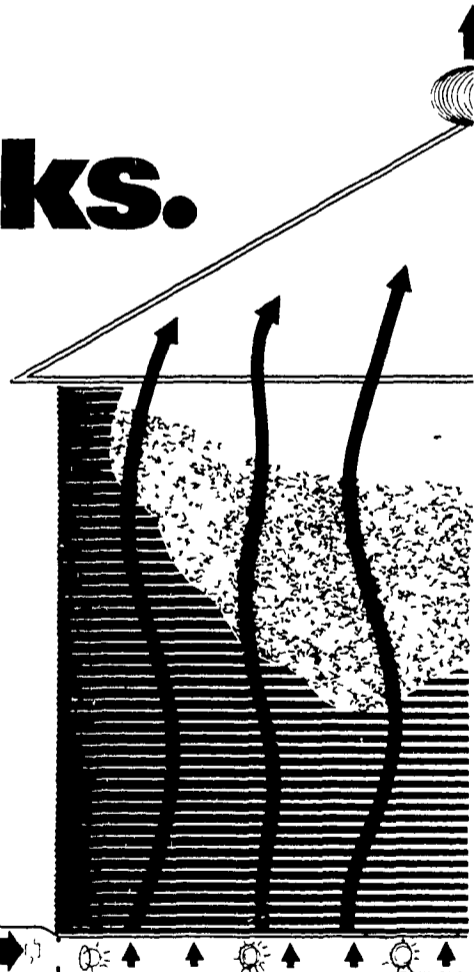
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