

Glenn Shirk "pulls" his way to victory

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

WILLOW STREET — The object, said the six-foot-five man in a pin-striped suit, is to pull firmly — not squeeze.

"Somebody tell him to pull it," said the man with all the authority of an athletic coach.

"No," piped a window-seal-high, pig-tailed girl, "you have to rub the belly."

"Aren't you supposed to sit on a three-legged stool to do this?" laughed a gray-haired lady in three inch heels.

With the "essentials" in hand, contestants in the Willow Valley Country Day's milking contest pulled, squeezed, rubbed and tugged their way to inches of that familiar white, foamy liquid, as spectators murmured directions from the sidelines.

And when the guesswork, the instructions and the pulling were all through, Glenn Shirk, county Extension agent, emerged number one.

"Pulling" in second was the new Lancaster County Dairy Princess, Deb Greider.

Third in line, and third only because the "foam on Deb's jar is

higher than his," was Moses Glick.

And (as the saying goes) last but not least, was Lancaster County Commissioner Jim Huber, in fourth place.

"I realize I got creamed," Huber laughed after the defeat. "I guess I don't have as much pull in this county as I thought I did!"

But Huber declares that although he came in fourth, he still did better than he did last year when the contest was held at the Brenneman farm in Mount Joy.

"I'm getting better; I'm getting the feel of it," Huber joked despite groans and rolling eyeballs of those standing nearby. "My technique is simply to hold on and pray."

Admst the laughter and applause of the audience, the four were presented samples of cheese for their participation by Marlin Thomas from Willow Valley.

Judges were Dave Sheaffer and Marian Brenneman.

Special recognition goes to the object of all this torture and laughter, Romona the Holstein. She is owned by Bob Kendig of Conestoga.



Jim Huber quips about his fourth-place contestants Deb Greider and Glenn Shirk, and success to Marlin Thomas of Willow Valley, left, the audience.



Glenn Shirk, county Extension agent, hands in his entry to Judge Dave Sheaffer after an easy pulling at Willow Valley's milking contest.



Everybody's interested in the proper way to milk a cow. But at this contest, they saw four different ways. Here they watch as third place winner, Moses Glick takes his turn.



Where there are animals, especially furry ones, there inevitably will be tiny hands reaching to touch them. Such was the case at

the Country Days sponsored by Willow Valley, last Friday.



Look what I did, Deb Greider, Lancaster County Dairy Princess, seems to beam as she walks away from Romona with her contest entry.