

Arkansas' Sandra Williams reigns a



Kathy Solenberger, the 1981 Apple Queen USA enjoys an apple at the South Mountain Fairgrounds last Friday on her last day as the reigning national queen.

— BY M.H. GIFT
Staff Correspondent
GETTYSBURG — Sandra Kay Williams, the Arkansas Apple Queen USA for 1982 at the Apple Harvest Ball sponsored by the Adams County Fruit Growers Association with the Gettysburg Area of Commerce coordinating the program.

The five-foot five-inch blonde native of Jacksonville, Arkansas was selected from 11 other contestants from as far away as California. First runner-up was Heather Lee Staubach, of York, Pennsylvania, and the second runner-up was Lorraine Ann Hays, the Ohio State Apple Queen who was also chosen "Miss Congeniality" by the other queens.

After receiving the crown and banner from departing queen Kathy Solenberger, Sandra noted, "I'm excited, a little fearful, and anxious. I'm excited to be chosen Miss Apple Queen USA, I'm a little fearful of what's lying ahead, but I'm anxious for it to start."

The 20 year old "apple of the judge's eyes" is a junior at the University of Central Arkansas where she is studying dental hygiene and occupational therapy. Sandra is the state's first queen not raised on an apple farm and the first young woman from Arkansas to win the national title.

Earlier in the day, the queens strolled the South Mountain Fairgrounds and helped at various exhibits at the Apple Harvest Festival which is sponsored by the Upper Adams County Jaycees and the Gettysburg Travel Council. Sandra worked at the apple butter booth lending a hand to stir and mix.

When asked to compare this festival with the one back home, the new queen stated, "This one is a lot bigger and better and the people are really friendly." The main reason for the size difference is that the entire state of Arkansas produces less than one million bushels of apples, while Adams County produces five times that much.

Originally the festival was set up to promote the apple industry, which is the biggest employer in the county. It has been run by the Jaycees with proceeds going to finance services sponsored by the organization. The Jaycees also started the national apple queen contest and ball, but this competition was taken over by the fruit growers last year.

Over 400 people attended the ball and contest Saturday evening, and 10,000 people attended the festival on Saturday and another 12,000 on Sunday. According to Ron Bennett, chairman for the Apple Harvest Committee, Saturday was the best opening day they have ever had and the record for the two weekend affair was over 40,000 in 1976. With business from as far away as Maine and Massachusetts, the sponsors are looking for a record crowd on this their second weekend. Tourists can tour orchards in the area, watch fresh cider being pressed, take rides drawn by an old steam tractor, be entertained by musicians or square dancers, investigate hundreds of craft items and feast on apple 'eats' ranging from pancakes to candy.

Visitors weren't the only ones impressed with the festival. Michigan State Apple Queen

Paulette Dongvillo, whose parents farm a 200-acre fruit orchard, found, "Adams County so nice and the people so friendly." Jacquelyn Jester, the Western New York Apple queen, said, "I just love it all. The whole festival is wonderful."

Helping to make the festival a success were the "delightful dozen" state apple queens. Heather Staubach, First Runner-up, from Pennsylvania, is a junior at Penn State majoring in microbiology; Lorraine Hays of Columbia, Ohio is a freshman at Kent State University majoring in business administration; Delaware Apple Queen Melinda Priestley is a freshman at Wesley College majoring in special education; Virginia Apple Queen Gretel Godwin, is a freshman at Mary Baldwin College majoring in communications; Marjorie Smith, the Eastern New York State Apple queen will be entering Columbia-Greene Community College to study data processing; North Carolina Apple Queen Ina Miller is an executive secretary for an engineering firm; Mary Hockman, the West Virginia Apple Queen is a sophomore at Mary Baldwin College where she is majoring in pre-law; California Apple Queen Tamara Newman is a freshman at Santa Rosa Junior College, where she is studying business; the Maryland Apple Queen, Joanne Foster is a senior at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland where she is majoring in photography; Michigan Apple Queen Paulette Dongvillo is attending Lake Michigan College where she is studying secretarial science; and Western New York State Apple

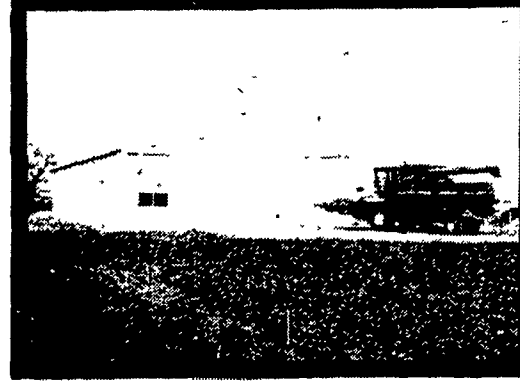
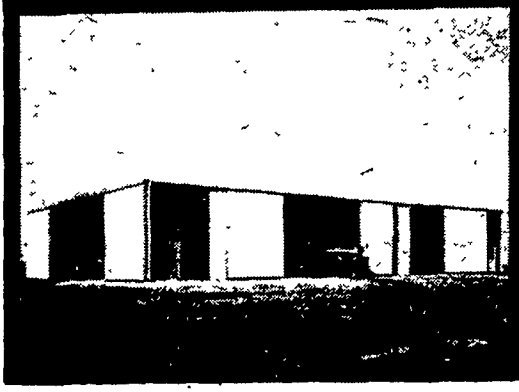
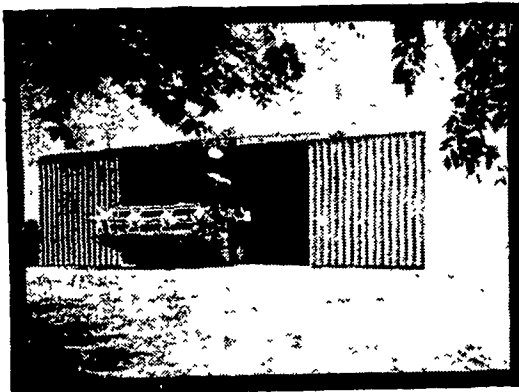
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