

1984 Pa. Honey Queen

Martha Herr promotes all-natural honey

BY SUZANNE KEENE
LANCASTER — With a little encouragement from Grandpa Herr, Martha Herr, R2 Lancaster, decided to run for 1984 Pennsylvania Honey Queen. Much to her grandpa's delight, Martha was crowned on November 18 at the annual winter meeting of the Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association and began her reign in February.

"It was really through him that I decided to do it," Martha explained. "He's just so excited."

Martha said she sometimes helps her grandfather, Robert C. Herr, with his over 200 hives of bees scattered through Pennsylvania and Maryland.

"The best way to learn something is direct experience," she says.

Having just completed her freshman year at Penn State studying for a major in quantitative business analysis, Martha is looking forward to spending more time helping her grandfather with his bees this summer.

But much of her time will be spent promoting honey in shopping malls and grocery stores, and on radio and television. Her goal, she said, is to help people realize the many ways that they can use honey.

"I don't think people are aware enough of the uses, and that honey is better for you than sugar," she said.

Honey is easy to digest because it is the simplest form

of sugar and is an excellent substitute for sugar in baked goods.

"Things baked with honey keep longer and stay moister," Martha explained.

While Martha spent the first few months of her reign getting better acquainted with the industry and preparing a brochure, her schedule for the summer looks much busier. From May to August, her busiest months, Martha said she will be spending three to five days a week promoting honey.

"It's really going to be keeping me busy," she said.

Martha is looking forward to traveling over the state to promote honey and beekeeping on radio and television, at fairs, markets and malls, and organizational dinners. She recently held a mall promotion in Carlisle where she set up a demonstration hive for people to observe and handed out crackers with honey smeared on them.

"They really enjoy looking at the observation hive," Martha said of the children at the mall.

Most of her knowledge about beekeeping comes from watching her grandfather work with his bees.

Three kinds of bees inhabit a hive, she explained. The queen bee lays the eggs, the drone bees mate with the queen and the worker bees gather the pollen. When a queen bee leaves the hive, all the other bees follow her.

With this knowledge, beekeepers have learned that by putting a single queen bee on their chin, they can soon have a "bee beard," Martha explained.

The beekeeper collects the honey every few days during the summer months when bees are most productive, she continued. To remove the honey from the frames, her grandpa puts the frames in an extractor which spins in a circle, creating a centrifugal force which draws the honey out.

The daughter of Willis and Martha Herr, Martha was born and raised on a fruit farm and plans to spend her extra hours this summer working at her father's market in Marietta and on the farm. She has five brothers ranging in age from five to 20 and is happy to be home from school and spending more time with them.

A 1983 graduate of Penn Manor High School, Martha was class secretary and a member of the tennis team.

She plans to spend the next three years at Penn State, where she has been active in Campus Crusade for Christ and intramural volleyball. Next year, she said, she intends to join the business and ping pong clubs.

During her reign as honey queen, Martha will be saving memoirs and making a scrapbook which will be part of her presentation when she competes for the American Honey Queen title in January.



During her reign as 1984 Pa. Honey Queen Martha Herr plans to make people more familiar with ways honey can be used.



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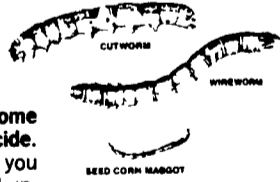
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