

Lancaster County seamstresses earn trip to State Fashion Revue

BY SALLY BAIR

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LANCASTER — A coveted trip to State 4-H Fashion Revue has become a reality for four girls from Lancaster County, half the total number of winners from the Capitol region. The winning tradition for Lancaster County has long been a reality in 4-H sewing, but three of the four are newcomers to the winner's circle.

Cindy Harnish, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Harnish, R1, Willow Street, was among the top ten in the state last year, and relishes the opportunity to try again for the top prize for 4-H seamstresses.

For Cindy Trimble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Trimble, R1, Peach Bottom, it took ten years to earn an invitation to state Fashion Revue, and Cindy considers it a great way to finish out her 4-H career.

Alison Bradley, 16, is in her third year of sewing, and was "surprised" to be named one of the top eight winners at the regional event. Nevertheless, the prospect of attending the state show is exciting to Alison, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Bradley, Sixth Avenue, Lititz.

Andrea Ebersole, 14, is in her first year of senior competition and was named an alternate at the county show. Because one of the eight gold ribbon winners couldn't attend, Andrea drew the lucky number and went on to be declared a gold winner at the regional contest. For Andrea, the selection was especially sweet, because last year she went to regional competition as an alternate junior winner and was named an alternate there. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ebersole, W. Newport Road, Lititz.

As each of the girls reflected their upcoming trip to 4-H state days held at Penn State in August, they recognized that the biggest



Cindy Harnish



Cindy Trimble



Alison Bradley



Andrea Ebersole

challenge is going through county 4-H Fashion Revue, in a county which is known for its excellent seamstresses.

"Our county competition is definitely harder and we have a lot more girls in the fashion show," Cindy Harnish says.

CINDY HARNISH

Sixteen-year-old Cindy has been

a winner in county fashion revue each of the four years she has been able to participate. Three of those four years she also won at regional, something that really puts the pressure on. However, Cindy notes that each year 4-H'ers must start again and go through the same process to be eligible for state competition.

In choosing her project, Cindy says, "I look at ready made clothing and catalogs to find ideas. This year I chose the fabric first."

Always searching for something different, Cindy and her mother visited the enormous "G Street" fabric store in Rockville, MD, and it was there that Cindy found the fuchsia and black plaid fabric that would become her winning blouse and skirt. "As soon as I saw it I knew it was what I wanted." This was the year that Cindy was required to sew with plaid as part of her project.

After consulting someone at the store, Cindy chose to design her own skirt. Cindy acknowledges, "I am the kind of person who jumps in head first. It took me two weeks to figure it out." Once she decided how she wanted the skirt to look, she says, "I just took two pieces of fabric and started pleating."

Even expert seamstresses have their problems and Cindy said the skirt was too full the first time she tried, so she decided to have pleats in the front and back and none on the sides. The skirt, not surprisingly, proved to be the hardest part of her project, and she says, "It was hard to get the waistband on."

After finishing with the skirt, Cindy decided to use a pattern for the blouse, changing just the sleeves.

Cindy says, "When I sew for 4-H, I sew from 8 in the morning until 8 at night." She said she is always very careful when sewing on a 4-H project. "Every time I cut a thread I make sure I don't have the fabric."

One advantage of sewing your own clothing, according to Cindy, is to save money. She adds, "You can make something and not see 10 other people wearing it. You can also make clothes you see in really



Cindy Harnish likes to sew for herself between 4-H projects because it is cheaper and gives her the opportunity to select exactly what she wants. She said she gets her ideas from ready-made clothing and from catalogs.



Part of Cindy Trimble's daily routine includes helping with the milking on the family's Brown Swiss farm. Here she prepares the milking machine.



Looking through a pattern catalog, Andrea Ebersole gets ideas for appropriate garments for 4-H projects and for her other activities.

Homestead Notes