

Lancaster seamstresses

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nice magazines, and that I couldn't buy myself."

Cindy has taken cake decorating, flowers, wildlife, pet care and basket weaving in 4-H, and is also a member of the Woolies 4-H Club, with two Suffolk breeding sheep. Her other projects are with the Penn Willow 4-H club, where she has served as vice president, news reporter, secretary and game leader. She has also worked with the 4-H clothing judging team.

As a teen leader project, Cindy started a sewing club, the Super Sewers, in the city of Lancaster, and taught five girls how to make a travel kit. She said she really liked the experience, but admitted to getting frustrated sometimes since some of the girls had never sewn.

A junior at Lancaster Mennonite High School, Cindy plays field hockey, sings in the chorus and is a member of the Future Agriculturists of America. She also plays softball in a summer league and is a member of the Byerland Mennonite Church.

CINDY TRIMBLE

Cindy Trimble, 17, is another veteran sewer, but never had the excitement of being a winner before this year. A member of the Solanco Community 4-H Club and the Kids and Kows Dairy Club, Cindy has taken sewing each of her ten years as a member.

She recalls that she joined 4-H because her dad was a leader and "encouraged it strongly."

When she is selecting a 4-H sewing project, Cindy says, "I look in the closet and see what I need to perk up my wardrobe. I like to make something different."

Last year she picked two patterns, and saved one for this year. She said she selected the Vogue pattern because "it was different from other dresses." The pleat in the back, and a turned up collar made it attractive to Cindy. She adds that she has the ability to match up colors and patterns and visualize how they will look on her.

Her challenge in 4-H was also to match a stripe and the fabric she chose had a "damask-like" stripe through it. She recalls, "I had to match the stripe all the way through."

She also did some very fine top stitching, and made covered buttons, matching the covering with the stripe in the dress. The fabric is bright red, chosen, Cindy says, because "it was bright and cheery and I wanted something with pizzazz."

When her name was announced at the county show, Cindy says, "It was really thrilling to win. It makes you feel good. I never expected to be called."

Cindy attended Leadership School at Penn State for two years and is looking forward to returning to campus for State Days in August.

She said she enjoys being in fashion revue because, "It gives you the opportunity to show off what you did, and it builds up your confidence." She said the project itself was not terribly difficult for her, though she did need to take the cuffs off and redo them, after sewing them on the wrong way. "The front pleat was the hardest because we couldn't figure out how to get it to hang right."

A graduate of Solanco High School and the Willow Street Vo-Tech, Cindy will be enrolling at Willow Street to study as a dental assistant. At school she was a wrestling scorekeeper and softball manager. A member of the Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren, Cindy is also active in the Brown Swiss Association. She was a contestant in this year's Lancaster County dairy princess contest.

ALISON BRADLEY

Sixteen-year-old Alison Bradley joined 4-H because her mother was good friends with the leader of the Lititz-Rothsville 4-H Club, Sharon Schaich. She has enjoyed learning to sew, and this year determined that she wanted a Laura Ashley pattern. Unfortunately, once she chose the pattern, she learned that it was discontinued, which meant starting from scratch again. She finally selected another one, and it proved to be a winner.

Alison's dress featured a floral design, and just before cutting into it, they discovered that there was a stripe to the flowers, so the pattern had to be re-pinned. Alison said the lace on the collar was the hardest part of the dress, and when asked how long it took to sew the garment she replied, "Longer than I wanted it to."

A teen leader in the club, Alison helped plan and carry out the club's roundup. She has benefitted from 4-H by learning to sew but also by making new friends. Alison said, "I have met a whole new group of people."

It is an advantage to sew for yourself, because, according to Alison, "It is cheaper and you can make exactly what you want and choose the color. You don't have to just take what's made."



Counted crossstitch is another favorite hobby of Alison Bradley's, along with the sewing she has learned as a 4-H'er.

A junior at Warwick High School, Alison is a student athletic trainer, taping athletes for all sports. She is also a member of the band front, the chorus and show choir and served as class secretary for two years. A student of voice, it seems natural that she was selected as song leader for the 4-H club. Crocheting and crossstitch are two of her hobbies.

ANDREA EBERSOLE

Andrea Ebersole might be considered lucky. She has skill, of course, but she couldn't have received her gold ribbon at regional fashion revue if someone else had been able to attend. Andrea was an alternate at the county level, but was fortunate enough to go to the regional event and the judges were pleased with what they saw.

Her skill is evident when it is considered that last year she was a junior alternate at county, but again had the good fortune of going to regional, where she captured one of the alternate blue ribbons.

When her name was announced

at Cumberland Valley High School giving her the chance to go to State Days, Andrea says, "I was shocked. I couldn't believe it. I thought I might have a chance as an alternate."

Andrea joined 4-H because of the influence of four older sisters and a brother who were all members. One sister went to the state contest, so Andrea knows a little of what to expect.

This year Andrea's project had to have a fly zipper, so she chose a skirt and made a blouse to complete the outfit. Andrea says of the fly zipper, "It took time but it wasn't that hard. We made sample zippers so we wouldn't mess up." She had to put the real zipper in twice because the stitching on the machine wasn't right. Using transparent tape helped serve as a guide. She said she also learned how to set in sleeves.

She said she wanted an outfit that she could wear to church and other occasions, and easily found the skirt material, then looked for

a blouse. She wanted to make it with lace, but couldn't find a pattern with lace, so she settled for dotted swiss fabric.

Andrea recalls starting to sew "pretty young," perhaps with the influence of her mother who sewed for everyone in the family and who is now busily making bridesmaids dresses for an upcoming family wedding.

She enjoys sewing other clothing for herself, adding, "It is not as expensive and you get to fit it just as you want it to. You also get the color you want."

Her 4-H experience has been especially beneficial, Andrea feels, because, "I have trouble getting up in front of groups, and now I don't get quite as nervous. I've also gotten to know some girls who will be going to states, and I think I'll have fun."

Andrea recognizes the advantages of going through fashion revue in Lancaster County. "It is almost harder to win at Lancaster County's than at regional. If you win here you feel pretty good about yourself." Another advantage of participating in fashion revue is the opportunity to see what others have made. "It gives you ideas," Andrea says.

A ninth grader at Manheim Central, Andrea plays the trumpet in the band. She is also looking forward to joining the youth group at the White Oak Church of the Brethren.

Andrea said her 4-H sewing experience is something she'll use long after she's out of 4-H. And it has already helped her in home economics at school where she had to make a skirt this year. "It was pretty easy—I didn't have to keep asking the teacher. I was really glad for my 4-H experience."

Andrea has also taken macrame, cake decorating and quilting as 4-H projects.

When these four girls participate in the state fashion revue, it will be with the best 4-H seamstresses from around the Commonwealth. Ten finalists will be selected, and then, with a score from a white form detailing all their activities, one will be selected to go to national 4-H Club Congress.

However the local seamstresses fare, they will have the satisfaction of having beautiful garments to add to their wardrobes, and a skill which will serve them a lifetime.

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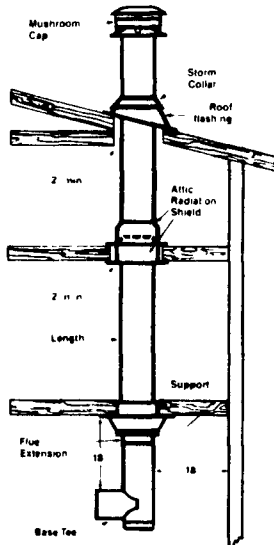


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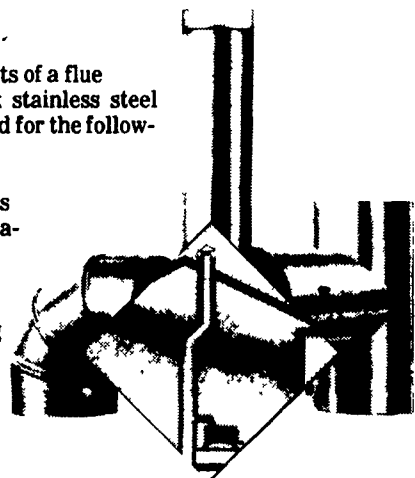
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