

# Apple Blossom Festival Draws Crowd to South Mountain Fairgrounds

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ARENDSVILLE — As sure as spring follows winter, the first weekend in May brings a crowd of people to South Mountain Fairgrounds in the heart of Adams County's 20,000 acres of orchards for the Adams County Apple Blossom Festival.

Adams County fruitgrowers, who produce over five million bushels of apples each year, host the festival, which includes a display of antique cars, square dance and clogging demonstrations, helicopter rides, antique engine demonstrations, homemade crafts, apple products, the crowning of the Apple Blossom Queen, and of course, tours of the orchards in all their spring finery of apple, cherry, and peach blossoms.

In the fall, during the first two weekends in October, the growers host the Apple Harvest Festival, which celebrates the completion of the growing season and the fruit harvest.

The idea for Apple Blossom Sunday started 32 years ago when some fruitgrowers and their wives decided to share the beauty of the country with other people and to host an event that would be free to the public. At the first Adams County Apple Blossom Sunday,

dinners were provided free of charge and free apples and apple juice were given to visitors at various roadsides in the fruit area of the county.

But, while the visitors enjoyed the hospitality, they requested more fruit to buy and momentos to take home with them. So, a full scale festival was designed. In 1981 Apple Blossom Sunday became Apple Blossom Weekend and has been a two-day affair since that time.

While the festival boasts a number of perennial favorite activities such as the crowning of the Queen, each year the festival committee tries to add a new attraction. This year Mark Baron of Washington, D.C. made his first appearance at the festival with his scarecrow workshop. According to Ripley's Believe It or Not, Baron is the "only living scarecrow artist."

Baron conceived the idea of the art form while working under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Arts. With the recognition he received from the Endowment, Baron decided to take his idea on the road. He now employs eight other people in this business.

At Scarecrow Workshops people design and construct a life-sized scarecrow. For the price of \$3 per scarecrow, the participant can

rummage through Baron's supplies to select a pair of pants, a shirt, a pair of pantyhose for the head, a tie, and buttons and felt for the facial features. Straw is used for the stuffing.

The clothes Baron uses in his workshop are discards from Goodwill. He uses about 10 ton of clothes in the May to November season that he works. He buys the pantyhose from a mill in North Carolina for 8 cents a pair. All finished scarecrows are taken home.

Another new feature at this year's festival was a hand-work contest with the theme being "apples." Contest chairman Sheryl Hollis Snyder said the response was overwhelming and it is sure to be an event that will continue with the festival. The Best of Show Award went to a counted-crossstitch sampler done by Elizabeth Hortman, Biglerville. The Best Apple Theme Award went to an original quilt design by Ruth Anna Polley, Fairfield.

A special highlight at this year's festival was the return of past Apple Blossom Queens. Of the 30 past queens who were invited, 24 were able to return for the coronation of the 31st Apple Blossom Queen. Prior to the crowning of the 1986 Queen, the past queens judged another new attraction at this year's festival. As a promotional program for apples, the students in the Upper Adams School District participated in an apple poster contest. Posters from the seven participating grades lined the east wall of the Musselman Auditorium. The past queens selected winners by class. Peters Orchards, representing the Mountain Orchards Cooperative, provided a 3-pound bag of apples for each winner.

Climaxing the afternoon's activities was the crowning of the 1986 Adams County Apple Blossom Queen, Danielle Trostle of Biglerville. First runnerup was Kimberly Detwiler and second runnerup was Cristina Hale. Trostle will go on to represent Adams County in the State Apple Queen contest early next fall.

While almost everyone at the festival was wearing a smile, a few fruitgrowers had their festive spirits dampened by the cold temperatures of the previous night. While the fruit had escaped damage from a well publicized cold front that had passed through the orchards two weeks ago, Saturday night's cold had left a different story.

Fruitgrower John Lott, Bear Mountain Orchards, estimates that 5 to 10 percent of the crop was burnt that night. Lott said: "Up until last night we had a great



Mark Baron, scarecrow workshop director, puts the finishing touches on a scarecrow.



Best of show in the apple theme hand work contest went to Elizabeth Hortman, Biglerville, with this counted-cross stitch sampler.



The directional sign post on Apple Avenue lists the variety of events at the festival.

## Danielle Trostle is Adams County Apple Blossom Queen

ARENDSVILLE — Danielle Marie Trostle, 16, was crowned the 1986 Adams County Apple Blossom Queen last Sunday during the 31st Adams County Apple Blossom Festival.

Fred Cory from the International Apple Institute was on hand to crown the Biglerville High School sophomore before a packed audience in the Musselman Auditorium. In the crowd were 24 of the previous 30 Apple Blossom Queens.

Danielle is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barry Trostle, Biglerville. She is active in sports and student government at school. Her hobbies include hunting, swimming, and horseback riding. She is also a 4-H member. She will represent Adams County in the State Queen Contest next fall.

Also in the Queen's Court were first runnerup Kimberly Detwiler, second runnerup—Cristina Hale,

flower girl Sonya Heller, ringbearer Matthew Trostle, and Marion Peters, Missy Emelet, and Sally Schulteis.



The 1986 Adams County Apple Blossom Queen, Danielle Trostle, greets the audience.

crop. It got down to 32 degrees and in the low spots it got down to 25 degrees. This is what it did," he said, holding up an apple branch with black spots on the stems where there had been buds.

He explained, "We escaped damage two weeks ago because the wind kept blowing. Last night the wind stopped and the cold

settled in. There were helicopters up, but there aren't enough copters on the whole east coast to keep all of Adams County's orchards warm. Besides, there was no warm air up there to push down."

Still, the general consensus among the growers is that this looks like a bumper crop year for all the fruits.

## Franklin County Conservation District Offers Forestry Camp Scholarship

CHAMBERSBURG — The Franklin County Conservation District is offering a scholarship to attend the second session of Youth Forestry Camp to be held at Stone Valley Civil Engineering Camp, Huntingdon County, near McAlvey's Forest, July 22 to 25.

Young people, 11 to 13 years old, with an interest in learning about forest resources may apply for a scholarship. To participate in the program, an applicant must receive a Youth Forestry Scholarship.

The sponsor's scholarship is \$80 of the registration fee and the student's tuition is \$35. The fee covers meals, lodging, insurance

and program materials. Students must provide their own transportation to and from camp.

The camp serves as an introduction to basic forest management skills, the forest products industry and careers in the field of forest resources.

For more information and an application please contact the Franklin County Conservation District at 717-264-8074 or write to: The Franklin County Conservation District, 550 Cleveland Ave., Chambersburg, PA 17201. Applicants should complete a written essay of 25 words or more on why they would like to attend Youth Forestry Camp. Application deadline is May 23, 1986.