

# Virginia Graham Is Featured Speaker At PFA's First Statewide Ladies Day Out

BY BETSY STITT

**Blair County Correspondent**  
ALTOONA — Women from across Pennsylvania and Maryland gathered at the Jaffa Mosque in Altoona last week for the first Pennsylvania Farmer's Association sponsored statewide ladies day out. The program included speakers, group singing and a slide show.

The main speaker of the day was Virginia Graham, a world-renowned radio and television personality. She has appeared on

television regularly since 1952 in shows such as Food for Thought, The National Bomb Shell, Girl Talk, The Virginia Graham Show, Women's Digest and All My Children.

Virginia Graham started her presentation with a laugh and kept the audience laughing throughout her hour-long presentation.

Ms. Graham talked about her love for farmers. "They are the roots of America and it is wonderful to see how farm people love the land they work," she said. Ms. Graham noted that she has met

many atheists, but none were farmers.

"How can you plant a seed and watch it grow and not believe there is a God above," she said.

Ms. Graham said many of her most rewarding moments have come through working for charities. She helped form Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Sclerosis Chapters. She is the largest fundraiser for charities in America today.

She lost her son-in-law to cancer and had to fight this terrible curse herself. Her experience with cancer has inspired her to raise millions for the American Cancer Society.

Ms. Graham's husband has died and she encouraged women attending the event to love their husbands and children more than themselves. "Someday you might lose them and you would have to go

back to being the person you were before you had them," she said. "Prepare for life — we all have a talent of some kind."

Ms. Graham has written a book which tells how she dealt with the death of her husband. It is due out in six months.

Marsha Purcell, director of the American Farm Bureau's Women's Program, spoke about being a farm organization catalyst. She listed four ways to be a catalyst:

1. Be there. Many get upset about things but weren't there to voice their opinion when the decision was made.

2. Be aware. Know what is happening, not only on the farm but in things that affect the farming community. She encouraged everyone to listen to news stories and to think how the news may affect them.

3. Be prepared. Know your business. "Know what your role as a women in PFA is," she said. Be prepared for meetings, she encouraged. They always run smoother if the person in charge knows what she is doing.

4. Care. Think about future generations of farmers. "Even with our high tech society, people still need that personal touch — one-to-one conservation," said Ms. Purcell.

After a buffet luncheon, women who wore hats were recognized. Several wore Statue of Liberty hats.

Lehigh County was recognized for having the largest attendance and Clearfield County for having the largest percentage of their membership there.

Ron Reedy rounded out the day's activities with an excellent patriotic slide program.

## Last Call For Recipes

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program is issuing the last call for entries in its "Make It With Milk and Other Dairy Products" recipe contest.

Deadline for entering the prize-rich contest is July 31.

The program, financed by dairymen, seeks the state's favorite dairy recipes.

Prizes will be awarded in four categories — appetizer/beverage; entree; side dish and dessert, according to Cindy Weimer, promotion coordinator for the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program.

Grand prize winner in each category will have the choice of a 17 cubic foot White-Westinghouse refrigerator-freezer or \$500 cash, Weimer said. Four semi-finalists in each category will receive Sunbeam electric ice cream makers.

"The tight schedule on judging makes it imperative that we close on the minute," Weimer emphasized.

A panel of professional chefs, food editors and home economists will judge all entries in early August. Final entries will be prepared according to directions and taste-tested by the panel. State winners will be announced in late summer.

The contest is limited to Pennsylvania residents. Only real milk, cheese, ice cream and other dairy products may be used, Weimer noted. Brand names cannot be specified.

"Eligible entries are encouraged," according to Weimer.

To enter, print or type the recipe and directions on a single 8½ by 11-inch sheet of paper and indicate category. Be sure to include name,

address and telephone number.

Then mail before July 31 to "Make it with Milk" Recipe Contest, P.O. Box 688, Pittsburgh, PA 15230.

All recipes become the property of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

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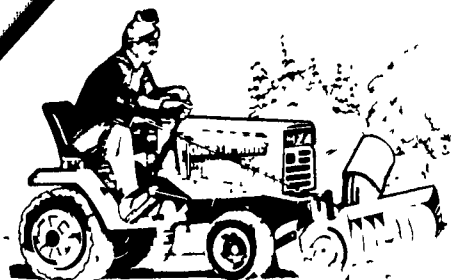
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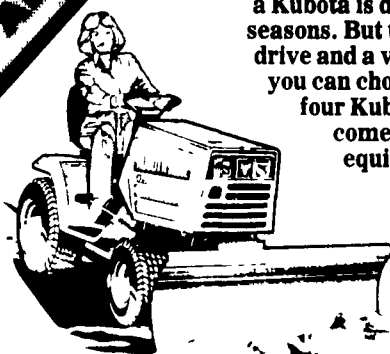
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