

State Winners

(Continued from Page B13)

because, "I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it. But at the same time, I wanted to enjoy it too."

In selecting the project, Lucinda says, "I try to be original. I like to be the first to do something. It definitely should be eye-catching and appealing to the judges." Indeed, she acknowledges that there are a lot of well-made garments that never win because they don't have that special appeal. "Sewing skills alone won't do it. They are important, but it is a combination. Fit is a very large part of it."

This year's project for Lucinda was a sea green brocade gown, simple, but elegant. The project evolved from the fabric, which Lucinda selected at G Street in Rockville, Maryland, before choosing the Butterick pattern.

She decided to make the gown to wear to her junior-senior banquet at Lancaster Mennonite High School; consequently, she completed most of the work during the school year. Now she says, "I'm glad I chose a gown because I can also wear it as Pennsylvania Veal Queen." She won the Veal Queen title after the gown was completed, but doing promotional work will give her ample opportunity to wear the garment.

She said she enjoys shopping at G Street, adding, "The variety is

great and there is a whole floor of fabric. They really have quality fabric." The brocade appealed to her and then she sought an appropriate pattern. "Sometimes the fabric decides what you make," she commented.

A member of the Penn Willow 4-H Club for 10 years, Lucinda recalls, "I really wanted to join as a little kid. I couldn't sign up the first year I was eight because I wasn't old enough; it was a big disappointment. I cried."

She has more than made up for time lost during that waiting period, and, today, she credits 4-H with much of her success. "My 4-H background definitely helped me get the title of Veal Queen. Being in fashion revue teaches you to be very poised."

Although this is probably her last year in 4-H, Lucinda says she definitely wants to help with fashion revue in the future. "I would like to teach the girls how to talk about their garments with the judges. There are things the judges will never know unless the 4-H'ers tell them. I'd like to go back and see how I was as a junior. It was definitely gotten easier."

The whole fashion revue picture has been fun for Lucinda, who says, "I've gotten to know some people pretty well, including people from out of this region. I have also gained skills which will last a

lifetime. They'll help me in college and help me when I get a job. It has given me poise and self-confidence." She maintains, "I used to be a little bit shy; that has definitely changed, and 4-H is a major part of it."

Later this month, Lucinda will be leaving Willow Street to travel to Goshen College in Indiana where she will study home economics with an indefinite career goal. Part of her volunteer work at LMH included teaching handicapped students to sew. She says she may continue to pursue a career working with handicapped people.

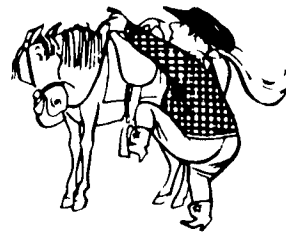
For the three Lancaster County girls, the next step is filling out the "white form," a complete detailed

look at their total 4-H experience over the years. There will be one state winner in clothing selected to travel to National 4-H Congress in Chicago in November, and each of the three thinks that trip would be a

tremendous opportunity.

So for now, they are busy doing paperwork. But soon, they'll be back at the sewing machine, carrying on the Lancaster County tradition of using sewing skills to make an impression on the state level.

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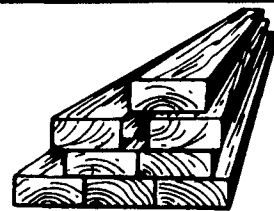
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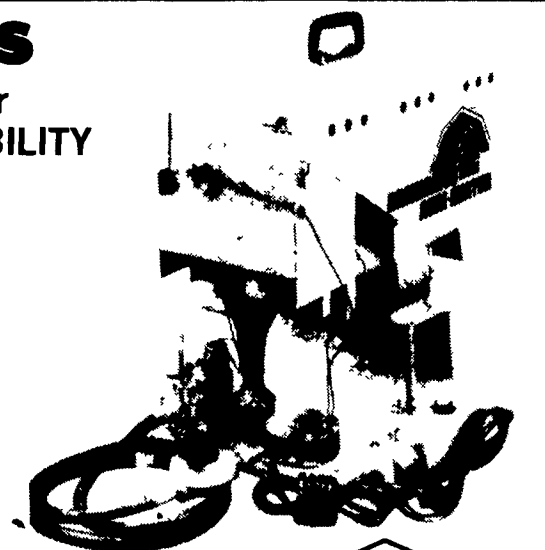
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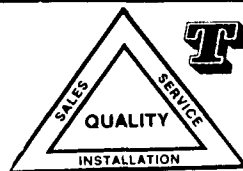
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