

# Schuylkill Valley Pony Club Holds Banquet

**BY ROBIN PHILLIPS**  
Berks Co. Correspondent  
SHILLINGTON — There was an air of anticipation among the young people present as they looked over the expansive trophy table that was widespread with trophies and gifts for the top riders of the 1987 season. The occasion was the annual awards banquet of the Schuylkill Valley Pony of the America's Club held November 8th at the Shillington Restaurant, Shillington, Pennsylvania.

A relatively young club, The Schuylkill Valley POA Club was chartered in 1977, covers an area that extends East to Baltimore, Maryland, South past Chambersburg, and beyond Bloomsburg in to central Pennsylvania. Boasting over 40 family memberships to date, the Schuylkill Valley POA Club holds nine shows a year and gives the entire family a chance to participate together in one of the most popular sports of horseback riding, while promoting the versa-

tile breed of larger ponies, the spotted Pony of the America's. Their shows, as well as their awards, are divided into age groups, so that families can compete in equalized competition. "It is important to note this," stated Sara Moyer, the Treasurer of the POA club. The breakdown in ages is for competitive reasons and gives younger children encouragement to excell among their peers, she went on to explain.

When the dust cleared and all the awards were handed out, the top rider of the day was the apparent choice of all those who witnessed the 1987 season's shows. Eric Schmoyer, R2, New Tripoli, was named High Point Rider age 13-18; Recipient of the Sultzler Award for Western Pleasure, Equitation, Riding, and Reining; and the Recipient of the Weidenheimer Trophy for Reining.

The 15 year old Schmoyer confessed that he has been riding for

12 years and that this has been his best year. The son of Jim and Faye Schmoyer, he helps his parents with their horse farm at home but likes to concentrate on his POA ponies the most. Schmoyer's favorite events are Western Pleasure classes but says he enjoys the whole atmosphere of the shows. "I like it," he states. "It's good competition, but it's fun." "It's not as

serious, I guess," he smiled.

Schmoyer was awarded the traveling Trudy Weidenheimer trophy for his excellence in reining classes. The trophy was started several years ago in memory of Trudy Weidenheimer, West Lawn, one of the charter members. Killed in an accident, Trudy Weidenheimer is remembered through this trophy presented by her parents,

Robert and Florence Weidenheimer, to the rider who amasses the most points in the reining classes throughout the season.

Other top riders of the season included: High Point Rider ages 9-12: Amy Phillips High Point Rider, ages 8 and under: Crystal Smith; and High Point Rider - adult: Ed Sultzler.

## Twin Valley High Girl Wins Contest

ELVERSON — Jill Burkhart, 14 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burkhart of RD 1 Mohnton, won first place in the yield division of the Berks County FFA Field Corn Contest. Jill, a freshman at Twin Valley High School and greenhand member of the Twin Valley FFA, had a yield of 163 bushels of corn per acre. Her corn also placed second in the quality contest, which was won by an entry from the Tulpehocken

FFA Field Corn Test plot.

Sue Burkhart, Jill's sister and Vice-President of both the Twin Valley Chapter and Berks County FFA Association, placed third in yield and fifth in quality.

Other placings were: Yield - Troy Seidel, Kutztown 2nd; Tulpehocken FFA 4th; James Blatt, Conrad Weiser FFA, 5th; Chris Blatt, Conrad Weiser FFA, 6th; Dean Wagner, Oley Valley FFA,

7th; Kirk Sattazahn, Conrad Weiser FFA 8th; Rebecca Sattazahn, Conrad Weiser FFA, 9th; and Randy Balthaser, Hamburg FFA, 10th.

Quality Placings were: Tulpehocken FFA, 1st; Jill Burkhart, Twin Valley, 2nd; Troy Seidel, 3rd; Rebecca Sonnen, 4th; Sue Burkhart, 5th; Kirk Sattazahn, 6th; Chris Blatt, 7th; Randy Balthaser, 8th; Dean Wagner, 9th; and James Blatt, 10th.

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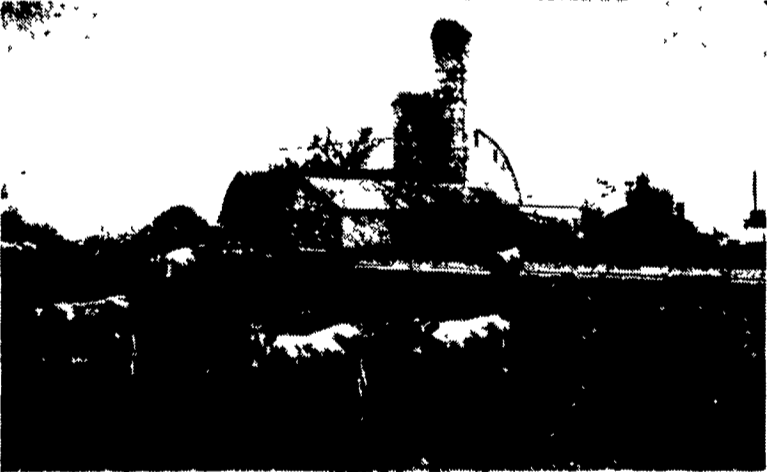
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