

# Chocolatetown USA Offers A Feast On The Sweetest Holiday Of The Year

GINGER SECRIST MYERS Adams Co. Correspondent  
HERSHEY — Where else would a chocolate lover rather be on the sweetest holiday of the year than in Chocolatetown, USA? Over 1000 persons with a passion for America's favorite flavor attended the Sixth Annual Great American Chocolate Festival held at the Hershey Convention Center Valentine's Day weekend.

Billed as a chocolate lover's extravaganza -- Bar None, the festival events ranged from cooking classes featuring New York's top caterers, Risk Rodgers, to a Gala Sweetheart Dinner Dance. Youngsters were entertained with game

themes such as "Chocolate Bingo" and "Let's Make a Chocolate Deal." Events could be attended individually or as part of a weekend package deal with the lodge and convention center.

One of the highlights of the festival was the Chocolate Gallery opened Sunday afternoon in the grand ballroom of the Hershey Lodge. Here professional chefs displayed their talents using chocolate for everything from dipping, to cooking, to decorating.

Long lines careened around the booth-filled room as festival goers sampled chocolate fettucine, a myriad of chocolate cakes, cookies, chocolate beverages, and, of course, plenty of Hershey candies. When not eating the chocolate, you could pause to watch chocolate sculpturing in progress. It was an all-you-can-eat chocolate smorgasbord.

In addition to the professionals at work, festival goers viewed the 24 entries in Hershey's Cocoa Bake-Off which was held as part of

the festival. The bake-off was open to any person over 18.

The recipe category was titled, "My Most Spectacular Chocolate Dessert." It had to use Hershey's Cocoa and other Hershey's chocolate product. All recipes had to be original.

All entries were judged Sunday morning by a panel of judges including four Hershey Foods employees and Doug Alan and Nancy Burns from WGAL's PM Magazine show. The recipes were judged on the basis of the amount of cocoa used, creativity, taste, appearance, and use of other Hershey chocolate. All the winning recipes are the property of Hershey Foods Corporation and could not be published here.

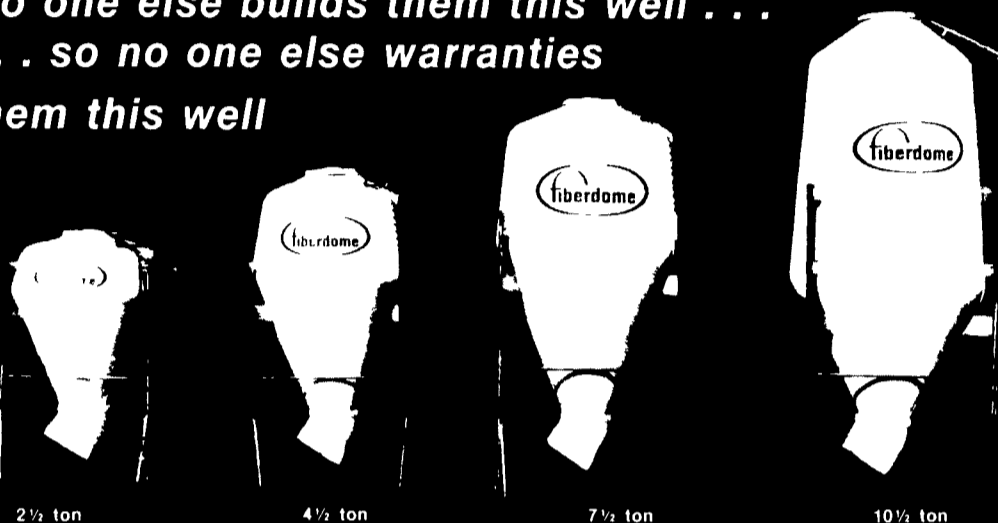
The "Best of Show" award for the contest was won by Anita Youtz, Columbia, for her entry, "Chocolate Truffle Fantasia." Youtz won an all-expense paid weekend for two at the Hershey

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Debble Yandric, Middletown, puts some finishing touches on her entry in the Hershey's Cocoa Bake-off Contest held in conjunction with the 6th Annual Great American Chocolate Festival. There were twenty-four original recipe entries in the contest.

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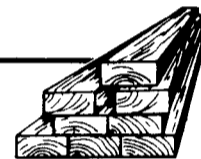
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