

Three Contestants Vie For Mercer County Crown

GROVE CITY (Mercer) — The reigning Mercer County Dairy Princess, Miss Angela Haas, hosted a get-acquainted tea for prospective candidates and their mothers at the Mercer County Cooperative Extension Service Center recently.

Those vying for the crown and banner this year include Cheri Clayton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clayton of Sandy Lake; Jana Ferris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ferris of New Wilmington and Sheila Weber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Weber of Grove City. Mercer County will culminate

Vintage Clothing

(Continued from Page B2)

to her by Carol Canty and Sharon Meachum, who had helped Paula get her business started. It was through Barbara that Paula met one of her current pickers.

Chris Woodyard, another fan of

their 'June is Dairy Month' celebrations with their annual Dairy Princess Pageant on Friday evening, June 24, at the Extension center, at which time Miss Haas will crown her successor from among three candidates.

Miss Haas is quoted as telling the three candidates that her "reign as Dairy Princess has been a once in a lifetime experience of work, learning and enjoyment."

Barbara's from Ohio, had read *Shattered Silk*, and told the author that she had access to vintage clothing and could provide Paula with them. Chris has since been able to provide Paula with a variety of items, items that are practical and of good color.

When Chris became more familiar with Paula's tastes she was able to provide a larger quantity and quality.

Occasionally items are not immediately resaleable, but Paula enjoys working with the clothing and the fact they are not in prime shape does not matter.

Rather than sending the items through the mail Chris often gives them to Georgiana Holly, a friend, who travels from Ohio to Baltimore. On her way to Baltimore,

Georgiana would stop in Frederick to leave the parcels with Paula. Paula came to call Georgiana "Hurricane Georgie." Paula explained, "She flies through Frederick just like a hurricane."

Paula continues to develop contacts throughout the United States as well as getting involved with local historical societies in hopes that vintage interest will be kindled through that avenue.

As stated earlier, Paula has familiarized herself very thoroughly on the topic of vintage. Through this process she has come to know some trivia of the era's. Such trivia includes the fact that during the Victorian era, which is the time up until 1901, the clothing was very confining, so confining that many women would have their

lower rib removed so they could look thinner around the waist. It was important to have a very thin waist while your hips and bust were voluptuous.

The theory was that the less you could move the wealthier your husband was. This goes to prove why so many corsets were worn and petticoats layered. Women wore gloves so tight that they needed servants to put them on. The gloves of the day were those that reached above the elbow. Some of the gloves were so tight that the wearer's hands would fall asleep and they could not write or even ring a door bell.

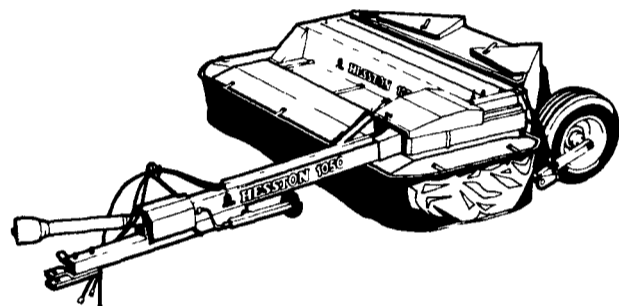
Utilitarian clothing, as worn by farm wives and servants, had loose shoulders and arms for the purpose of being more practical for scrubbing floors and rocking babies.

Styles do change and they do make a social statement. Paula noted through her experience that it appears the style of looking very thin has traveled a 30 to 40-year time span, "It appears about every 30 to 40 years they go from pulling in and letting out." Corsets and girdles are not popular right now, but who is to say they never will be.

It is very plain to see that Paula Francis thoroughly enjoys collecting, restoring and selling vintage clothing to those who share the same love as herself. It is definitely a way to experience early American history.

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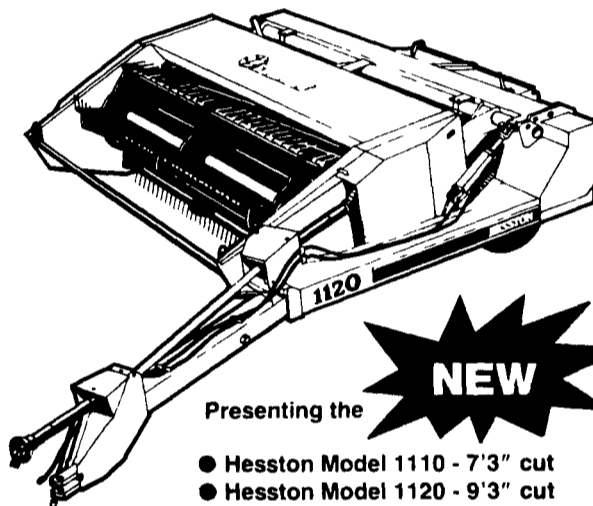
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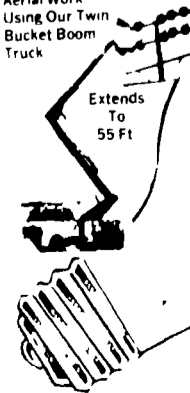
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