

40th Birthday For Delmarva Chicken Festival

SALISBURY, MD. — Fortieth birthdays cause most people to worry a bit, but in the case of the Delmarva Chicken Festival, 40 is a time when things just fall into stride. Autumnlike weather, large crowds and a cast of 25 chicken cooking contest hopefuls combined to produce one of the best festivals ever.

Perhaps in honor of the festival's acquiring a new "world's largest frying pan," the three winners of the cooking contest all used frying pans to prepare their prize recipes before a crowd of thousands.

The host city of Salisbury, Maryland, site of the 1949 festival which introduced the nation's first

chicken cooking contest, took things in stride with its 9th edition of an event that flowed without a hitch.

A Cumberland, Rhode Island art teacher, Mrs. Muriel Brody, took top honors in the cooking contest with a dish titled (very appropriately) "Olympic Seoul Chicken." It was her first ever entry in a cook-

ing contest.

Second place honors in the cooking contest went to Marjorie Farr of Rockville, Maryland, who developed her "Chicken With Fruit and Mixed Mustards" recipe as part of her search for healthier recipes. An Enosburg East, Vermont, nurse, Raymonde F. Woodward, produced the third place recipe, "Chicken Timatar."

Also playing a major role in the serious side of the Chicken Festival was a group of more than 50 food editors from across the country who came to observe the contest and learn first hand the dynamics of Delmarva's immense broiler chicken production industry.

The Chicken Festival and its cooking contest honor an industry which provides more than 20,000 jobs in the region and produces almost half a billion chickens each year with a 1987 value of over \$1 billion.

Debuting this year was a new frying pan built by the folks at the Mumford Sheet Metal Works of Selbyville, Delaware, builder of the first one in 1950. The 1988 model got a good workout from the members of the Salisbury Lions Club who fried thousands of chickens in it for three days straight.

No chicken festival is without its lighter moments and this year was no exception. Ronald McDonald strolled the grounds to the delight of children and a giant costumed chicken was also in evidence.

A local radio station, WICO,

came up with the newest event, a 50-foot egg drop in which those brave enough to try it tried catching eggs dropped by the station's Dave Parks suspended in a chair by a giant crane. Those who caught the raw eggs, without breaking them, won \$50 in cash.

The ever-popular olympics of Delmarva poultrydom, "Chicken Capers," featured crowing contests, egg toss matches, spoon races, a relay which saw many eggs splattered, many contestants fall by the wayside, but no eggs bruised.

When it came to the capers' matches featuring teams from the various poultry processing companies, the Cargill processing plant of Harbeson, Delaware took the laurels. Honors in the event for growout teams were taken by the Perdue Farms team.

For the children, the chicken scratch event saw a record set by Jason Opel, 10, of Princess Anne, Maryland, who dove into a heap of dusty feed meal and emerged with \$2.65 in assorted coins.

Hosting the 40th festival was the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce which used Dean Gray and Keith Iott was co-chairman to make the thousand and one arrangements involved.

Dr. Keith E. Rinehart, president of the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., the sponsor organization, put things in perspective by noting, "The Chicken Festival allows us to take time out to celebrate the poul-

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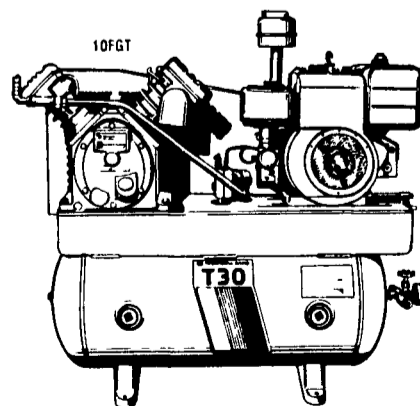
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