



Alissa is grateful to her parents Mervin and Ruth Hooper. Her twin sister Andrea, kneeling on left, shares many of Alissa's interests. Next year, Andrea plans to enter the poultry queen pageant. Said Alissa, "It would be my greatest joy to crown her."

## Who Is Alissa Hooper?

# A Poultry Queen With Many Talents

BY LOU ANN GOOD

NEW HOLLAND — If you've read the front page of this week's "Lancaster Farming," you know that 17-year-old Alissa Hooper captured the Lancaster County Poultry Queen crown at last Friday night's banquet. But who is she really?

For starters she is not merely a petite blond with the ability to charm an audience. If you've read previous issues of "Lancaster Farming," you know she has achieved fame as an accomplished seamstress in the 4-H program. In fact, at the 1987 state fashion revue, Alissa earned a perfect score—a rarity among competitors.

She uses her creative talents in stitching up anything from classic suits to country crafts. She has played field hockey on the Garden Spot High School team for the past three years. She's president of the student council at school, a member of the chorus and orchestra and secretary of her church youth group.

Concerning her sewing abilities, Alissa maintains that her mother influenced her to make her own clothing. Fueled by 4-H's sewing classes, Alissa finds tremendous satisfaction in fashioning a dress after a store rack version. "It's so neat to say, 'I did it myself.'" She does confess to occasionally buying storerack clothing on sale.

Her sewing achievements are



Alissa Hooper enjoys the crowning moments during the poultry queen pageant held on August 6.

steering her toward pursuing a home economist degree at Hood College or Messiah College after high school graduation. Although she prefers the sewing end, she concedes, "I might become a dietitian, because there is a demand in that field." She also enjoys interior

design and decorating and considers making interior design her career choice.

She's a loyal daughter, who often remarks, "I'm so proud of my parents (Mervin and Ruth Hooper). They taught me to be creative and resourceful."

Alissa and her twin sister Andrea followed three siblings after a 16-year gap. Consequently she admits to getting lots of attention when she and her twin were younger. Now she lavishes attention on her four nieces and six nephews who cheered her on during the pageant.

Sandwiched between school activities, 4-H and church involvement, Alissa works about 18 hours weekly at Donecker's Clothing Store in Ephrata.

With so much involvement in so many activities, how does Alissa find time to sew? She answers, "I make time. I think most people find time to do what they enjoy."

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Five years ago, the Hooper family moved from the farm to the barn. This house with its barn features and silo illustrates the family's love for the farm.

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