

Town Seal Inspired By Dairy Heritage

**By Sharon B. Schuster
Maryland Correspondent**
UNION BRIDGE — Take a close look at the official town seal of Union Bridge, Maryland. Cleverly included in the design by P. Richard Eichman, is a butter churn. It represents the rich dairy heritage of this Carroll County community.

Back in 1817, almost 175 years ago, Union Bridge was settled by farming families drawn by the fertile land. According to *The History of Western Maryland*, by J. Thomas Scharf, the dairy business flourished and led to the organization of the first agricultural society in Carroll County, known as the 'Patrons of Husbandry'.

At a time when dairymen had to overcome the inconveniences of areas of swampland and woods with "impenetrable undergrowth," they also had to stand guard against "ravenous wolves constantly prowling the clearings for unguarded stock and unwary passersby." In spite of the dangers and hardships of the time, Scharf reported that the intelligent and hardworking farmers of Union Bridge produced a superior product that was dubbed 'gilt-edged butter'.

Members of the Patrons of Husbandry sought to bypass the middleman. According to Scharf, "the plan of the club . . . was to produce a first-rate article and deliver it directly to the consumer. A person who did not make a good article could not be a member of the club, and they established a first-class



reputation."

The 'gilt-edged butter' that was produced commanded 'fancy prices'. The History . . . notes that the club "ran a wagon, which conveyed the produce to the Baltimore market every week. Scharf said the members took turns driving the wagon and each furnished his own horse to pull it. Once at the market, the club member "acted as agent for the association."

With the advent of the railroad the business continued to enjoy success. Scharf wrote that "the rapid transportation furnished by the railroads has enabled [the citizens of Union Bridge] to build up a trade in the products of the dairy unsurpassed probably elsewhere in Maryland." It was reported that butter was handled in such large quantities that "the village became known as 'Buttersburg'".

Today, Carroll ranks second in the largest milk producing counties of Maryland, as reported by the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Area. And Union Bridge plays an important part in maintaining that rank with the likes of Peace and Plenty Farm, showcase dairy farm of Nona and Joe Schwartzbeck, past president of the Maryland State Holstein Association.

The importance of Union Bridge's dairy industry didn't escape the attention of local artist, P. Richard Eichman. When the Town fathers solicited designs for the first official Town seal since its incorporation in 1983, Eichman's design was chosen unanimously from 19 entries. "A butter churn commemorates the original name of Union Bridge, which was 'Buttersburg,'" reported a 1983 account of the adoption of the seal. The design has since been reproduced on colorful plates and a commemorative edition plate in celebration of Carroll County's sesquicentennial in 1987. Eichman won a \$40 first prize for his insightful entry.

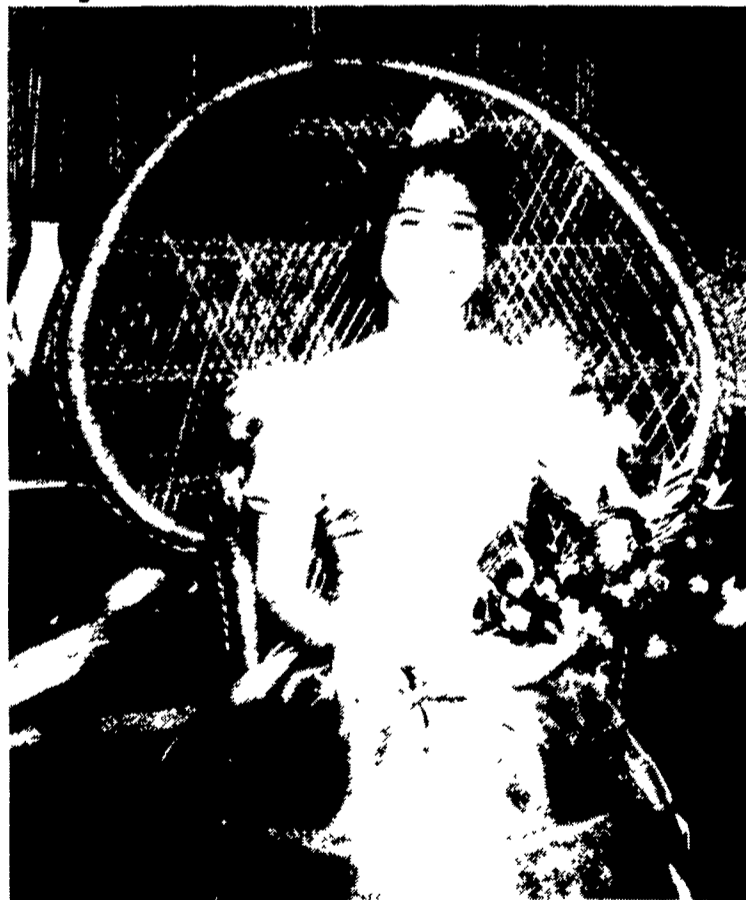
Potter Co. Dairy Princess Coronation

COUDERSPORT (Tioga) — The 1989 Potter County Dairy Princess was crowned during ceremonies held on May 12, in the Ulysses Community Building. After answering a question and doing an informative dairy presentation, Petty Tomb crowned her successor — Jennifer Brown.

Jennifer Brown, daughter of Judy Brown, Coudersport, is active in 4-H where she is a member of the Homesteaders 4-H Club and is president of 4-H County Council. She is a 4-H Keystone winner and has placed first in both 4-H and FFA public speaking contests. Jenny is a junior at Coudersport High School where she is a member of FFA, marching band, concert band, chorus, select chorus, honor society, orchestra, basketball cheerleader, football cheerleader, and is a track statistician. Following her graduation from high school, Jenny plans to study environmental law at Penn State University. She lists her hobbies as showing her three dairy animals, promoting milk, singing, playing the piano and violin, reading, riding horseback, sewing, cooking, public speaking, and spending time with her family and friends. Jenny works at the Coudersport Golf Course and teaches piano.

For her presentation, Jenny was a space commander reporting back to base from earth many years into the future. She had found a primitive earth dwelling believed to be an eating area. She was glad to find that there were dairy products back then so she could enjoy a glass of milk.

Also taking part in the program with a presentation was Lorie Angood who will be serving another year as dairy maid. Lor-



Jennifer Brown began her new assignment as Potter County's reigning dairy princess.

ie's presentation was about the Mother Rabbit getting all the Easter baskets filled with dairy products including milk chocolate cows.

Lorie Angood is the daughter of David and Lorraine Angood, Ulysses. She is in tenth grade at Northern Potter High School where she is a member of the chorus. Lorie is currently serving as Potter County 4-H Queen. She is a member of the 4-H County Council, 4-H Exchange Club, and the Dairywide 4-H Club. Lorie

enjoys reading and spending time with her friends when she is not helping on the family farm.

Guest speakers for the evening were Karl Kroeck, vice chairman of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Board and Leo Dunn, Chief of Farm Operations and Agriculture Research for the Department of Agriculture.

Sam Crossley, Potter County Extension Director, served as master of ceremonies of the coronation. Milk punch and dessert followed the coronation.

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