

# Kid's KOrner

## New Inventions Introduced By Kids

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LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — "I didn't like to make my bed," says Trevor Styer, a second grader at Kissel Hill Elementary in Lititz.

And what kid does?

So Trevor did something about it. He invented the "Cover Winder" (patents not necessarily pending). The contraption features a spring-loaded winder (a window blind in a previous incarnation) with a typical bed sheet attached. Rather than

spreading the covers out nicely and tucking them in, as on a conventional bed, with the "Cover Winder" one simply gives a little tug and the sheets roll up nicely at the bottom of the bed, all ready to be pulled out again come evening.

Trevor's clever device was good enough for third place in Mrs. Jeanne Hopper's class' invention fair and competition.

Hopper explains that as part of the project, each student is assigned to "think of a problem,

then invent a solution to the problem — in a way they can create and make it themselves."

The inventions are then put on display and voted on by other teachers and school administrators. While every student receives some sort of award, special recognition is given for the top three inventions at a special ceremony for parents (and the press of course).

Elisa Wolf objected to her dentist's gloves. "Dentist gloves just don't taste good," she said. By



Michael Murphy explains how his automatic cat feeder works.



Matthew Bomberger, Michael Murphy and Trevor Styer display the ribbons they won in the recent invention fair held by Mrs. Hopper's second grade class.

treating typical rubber gloves with cherry mouthwash she was able to solve that problem.

Celina Troutman was tired of her glasses getting splattered when she went out in the rain. The solution to her problem was a special rain visor, made from a cutaway plastic picnic plate and a piece of elastic.

Michael Murphy took second place in the competition with his "Automatic Cat Feeder." The device exploits cats' natural curiosity with string. When a cat pulls on a piece of string, a small trap door in the bottom of a plastic container mounted on top of an ordinary cardboard box is opened and a small amount of cat food is dispensed.

The first place ribbon went to Matthew Bomberger, who had the unique problem of getting scratched by his rabbits as he attempted to feed them. His "Rabbit Grabber," a padded glove at the end of a long stick, allows him to gently trap the rabbits while he feeds them.

Hopper, who got the idea for the contest from the "Weekly Reader" magazine, has been conducting the project for the last several years. She stresses that in addition to teaching the students creative problem solving, it is also a confidence booster as well. Students who once thought that they couldn't invent anything find that there's a little bit of inventiveness in all of us.



## Dairy Darlings Serve Dairy Cheers To Guests



These Lancaster County Dairy Darlings serve dairy cheers at Kreider's Restaurant on Tuesday night. The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program sponsored the taste-testing event to introduce non-alcoholic cheers beverages. The dairy darlings are Amanda Kobl, left, and Denise Bollinger, right. Amanda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Kolb, Lancaster. Denise is the daughter of Ruby and Darryl Bollinger, Manheim.