

## Somerset Fair Queen Begins Reign

**GAY N. BROWNLEE**  
Somerset Co. Correspondent  
**MEYERSDALE** (Somerset Co.) — Regardless of any existing drought conditions here, depend on it, the advent of the Somerset County Fair the third week every August will attract rain as surely as bears can find honey. So it was that the ominous blackening of the overhead clouds following the opening Vesper Service, just prior to the fair queen contest, held little surprise for the fair directors. They sensibly relocated the grandstand event to the indoor show arena before the inevitable droplets could target the gathered crowd of guests.

Lucinda Lape, 18, of Friedens, looking elegant in an emerald green fitted gown with a back slit, and matching jewels hanging just below her ears, was chosen by three judges to reign as the queen over this year's Somerset County Fair. She was crowned by outgoing queen Wendy Will of Berlin.

First runner-up to the new queen was Jodell Rhoads, 17, of Berlin. The remaining contestants were Mary Ann Pyle, 19, of Rockwood; Aimee Shipley, 17, of Glencoe; and Julia Ann Keafer, 17, Somerset.

Lape is enrolled in elementary education at Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg, VA. A

talented musician, she has compiled an impressive list of vocal and instrumental achievements in high school. During her years in 4-H, Lape was a Nevada Exchange delegate in addition to other 4-H activities which often found her competing at the state level.

Dale and Bonnie Lape are her parents.

Now entering her senior high school year, Jodell Rhoads is one of Somerset County's top 4-H seamstresses. This year, her woolen two-piece outfit of basic red was judged to be the "Best of Show," at the county fair. She has also earned recognition for her work on other garments.

Harry and Virginia Rhoads are Jodell's parents.

Invited from neighboring counties to perform the judging honors were the husband and wife team of Tom and Cathy Wakefield, and Nancy McAfoose.

The Wakefields from Bedford own a dairy farm which, the husband operates while the wife teaches home economics at the Tussey Mountain School District.

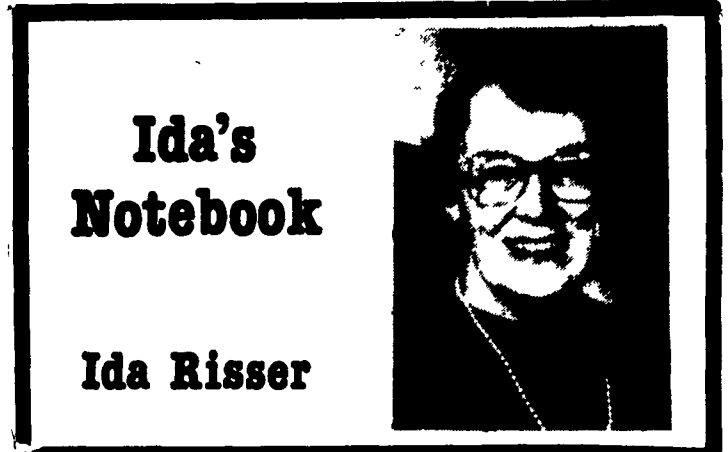
Wakefield also is a director for the Bedford County Fair.

McAfoose hails from Indiana and is the historian for the Indiana County Fair.

Mother and daughter, Jean and Jill Romesberg from the county, coordinated the fair queen contest that was conducted by master of ceremonies James Bochy, the retired director of the Somerset County Extension Service.



Representing Somerset County Fair are, from left, Jodell Rhoads, first runner-up; 1991 Somerset County Fair Queen Lucinda Lape; and 1990 Somerset County Fair Queen Wendy Will.



School days are here again. How well I remember the days when I had several children in elementary school.

The days before school started were quite busy as we tried to find the time to go shopping for shirts, trousers, dresses and shoes. And, trying to find the money was no easy job either. When I took three of them to the store, I had to take the baby along too and keep her satisfied. It was a stressful situation, but, somehow we accomplished it.

Just this past week, I emptied a bureau drawer in which I kept some special children's clothes. There were shirts and dresses that I associated with a particular child. One boy had a shirt with all kinds of cars printed on it. There was a pink dress with embroidered roses on it that one child wore when she took her first steps. A pair of blue baby shoes was still in its original box. I think that I'll

mail them to my daughter in Seattle her baby son.

There are now six piles of clothes waiting for our children to pick up sometime. Of course, there were some that I knew they would not want and I couldn't part with all of them. There was a soft receiving blanket, a white bonnet with ribbons and yellow socks with gold trim that I'll keep. It is so easy for me to keep too many things but they do help to refresh my memory of days past.

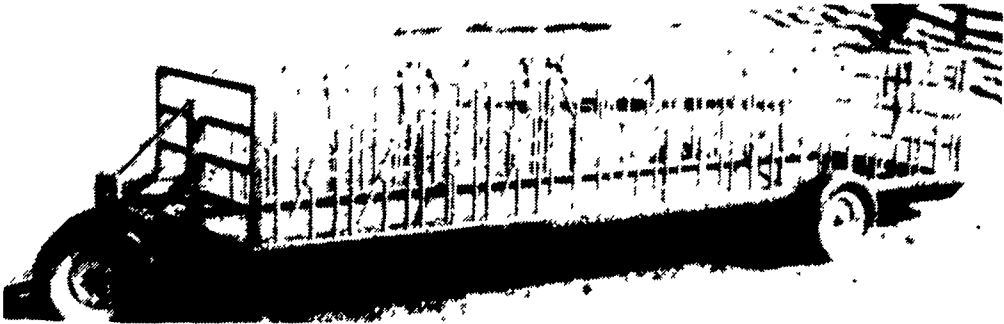
I still have the first three dresses that I bought for our oldest daughter to start school. It was the first dresses that I ever bought for her as previously she had clothes given to her. She was so excited, and, when I took her to the bus stop, one mile from our home, she jumped out of the car and skipped away. She never looked back as I sat there trying to hold back the tears. It has been the story of her life- onward and upward.

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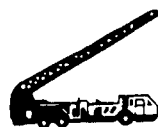
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