

## 4-H Public Speaking Contest Held In Somerset

GAY N. BROWNLEE

Somerset Co. Correspondent  
SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) - Fifty-eight members of the county 4-H Clubs participated in the annual Public Speaking Contest held at the St. Peter's Catholic School and church hall on April 22. There were 25 in the senior division and 33 in the junior division. Serving as master of ceremonies was Robert Antram, interim director of the Somerset County Cooperative Extension Service.

Paul Will, 17, son of Dan and Kathy Will took first place with a speech about "Creativity." Citing examples from children, teenagers and adults dealing with children, Will was convincing. "I just sort of challenged the audience to broaden their mind," he said, later.

A junior at the Berlin-Brothersvalley High School and a member of the Milksquirts 4-H Club, Will says he's been in 4-H since age eight, always showing cows and pigs at the county fair. Right from the outset, Will says he's been in the thick of 4-H public

speaking competitions. Twice previously he has gone to the state contest.

Will's home, a 750 acre Century Farm called the North View Farm, has a 90 head dairy herd of cows demanding of the Will's a three-times-a-day milking schedule.

Michele Countryman's in-depth speech on "Body Language" placed her second in the contest. She, too, will participate in the state contest held next August at the Pennsylvania State University.

"We all have it," declared Countryman about body language. Sure enough, her illustrations proved that everybody has unconscious body movements that to an observer are suggestive of almost anything between total boredom to keen alertness of mind.

The daughter of David and Linda Countryman, the Berlin-Brothersvalley junior, like her peer, is a member of the Milksquirts 4-H Club. From years of practice, Countryman is quite the expert on food preservation, having used it as her 4-H project. Her



Finalists in the Somerset County Public Speaking Contest are from left, Jill Clites, Karen Rhoads, Kristen Hay, Paul Will, Michele Countryman and Christy Wysocki. Will placed first followed by Countryman in second. They will go to state competition in August at Penn State.

successful efforts found her a state winner entitled to attend the National 4-H Congress held last December in Chicago.

Other finalists in the county

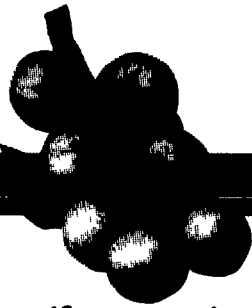
senior division were Jill Clites, Kristen Hay, Karen Rhoads and Christy Wysocki. Their timely topics dealt with Black Bears, Somerset County, Care of Dogs

and Dead At Seventeen, which dealt with teenage drinking and driving.

Winners in the junior division were Jennifer Hosier, Susan Barbera, Debbie Black, Tessa Slifco, Lauren Lynch and Jessica Lynch.

Speeches of the semi-finalists were judged by Martha Halverson and David Antram. Prior to that, senior speech winners were selected by room judges, Lori Barndt, Mike Countryman and Roberta Antram.

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