



Onalee shows off some freshly made pierogies made with plenty of dairy products.

No Fake Image For Onalee Smith

CAROL SMITH

**Mercer Co. Correspondent
GREENVILLE (Mercer Co.)**

— "Being a dairy princess is not only rewarding, it is a contest challenge," says Onalee Smith, PA Alternate Dairy Princess from Mercer County.

"It is a challenge because we (the dairy princesses) are constantly trying to promote the dairy industry and dairy products to the consumers. The consumers are our toughest audience and once you have made an impression on them, then it is all easy and downhill from there. It is just knowing how to make that impression. I feel the best way to make an impression on a consumer is just to be yourself and that alone will make a positive impression on the consumer, the dairy products, and the dairy industry.

"If you present yourself as a fake and imitation person, then you are only promoting a fake product, however, if you present yourself as a "real" and wholesome person, then you certainly are promoting a "real" product. That is what a dairy princess wants to accomplish—A "real" image promoting a "real" product!"

Onalee is the daughter of Thomas and Carol Smith of Greenville. She has two brothers, Vinton and Thomas. She is 22 years old and is certainly no "new kid on the block" when it comes to farming because she grew up on their 290-acre farm, "Lazy Acres Dairy," she would not change that for anything in the world.

"Growing up on a farm has so many advantages. Your morals and ideals are more adapted because you realize that it takes a lot of hard work to make a living on a farm. You mature faster and learn to respect the environment and everything around you," she said.

Onalee was Mercer County Alternate Dairy Princess for 1990-1991 and decided to run for the title a second time.

"I really had a lot of fun promoting the Dairy industry. I certainly had a lot of support so I decided to try again. I am glad I did because I won and this has been the most exciting year of my life! I never imagined I would meet so many nice people. When I was crowned PA Alternate, I was ecstatic! It really has been a fantastic year and I would encourage all young girls to be a dairy princess. It will be a time you will nev-



For her Dairy Princess scrapbook, Onalee received one of two top prizes during state pageant competition.

er forget."

Onalee graduated from Commodore Perry High School in 1987. In high school, she was involved in many sports and activities. She played basketball for four years, volleyball and softball for three years. Onalee was also Student Council president and the first S.A.D.D. (Students Against Driving Drunk) president in Mercer County.

She was approached by her guidance counselor and school nurse about beginning S.A.D.D. chapter and today every school in Mercer County has a program to help prevent drinking and driving.

Onalee started college in the fall of 1987 and graduated from Edinboro University in December of 1991 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She recently took her law school entrance exam and would really like to attend law school either this fall or next spring.

She currently works for Palmer/Snyder Furniture Company as a sales assistant.

"I have made so many friends all over the state. Most of them are other dairy princesses or people related to the dairy industry, but there have been others. People really seem to be receptive to you when you are promoting dairy products. They seem interested and you just hope that they are really learning what you are trying to teach them. It is kind of like being a teacher and the consumers are your students. Let them ask questions and you answer them as best as you can or vice-versa. In the process, you are both learning something about the other."

Onalee has many hobbies and interests. She enjoys the outdoors and especially participating in outdoor sports. Swimming and boating are her two favorites. She also

(Turn to Page B15)

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