

Farm Wife Chosen As Best Pot Pie Maker

LOU ANN GOOD
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
 — Every Saturday night during Ruth Wanner's growing up years, pot pie was served at her home. "I never got tired of it," said Ruth, who watched her mother and grandmother dump in a little of this and a pinch of that.

When Ruth married David Wanner, she started cooking pot pie by the dump and pinch method also. As the Wanners added four children to the family, Ruth perfected the pot pie to the point that friends and family absolutely insist that she bring pot pie whenever there is a covered dish meal at Grange, church, or family functions.

"They always tell me, 'you have the best pot pie ever,'" Ruth said of her acquaintances.

Well, those folks know good pot pie when they taste it, for at the Pennfield Farms Chicken Pot Pie Cook-Off held Monday, seven judges agreed that Ruth's pot pie was the best.

"As soon as we (the judges) tasted it, we knew it was a winner,"

said C.S. Keys of WGAL-TV, a judge for the contest that attracted hundreds of bystanders.

Another judge, Betty Groff, cookbook author and owner of Groff's Farm Restaurant, agreed. "It wasn't too doughy. It was light. The taste and texture were just right."

Ruth said that she entered the contest at the urging of her cousin. Because Ruth needed to submit a recipe with exact measurements, it took her half a day to figure out exactly how much of each ingredient she was using in her dump and pinch method.

The Wanners moved recently from Narvon to Sandy Hill, where they put up a free stall milking parlor for 83 cows. Ruth helps with the cows and is working toward establishing a fruit and vegetable market. She planted 800 strawberry plants, which she estimates has multiplied to 8,000 plants that she and her family will pick to sell.

For her first-place win, Ruth received \$300.

Second place and \$150 went to Roberta Householder of Lancaster. She entered the contest at the insistence of her husband Marlin. In 1969, she entered her pot pie recipe in a newspaper contest. Although she won first prize in the Pennsylvania Dutch category, Roberta said that she changed the pot pie slightly for this contest.

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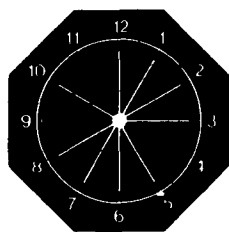
The top three winners of the Pennfield Pot Pie Contest, from left, are Roberta Householder, second runnerup; Ruth Wanner, winner; and Tom Standish, third runnerup.

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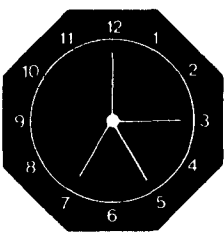


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