

Jennifer Randall Reigns Over Somerset County Fair

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Somerset Co. Correspondent
MEYERSDALE (Somerset Co.) — Jennifer Randall had told the audience in the packed show arena about her background. She had explained why she wanted to be the 1994 fair queen. Like her three competitors, she had risen to the challenge of answering one all-important, surprise question.

And then, she and everybody else waited nervously for the judges' decision. In fact, it was so long in coming the master of ceremonies ran out of his brand of jokes, and called upon the 1993 fair queen, Vicki Stahl, to bail him out with her gift of public speaking.

Faced with choosing one winner from the four talented contestants, they saw and heard, naming Randall as the 1994 Somerset County Fair Queen was no easy task for the judges. They named Julie Will first runner-up.

Jean Black and Stephanie Singo were the other contestants. Because each of the four young women was excellent at public speaking, the decision was tough.

Randall, who is heading for Millersville University next week was elated to win \$1,000 in scholarships as the new queen. They came with compliments from the

Somerset Trust Company and First Philson Bank, each giving \$500.

She's got a thirst for water, but not for drinking it. Randall says her educational pursuits may take her to a doctorate one day in marine biology. And while it seems a long way off, Randall can't wait to begin the journey.

"There have always been two things I wanted to get into," she said, "theatre arts and marine biology." Being the niece of a Maine lobsterman has merely courted her fascination for the ocean and marine life, especially since he takes her around the bays of his livelihood.

Besides school, Randall, who is 17 and the daughter of Charles and Kathryn Randall, Somerset, has a list of accomplishments a mile long in 4-H livestock projects. She will represent her county in January when the state fair queen pageant is held at Hershey.

Will, 17 and the daughter of John and Connie Will, Berlin, received a \$250 scholarship from the Animal Medical Center operated by Dr. Bastian, Dr. Scott Bastian, Dr. Vincent Svonavec and Dr. Michael Nosko.

Black, 17 and Singo, 18, like the winners, received gold bracelets and gold lockets among their gifts.

Their parents are Doug and Peggy Black, Boswell, and Robert and Brenda Singo, Somerset.

The Somerset County Fair Board presented cash awards to the winners.

Bringing their expertise to the Somerset contest were judges Sis Hayward, Fayette County Fair; Colleen Travis, Indiana County Fair and Steve Stanish, from the Uniontown Poultry and Farm Show.

Jerry Lyons was master of ceremonies.

Mary Will and Wendy Will, Berlin, coordinated and directed the event which, in typical Somerset County fashion, dumped rain on the opening night of the 94th agricultural event.

However, wisdom prevailed early. Rather than consign visitors and honorees to a potential drenching, they chose to relocate the contest from the open grandstand to the show barn while droplets were only hinting at impending doom.



Jennifer Randall, center, is crowned the 1994 Somerset County Fair Queen by Vicki Stahl, 1993 Fair Queen. At left is Julie Will, first runner-up.

Hay Creek Festival Opens

MORGANTOWN (Chester Co.) — The Hay Creek Fall Festival which opens Friday, September 9 and runs through Sunday, September 11, will celebrate its 18th year of interpreting life on Historic Joanna Furnace.

The event, held on the 26 acre Joanna Furnace site near Morgantown, showcases the 18th and 19th century iron making life style through music, early American crafts demonstrations and sales, early steam and gas technology, historic interpretation and plenty of good food.

More than 200 juried craftsmen will demonstrate early American skills such as basket making, shoe making, coopering, furniture making and spinning and weaving. They will also sell their wares.

Three times on Saturday and Sunday, visitors can see how sheep are sheared and the resulting wool is fashioned into a finished product.

Other crafts include a resident blacksmith in the restored blacksmith shop, this year working with pewter, bronze and iron, glass

blowing, broom making, Windsor chair makers, painted chests and fireboards, and numerous others.

The history of Joanna Furnace is told through a twelve-minute video shown continuously throughout the day. Visitors are able to take a self-guided walking tour of the historic complex and learn first hand how Joanna made iron from 1792 to 1897.

For children there are a number of hands-on activities, story telling and farm animals.

The food ranges from an all-you-can-eat sausage and pancake breakfast Saturday and Sunday to home baked bread to open fire cooked apple butter to shoofly pies to chicken pot pie to open fire cooked soups to contemporary foods.

In the steam and gas technology section visitors can see hundreds of early gasoline engines operating all kinds of machinery from water pumps to corn shellers. Steam engines will be operating heavy machinery including the Hay Creek sawmill and a shingle mill. The Hay Creek sawmill is a

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MEYERSDALE (Somerset Co.) — Somerset County dairy maids Michele Shaffer and Gretchen Fox lost no time promoting wholesome dairy products when the Somerset County Fair opened on August 21.

Armed with the tools of their trade, so to speak — rubber magnets, rubber cows, red-heart stickers that told the world "I love milk," and more, they used the persuasive powers of refreshing milk punch on all passers-by.

And what good does it do if you like the punch and don't know how to make it? It does no good. So stacks of milk punch recipe cards disappeared at about the same rate as the cups of dairy drink shaffer and Fox were passing out.

They were assisting Somerset County dairy princess, Natalie Welch and first alternate, Kelly Bittner. Barbara Brant of the Somerset County Dairy Promotion Committee was the background force, mixing the milk, fruit-flavored sherbet and carbon-

ated drink. She was great for mopping up the inevitable messes, too.

And a cow was spotted hanging out in the royal company but, alias, she walked on two legs. Somebody saw her take off her head and thereafter, they called her Jessica Lynch. Then she stuck it back on — her head, that is.

"Look mom, there's a cow," was repeated by kids on the midway like a broken record spinning on a turntable. It proved the mascot's value in garnering attention for dairy products.

Shaffer and Fox were first introduced at the county dairy princess contest last June in Somerset. This is the second year the promotion committee has named dairy maids. Erica Walker served as the first in 1993.

Although both dairy maids have Berlin addresses, they attend the Shanksville-Stoneycreek High School. They have assisted with promotions at the Georgian Place Outlet Mall in Somerset, and served sundaes at area businesses, in order to score points for Welch.

"It's interesting," said Shaffer, "you get to meet a lot of people." She says the experience will help

her to decide later whether to compete for the dairy princess title.

The 10th-grade daughter of Lee and Jean Shaffer, she loves sports such as volleyball and basketball. She's in 4-H, member of SADD and the student senate at her school. The majorette is also in chorus and belongs to Rainbow Girls.

Fox, 14, says she has no doubt that when eligible, she will enter the dairy princess contest if for no other reason than, "My grandma will make me." Oops, that's Barbara Brant.

Dairy has always played largely in Fox's life. She was a little maid when that program first began.

On the family farm, operated by her parents Brad and Melissa Fox, the ninth grader says she is her dad's primary assistant for the evening milking. Right now the Holstein herd numbers 44 head, she said.

Fox actively participates in 4-H with clothing and animal projects. She has two younger sisters and a brother.

Although she has dairy cows, Fox says she's only showing lambs at this year's fair.



The Silver Pails Goat Club at the Montgomery County 4-H Fair include from left, Heather Foster, GrechIn Sample, Beth Slater, Caitlin Melvin, Abby Shrom, and Megan Sly.

full-size operating sawmill used to cut beams and planks from large logs. The lumber cut here is used in the restoration and building programs at Joanna Furnace.

The Festival is open Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Main Festival events run from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Adult admission is \$3 on Friday (Preview day) and \$5 Saturday and Sunday. Children 12 and under are free at all times. Parking is free on paved lot at New Morgan two miles south of Festival grounds on PA Route 10. Free shuttle buses run continuously from parking lot to Festival grounds.

The Hay Creek Fall Festival is sponsored by the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association, a non-profit organization.

Proceeds go toward the research, maintenance and restoration programs of Historic Joanna Furnace through the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association.



Gretchen Fox and the cow mascot (Jessica Lynch) stand beside each other while promoting dairy products to, from left, Jennifer Sanner and Heather Boyce.