

Princess Comes From Cow-Tech University

LOIS SZYMANSKI
Maryland Correspondent

WESTMINSTER, Md. —

Christina Harper, a junior at Francis Scott Key High School, in Union Bridge, Maryland was crowned the 1995 Carroll County Dairy Princess recently at a ceremony held at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster. As a part of the contest she had to give a short biographical speech, answer a "fish-bowl" question about the importance of the dairy industry in Carroll County, and perform a short, creative skit about the dairy industry.

Dressed in a lab coat, bifocal glasses and a name tag that read "Cow-Tech University," Harper acted out the skit she had written. In it she was a science professor in search of the ultimate beverage. But, by the end of the skit she discovered that nature has already provided the best drink of all in the form of milk.

Harper is an intelligent young woman who is concerned about the future of the dairy industry. She worries that people do not realize how much milk and other dairy products have to offer.

"Over twenty-seven million people in America suffer from osteoporosis," said the new Carroll County Dairy Princess. "It is a crisis...a bone crippling disease that can immobilize its victims." Harper believes that the calcium milk provides will reduce those num-

bers, and that the answer lies in educating our youth. "I believe in promoting the dairy industry. There is a real need for agricultural education, especially in elementary age children," she said.

Christina Harper works with her parents, Bill and Jean Coshun, to keep their 200-acre Union Bridge farm running smoothly. They milk about 50 head of cattle, mostly Hosteins. Harper says that she helps milk in the evenings during the school year, and mornings and evenings during the summer and on weekends. She has three Brown Swiss cows and a Brown Swiss heifer that are hers to show. She loves the Brown Swiss breed and believes they have a lot of potential as an up-and-coming breed.

Harper is a member of the Maryland Brown Swiss Association, her school's chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA), and of the Carroll County 4-H Dairy Club. She was on the 1994 FFA Dairy Judging Team that won first place at the Eastern States Dairy Expo in Springfield, Massachusetts, and placed second at the Maryland State Fair Dairy Judging Contest.

Christina Harper's dark eyes turned serious when she talked about how important it is to preserve the dairy industry. "Even if you are not a dairy farmer, so many jobs are created by the dairy industry. There are the milk truck haulers, farm hands, the salesmen of sanitary equipment...all the way down to the stores that sell the milk. Did you know that Carroll

County alone produces more than 250 million pounds of milk annually?" she asked.

"I guess I'm just a farm girl. I love working on the farm," Harper said, "and I like milking the most!" But milking cows isn't the only thing this 17 year-old does on the farm.

Christian Harper's family's home is surrounded by pine trees and perched on top of a hill overlooking the farm buildings and fields below. With 28 acres of their farm planted in Christmas trees, winter finds Harper helping with the daily chores of a choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm. Her duties include helping run a baler that wraps the trees into easy-to-haul packages, or making some of the hundreds of Christmas wreaths and decorations the family sells each winter. Their house is a beautifully decorated, magnificent log structure that welcomes visitors with the warmth and strength of home. Harper confided that building the house was a family effort, and she helped too.

Harper hopes to become a large animal vet, and she already has several colleges in mind out... "Virginia Tech or the University of Maryland."

She said, "I want a strong education, but I also want to work outside. I enjoy physical work as well as the sciences."

Christina Harper will represent Carroll County at the Maryland State Dairy Princess Contest to be held on July 25.



Carroll County Dairy Princess Christina Harper holds her baby brother. The Harpers live in a log home that Christina helped to build.

Alloway Gardens Blooms With Ideas And Plants

BETH MILLER

Cumberland Co. Correspondent
LITTLESTOWN (Adams Co.)
— The Alloway Gardens and Herb Farm is going to be getting a special guest today.

That guest is Sharon Lovejoy, the author of the best-selling books "Sunflower Houses" and "Hollyhock Days," who will come to the garden center on June 24 to present the program "Herbs as Ornaments."

Lovejoy, who is a Californian, is known nationally for her own garden and is a contributing editor of "Country Living Gardener Magazine."

But, while Lovejoy can be considered a special guest, every visitor to Alloway, which is located just west of Littlestown on Mud College Road, gets special treatment.

It has been that way since owners Barbara Steele and Marlene Lufriu started Alloway in 1976

simply as "friends doing something together that they both really liked."

"We started out with herbs for sale and some classes," said Marlene. "For a while we were doing a lot with dried herbs and flowers, making bouquets, wreaths and such, but the interest is not quite as high as it used to be.

"But now a lot of attention has turned toward the medicinal use of plants," she said.

Alloway's offerings have grown considerably over the last 19 years.

The list of classes the center offers is especially impressive.

In addition to Lovejoy's program, other summer programs include "Fragrance Fantasy" on July 7 and 8, "Majolica Decorated Tiles or Trivets," on July 11, "Flower Pressing with Violet," on July 12, "Mud College Mud Earthenware," on July 18, "The Cutting Garden," on July 22, "Herbal Fla-

vors and Savors," on Aug. 11, "Botanical Wreath" on Aug. 12, and "Nosegay of Dried Flowers" on Aug. 16.

Alloway's offerings of plants also have grown considerably. The center specializes in all sorts of herbs, perennials, and annuals, roses, ferns, ornamental grasses, vines, small trees and hostas, many of which are hard to find.

"We try to offer the unusual plants that you can't find at the local greenhouse," Marlene said.

Not only does Alloway supply the plants, the staff there shows customers how to plant them and combine herbs and flowers for successful gardens, like the kind that abound at Alloway.

Steele and Lufriu make a point of field testing plants before they offer them. They grow a new plant in their display garden for at least a year before they offer it for sale to examine its hardiness and characteristics. If it passes the test, they



One of the gardens at Alloway Gardens.

proceed to propagate the plant or find cuttings from the same source to grow in their outdoor beds or greenhouse.

One of the newest additions at Alloway is a greenhouse which, like all the greenhouses there, is used as a cold house to hold and grow perennials until they can be acclimated to the out of doors.

All the growing at Alloway, which is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays, is done on three very busy acres.

Marlene said the aim at Alloway

is not only to sell plants, but to fertilize the enthusiasm of area gardeners.

"What we really want to do is educate—that is the basis for what we do," she said.

MAILBOX MARKET FOR SALE

AC model 90 pull type combine good condition \$500
OBO stihl gas weed eater nearly new. Lanc. Co. 717-665-5727.

JD 755 diesel with 60in mower and commercial bagger good condition \$7200 OBO. Lanc. Co. 717-354-8126.



Students work at making an Old English Lavender potpourri during their morning workshop at Alloway Gardens.