



Fair's Talent Search Is On
The Great Allentown Fair is looking for talent in everything from singing to scarecrow making. The annual contests for aspiring entertainers and crafters require entry before the fair, scheduled Aug. 29-Sept. 4.

Three competitions at the fair's Farmerama Theater test performing talent. On Thursday, Aug. 31, radio station WZZO sponsors its

annual Backyard Bands Live contest.

Rock and pop groups are again asked to send a song on tape-cassette to the station where a listener call-in will determine the top five bands to compete at the fair. Record company representatives judge the contest and prizes are awarded. Tapes can be mailed to WZZO, P.O. Box 9595, Allentown, PA 18105-9595. Mark "Backyard Bands Contest" on the

envelope.

The Coca-Cola All Star Lip Sync Contest hosted by radio station B104 will be back for its tenth year Friday, Sept. 1. Contestants of all ages can pantomime musical recordings, imitating or embellishing the recording artists' renditions.

Coca-Cola, S&S Amusements and the fair will present prizes to winners and runners-up in three age categories. Applications to participants are available at the fair office.

"Wanna-be" singers get their shot all day Saturday, Sept. 2 at the Farmerama, when radio station Oldies 99 hosts The Great Karaoke Singoff and Finals. A karaoke machine drops the lead vocals from records allowing amateur singers to sing the lead.

Finalists will compete after an all-day elimination round. Each finalist will win a gift certificate

from The Brass Ring Saloon restaurant on the fairgrounds. A grand prize will be awarded.

Applications are available at the fair office, Oldies 99 and the restaurant which offers Karaoke practice every Wednesday night.

For those up to some fancy footwork, a "Country Jamboree" complete with a dance contest is being hosted by radio station Country 107 at the fair's Banko Music Tent. Tommy Schafer and Blue Mountain Ramblers will perform at the tent from 1:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 3.

Everyone who attends can join in the country line-dancing and even a little square dancing at the free event. Dance contest winners will be awarded prime seats for the fair's Reba McEntire concert on Sept. 4.

Creative talent will be judged at the fair's Create Your Own Scarecrow contest at 1 p.m. Friday,

Sept. 1 in the Farmerama. Coca-Cola will award prizes for the "funniest," "nerdiest," "cool dudest," "scariest" and other varieties of scarecrows. As part of the fair's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, a patriotic or armed service uniformed scarecrow category has been added.

Applications to participate are available at the fair office. Participants will use straw and some decoration material supplied by the fair, but may bring from home old clothes and other materials to enhance their entries.

For contests requiring applications from the fair, they are available at the fair office which is located behind the Ritz Barbecue on the fairgrounds at 17th and Chew Streets in Allentown. For more information, call (610) 433-7542 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Ag, Environment Panel Topic Of Meeting

EDGEWATER, Md.—"Agriculture and the Environment—Where Do We Go From Here?" That's the title for a blue-ribbon panel discussion to be held as part of the 1995 annual meeting of the Maryland Grain Producers Association.

The meeting will be held Thursday, July 27, at the University of Maryland Wye Research and Education Center, off Route 50 just south of Queenstown.

Panelists will be Jane Nashida, formerly with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and now secretary of the Department of the Environment in the Glendening Administration; Delegate Marsha Perry from Maryland's 33rd District; Maria Kelly, representing Maryland's First District Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, an outspoken advocate of environmental protection; and Maryland Ag Secretary Lewis Riley.

The panel discussion will come about midway in a program slated to get under way at 1 p.m. and to conclude at 4 p.m. with MGPA's traditional crab feast and chicken barbecue.

Elsewhere on the agenda, which will be emceed by Patrick McMillan, an MDA staffer and a member of the MGPA board of directors, will be the election of directors, an update on the work of the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board which administers the grain checkoff in the state, and the presentation of MGPA's coveted Man of the Year Award.

Bruce Cain, director of the Alternative Ag Research and Commercialization Center, an independent agency within the USDA, will discuss alternative uses for ag products, and John Dantine, an agronomist for Willard AgriService Inc., will provide a briefing on "satellite farming" using the Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

The featured speaker of the afternoon will be Dr. Marshal D. McGlamery, professor and extension weed specialist at the University of Illinois and one of the nation's foremost weed control scientists.

For more information, call the MGPA office at (410) 956-5771.

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