

Butler Fair Queen Wins State Title

(Continued from Page A1)

The daughter of Dean and Paula Thomas, Butler, Feather has been involved in other contests, taking second runnerup in the past year's Butler Junior Miss contest, and winning her county's Junior Miss Presence and Composure award, and the 1996 World Beginning Two-Baton Championship.

The recipient of the Nights of Knowledge Award, she is also an honor student. While a student at Knoch High School, she was a feature twirler/majorette with the band, a member of student council, its Ski, Spanish, Pep, and Senior Cabinet clubs, and served as a student baton instructor.

She has also been active in volunteer community work such as working for the Saxonburg Library, Habitat for Humanity, and the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

Further she served as Butler Fair announcer and as a judge. She was also involved in the BAMA auction.

Runnerup state queen was Lori Coale, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Coale, of New Milford. As runnerup she received a \$500 award.

Currently a dean's list student at Daemen College, Amhurst, N.Y., where she is studying physical therapy, Lori finished in the top third of her Mountain View High School graduating class. The recipient of scholarships from Tyler Memorial and Montrose General hospitals, she has also received an Air Force mathematics and science award and a Bausch and Lomb science award.

In school she was a member of the National Honor Society, the high school scholastic team, Students Against Drunk Driving, Future Business Leaders of America, and she participated in band, chorus, basketball and a mock trial program.

On a stage decorated with a large blue, pink and white rainbow of balloons background, in front of hundreds of county fair volunteers and family, 1995 state Fair Queen Jennifer Marie Randall, of Somerset, placed the queen and runner-up tiaras and the banners on the new state fair royalty.

There were five finalists in the queen contest including Green-Dreher-Sterling Fair Queen Lina Dee Yacovelli, daughter of Char-

les and Gloria Yacovelli, Newfoundland; Somerset County Fair Queen Christy Croner, daughter of Norman and Carol Croner, Berlin; and Fayette County Fair Queen Christy Griffith, daughter of Donald and Virginia Griffith, of McClellandtown.

Contestants were judged on several different criteria during a two-day contest schedule. In general they were judged upon their poise, appearance, neatness, and ability to communicate verbally and in writing.

After checking in at the Hershey Convention Center Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Friday the contestants were interviewed individually and privately by three judges.

The three judges for the queen contest were Patricia Sueck, of Airville, Dr. Donald Evans, of Penn State University, and Ann Knab, of Tyrone.

At 3:30 p.m. at a nearby Comfort Inn, all fair queens were required to attend a seminar also open to fair representatives and parents. It included a question and answer session on what is expected of fair queens.

According to an outline of what fair queens are expected to do, as part of pre-fair promotions, they are expected to serve as a public figure for the news media, hand out fair books and promotional items and encourage people to attend the fair, as well as doing school promotions, attending youth organization meetings, and adult community organizational meetings to promote the fair.

During the fair, they are expected to serve as host and guide for visiting dignitaries, help with show presentations such as awards, participate in any related ribbon-cutting ceremonies or dedication events.

They are also expected to help with announcing fair events and to serve as fair hostess for other promotion royalty, such as commodity princesses and queens.

Farm-City activities, parades, and other high-visibility events which could help advance public awareness of county fairs are also to be attended as much as possible, though arrangements must be approved by the local county fair committee chairman or the fairboard.



From the left, Harford Fair Queen Lori Coale is named runnerup state fair queen, while Butler Fair Queen Feather Thomas is named state fair queen.

Following the seminar, the queens gathered at the Convention Center for an official group photograph, then proceeded on to an evening gown competition and introduction to the PSACF delegation just prior to the convention banquet.

For the banquet, the queens sat with their respective fair groups.

At 9 a.m., they had their own queen party at the Comfort Inn.

Saturday morning from 7 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., the queens had to present speeches to the judges.

(Turn to Page B19)



From the left, finalist Somerset County Fair Queen Christy Croner looks to see the reaction of Feather Thomas on being named state fair queen, while other finalists Lina Dee Yacovelli and Christy Griffith look on.



A retired textile worker, Paul Britcher shows his latest creation — a rabbit doll named Paul.