

Somehow Laura-Jean Watson finds time while mothering and homeschooling to paint.

Home With The Watson Family

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schoolers because of what I was like," Jessica said.

She also has taken voice lessons off and on for several years. Although she'd like to take voice lessons on a regular basis, she hasn't been able to afford it.

Laura-Jean said that she felt badly that they couldn't afford voice lessons for Jessica because she has a really good voice. "But God's timing always works everything out. Doors open up and things turn out better."

Although Jessica cannot afford voice lessons, she has been invited to sing at more than 50 churches — giving her great experience and training. She also sang at the National 4-H Congress and at the National Talent Revue.

Sometimes opportunities are not pursued because involvement requires Jessica to compromise her beliefs. Recently Jessica was taking modeling lessons, but the company told the models to lie about their ages when approached by clients.

Jessica refused to lie and, of her own volition, dropped out of modeling, not because she wasn't talented but she didn't want to be involved in anything that encouraged her to lie.

Another opportunity opened up that she enjoys much more. Almost immediately after her resignation with the modeling agency, she was asked to be an actress in the Chet Bitterman Story, a play about a martyred missionary. The play was only expected to run for three performances, but it has been so popular that it has been performed more than 1,000 times.

"It's been great because I've gotten to play different roles," Jessica said.

In addition, Jessica is an actress on the children's show "Pete's Place" on cable 11.

Jessica said that she can look over a script and basically memorize it within 15 minutes.

In addition, Jessica is music director for Youth For Christ (YFC) and works with preschoolers through fifth grade in an inner city program in Lebanon.

"It's so rewarding helping children. So many suffer from physical and emotional abuse. We want to give them hope for the future, tell them they can do something positive with their lives. We want to help them develop talents, abilities, and give them love," Jessica said.

Jessica is finishing her senior year of home schooling plus taking

courses at Franklin and Marshall College and at Lancaster Bible College. In the fall, she plans to attend Bible college full time and concentrate on Bible and youth ministry courses.

Because she needs to earn the money for college tuition, she is entering youth competitions and several pageants, which are known as the best source for scholarships.

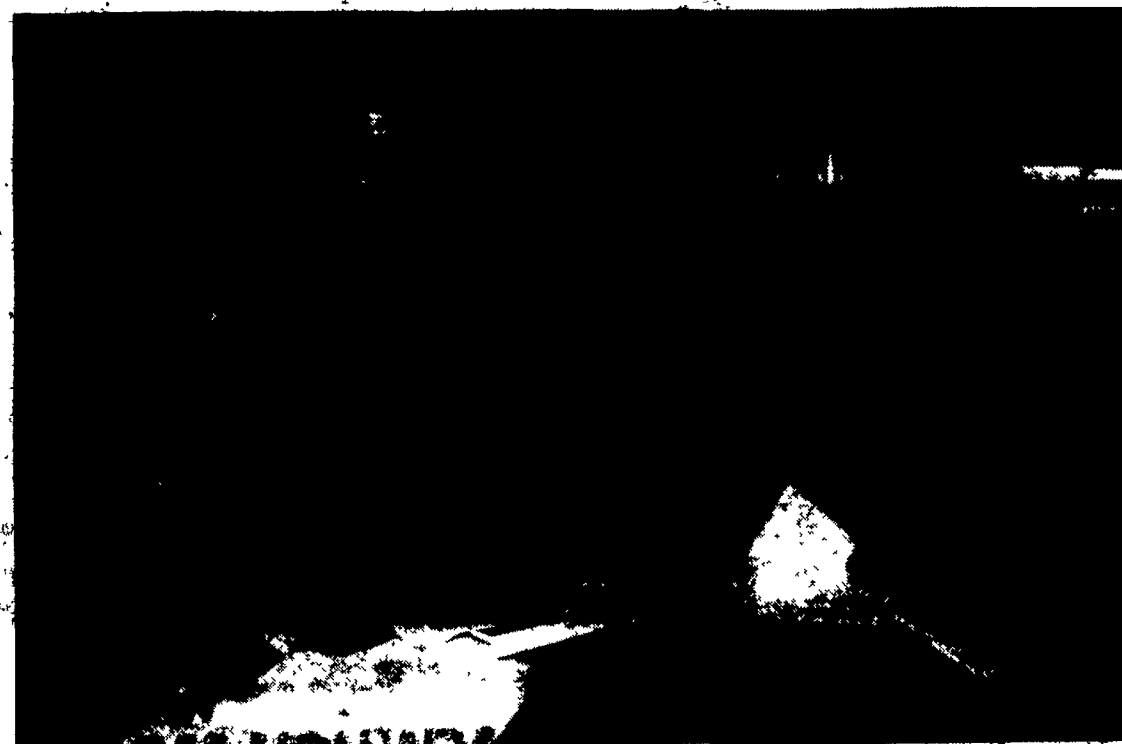
While being interviewed for this article, Jessica was notified that she was awarded a \$1,250 scholarship from the Soroptimist Club regional division.

Some of her other awards include the Bronze Pennsylvania Discover Card Tribute, 1995 Myerstown Voice of Democracy, 1996 Lebanon County American Legion Essay Contest, WCTU Diamond Speech Medal, semi-finalist 1995 Miss Pa. Teen USA, listed in Who's Who American High School Students for three years, 4th runner-up Miss Pa. Teen Sunburst, and the National 4-H Congress leadership teen.

She has attended the 1995 and 1996 PCC/PSU Summer Institute and was selected to attend NICE where she served as vice president and sales manager of the co-op.

Not every competition Jessica

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Laura-Jean Watson, standing, said her homeschooling requires adapting curriculum to the different learning styles of her daughters. From left, Jacqueline, Jennifer and Jessica. Another daughter Joyce is in college.

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