

Grange Youth Ambassadors Take Responsibility Seriously

HOWARD (Centre Co.) — When Lindsie Bennett and Adam Britcher are together, the longtime friends admit to being able to make the other one laugh.

That's one of the benefits of friendship.

But the laughter ends when asked why they wanted to be the 1998-99 Youth Ambassadors for the Pennsylvania State Grange.

"I've always wanted to do this," Britcher, the son of Paul Jr. and Deb Britcher of Newport, said. "I really enjoyed being the Junior Grange Prince and that was the main motivation in trying to become the male youth ambassador."

Bennett has an even more personal reason to be youth ambassador. She is dedicating the coming year of her ambassadorship to her father, who was recently killed in an automobile accident.

"I told my father before the accident that I was going to go for it," Bennett said, her voice cracking with overwhelming emotion. "He knew how much this means to

me and I know he is up there watching over me."

With both hailing from Perry County — Britcher is a member of Community #1767 while Bennett belongs to Perry Valley #1804 — their friendship has grown during this difficult time.

"Many Grangers have been there for me," Bennett, the daughter of Edith Lesh and the late Donald Bennett, said. "These people are family to me and we're all very close."

"We're all friends and we all spend time together, so we'll continue to be there for her," the 17-year-old Britcher, a senior this fall at Newport High School, said.

Now, as these Grangers recover from this tragedy, the coming year brings a promise of fun times, with plenty of laughter, as they represent the youth program at various State, Subordinate and Pomona Grange functions.

Some highlights of their duties include attending the 1998 State Convention in Crawford County, the 1999 Pennsylvania Farm

Show, the '99 Royalty trip and the 1999 National Grange Convention in Portland, Maine.

Both ambassadors are active in their respective Granges.

Bennett, who is a junior at Cabrini College majoring in Elementary and special education, is the Lady Assistant Stewart (L.A.S.) in the Youth Corps, and has served as overseer, lecturer, steward, assistant steward, L.A.S., gatekeeper, Ceres, Pomona, Flora and on the executive committee in the past.

Britcher is the temporary assistant steward in his subordinate grange, and has previously served in all the offices of the Junior Grange.

When asked what state office they would run for if given the opportunity, Britcher said he would like to be Master while Bennett said Flora.

"I think it would be great to be involved in the policy-making process for the Grange and plan the major events in the Grange," Britcher said.

"I'd like to be Flora because it is really neat to put on the sixth degree and demonstrate the beauty of the degree," Bennett said. "We are one of the few states to still do it."

As part of running for youth ambassador, contestants are asked: "What new or innovative promotional ideas/programs/contests would you recommend or

create to increase youth participation across the state?"

Bennett answered that she would create a program where teams from across the state competed against one another in ritual and drill work.

Britcher said he would like to see a Pomona Grange created for youth members.

Besides the Grange, they are involved in other activities as well.

Britcher's hobbies include reading, training race horses, rock hounding (hunting) and throwing shot and discus.

Bennett enjoys softball, field hockey, basketball, and being with

her friends.

Other female members of the court and the Grange they represent included: Ashley Campbell, Perry Valley #1804, Perry County; Vickie Gundling, Lakeside #152, Susquehanna County; Ann Kieffer, Marion #1853, Berks County; and Denise "Denny" Zug, Walker #786, Juniata County.

Male court members included: Jeff Bishop, Big Knob #2008, Beaver County; Nathan Campbell, Perry Valley #1804, Perry County; Paul Elliott, Hookstown #1980, Beaver County; William Schlemmer Jr., East New Castle #1536, Lawrence County.

Recipes, Tips, Hints From Letie

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FRESH DILLED GREEN BEANS

1½ pounds fresh green beans
½ cup olive oil
¾ cup green onions, minced
3 tablespoons fresh dill weed, minced or 1 tablespoon dried
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
Pinch salt
Pinch coarsely ground pepper
½ cup radishes, diced
½ cup walnuts, chopped

Remove strings from green beans and wash thoroughly. Cut beans into 1½-inch pieces. Cook green beans, covered, in a small amount of boiling water 6-8 minutes or until just crisp and tender. Drain beans and set aside to cool.

Combine next 10 ingredients in a jar, cover tightly, and shake jar vigorously. Pour over beans and toss well. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving, stir in radishes and walnuts. (If left set, vinegar will cause radishes to bleed).

Serves 8.

LETIE'S FRESH CORN CHOWDER

1 cup chopped celery
1 large onion, chopped
1 cup chopped carrot
½ cup chopped sweet pepper, red or green or pimento
1 to 2 cups diced red potatoes with skins left on
4 cups chicken broth or chicken bouillon/water to make this amount
2 cups chopped broccoli or zucchini pieces (optional)
3 to 4 cups corn, cut off cob
3 cups milk
½ cup flour or Clear Jel
8 to 10-ounces grated four cheese combination or orange American cheese

2 tablespoons chopped parsley
Cook celery, onion, potatoes, pepper, and carrot in chicken stock until tender. Add the broccoli and corn, cook until tender. Mix the flour or Clear Jel and milk. Stir into the vegetable mixture to thicken. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Stir in the grated or sliced cheese and let stand for cheese to melt. Add the parsley and serve. This reheats well. It may thicken up. If so, add some extra milk to thin if preferred. Eat with whole grain bread and fresh fruit and you've got a tasty and healthy lunch.



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