

Pa. State Grange Honors

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 7, 1998-B15

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Perry County Community Grange No.1767, was first with her talk, "The 'Gottas' of Success."

In the 30-years-and-older division, Laura McMillin of Westfield Grange in Lawrence County was first place with her speech, "The Spirit of the Grange."

Following McMillin, Isabelle Myers of Community Grange was second, while Il May McMillin of Westfield Grange was third.

In the Sing-A-Song Contest,

Brian Ebersole of Community Grange No.1767 in Perry County was a two-time winner.

He won first place in the individual competition, and first place in the group category, performing in a duo with sister Stacy Ebersole.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Department is the community service project of the Pennsylvania and National Granges.

The Sign-A-Song contest is one of the State Grange's Deaf Activi-

ties Department's outreach programs. The department promotes healthy hearing and works to assist individuals, schools and social agencies serving the deaf community.

In addition to the contest, during the convention the department presented a \$360 donation to the Meadville Public Library toward the purchase of two sets of videotapes concerning deaf and hard of hearing awareness, services

offered to the hearing impaired, and other educational information on deaf issues.

In the individual Sign-A-Song contest, following first-place winner Ebersole was Ila May McMillin of Westfield Grange in Lawrence County, and then Lindsey Bennett of Perry Valley Grange.

In the junior division Sign-A-Song, first-place winner was Broock Winger of Scrubgrass Junior Grange in Venango County, followed by Catherine Carberry of Lincoln Junior Grange in Huntingdon County.

computer software applications teacher at Missouri University.

He said he enjoys participating in the state Grange Talent Festival.

"The thrill of performing is exhilarating," he said, "and I love to participate in this event."

He said that, of the all the performances he's given, this last one was his most meaningful, because it was the first time that his parents, who traveled from Germany for the competition, saw their son perform in front of an audience.

"My mother said she was moved by it," Schmidt said. "My mother was crying, and I almost did, but I didn't want to show it."

One of the judges, Dr. Robert Copeland, said, "This (event) is excellent because it strengthens families and encourages young people to develop their skills."

Runnerup best of show award recipient was Joann Swaim of Seipstown Grange No.1657 in Lehigh County.

Swaim's performance was a juggling and balancing act. She juggled seven rubber balls as part of the act and then provided an audience-attention catching finish by juggling three stage props while on an unicycle.

Schmidt is to represent the Pennsylvania State Grange at the national convention to be held in November in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Pansies Prefer Fall

(NAPS)—Do your garden a favor—don't wait until spring to plant pansies. Now in more colors, better colors, and with greater tolerance to cold, pansies are the talk of fall gardening. If planted now, they'll grow to twice the size and produce more flowers than those planted in the spring.

Pansies are surprising cold-hardy, easily tolerating temperatures of 15 degrees without damage. Under a cover of snow or mulch, they survive even lower temperatures. All do well in the South, and many varieties are hardy in the Mid-Atlantic, lower New England, the Midwest, and the West Coast. According to Denise Johnson of Ball Seed Company in West Chicago, the hardiest varieties

are generally those with small, deep colored blossoms. One of the most cold resistant ones, Baby Bingo, survived the '97-98 winter at Michigan State University.

Another key to hardiness is planting early enough to give plants time to establish their roots before cold weather. To root well, plants need at least three to four weeks in the ground before the first hard freeze. Set transplants 6 to 8 inches apart and mulch after planting.

To make lots of flowers, pansies need at least six hours of sunlight each day and plenty of nutrition. When planting, work a timed-release fertilizer into the soil. In late winter, reapply

according to label directions. Be sure to water transplants (in their packs) before planting, and water the planting bed regularly if the weather is dry.

Use pansies as companions to early spring bulbs such as daffodils and tulips. They'll bring evergreen foliage and colors to the bare winter ground. In spring, pansies will be a carpet of color to the bare winter ground. In spring, pansies will be a carpet of color underneath the daffodils and tulips. Finally, as if they needed one more attribute, a few pansies have a delicate sweet perfume. Sniff before you buy!



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The State Grange Lecturer Department sponsors the talent contest, and also serves to oversee programming at local, county and state meetings.

During the convention, the department also presented awards to its top local and county lecturers.

In the local Grange category, Nettie Kauffman of the Ontelaunce Grange No.1617 was Subordinate Lecturer of the Year.

In the county Grange category, Betty Lou Williams of Crawford County Pomona Grange No.26 was named Pomona Lecturer of the Year.

The awards are based on the programs offered through their respective Granges during the past year.

Grange Spirit

The Pennsylvania State Grange also recognizes outstanding achievements with its Spirit of the Grange Awards.

Marth Eversole, state youth director, presented the awards.

Isabelle Myers with the Community Grange, James Wertz of Brokenstraw Grange, and Brian Ebersole were all recipients of the award.

In a special national recognition, National Grange Ceres Jamie Klenklen of Kansas attended the convention and presented a national award to Nicole Blair, of Perry Valley Junior Grange.

Blair was named the winner of the Super Junior Granger Award, an award that reflects some of the same values as the Grange Spirit of the Grange Award.

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