

Crawford Princess Delves Into Hotel Disaster

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GROVE CITY (Crawford Co.) — Pennsylvania dairy pageants normally consist of an audience watching a group of young women compete for the dairy princess title by performing skits, delivering speeches, and answering questions.

In this year's Crawford County pageant, however, winning contestant Holly Marie Manross distinguished herself not only by entertaining the audience, but by engaging them in her presentation. In a skit "Hotel Dairy Disaster," Holly portrayed a hotel guest who complained to the bellboy that dairy products had been excluded from the hotel's continental breakfasts and other menus. Her primary prop included a large suitcase from which she periodically pulled various brightly colored clothes, tossing them wildly over her shoulder while searching for something relevant to her "conversation" with the fictitious bellboy.

As the clothing (which consisted largely of her real-life barn clothes) flew, the audience laughed loudly - with much clapping when all of the clothes had been strewn and Holly ended the skit by off-handedly telling the bellboy to

repack her luggage. In addition to its well delivered humor, part of the skit's appeal might lie in the fact that in real life, 19-year-old Holly attends Mercyhurst Northeast College where she majors in hotel, restaurant and institutional management. Part of her decision to pursue a career in restaurant management, she said, stemmed from her participation in the dairy pageants.

"From being a dairy maid," she explained, "I found out that I like the service industry. It deals with the public and also incorporates the management that I learned on the farm." Still living with her parents Paula and Connie on their Saegertown homestead, Holly, along with her brother, Jason, represents the third generation on the farm. She is responsible for milking its 100 Holsteins during the morning shift, a job she officially began at about age 13. She has participated in 4-H for 11 years, and belongs to the Blooming Valley 4-H Club and the Interstate Exchange Club. She was named one of this year's Crawford County's outstanding 4-Her's.

Holly has 20 cows of her own, some of which she shows each year. In her spare time, she enjoys doing latch-hook



The Crawford County court includes, from left, Emilie Smith, Amber Bernarding, Amanda Hamilton, Krista Jo Braymer, Dairy Princess Holly Marie Manross, Emily Irene Marzka, Ashley Hamilton, Erin Agnew, and Allison Kemerer.

as well as planting and weeding flowers.

This year's pageant, Crawford County's 27th annual event, was hosted June 17 by Dale and Carol Richmond, grandparents of outgoing princess Stacey Lynn Agnew. Also competing for the county dairy princess title were Erin Agnew, Krista Jo Braymer, Ashley Hamilton, and Emily Irene Marzka, who was named as the 2000 alternate.

This year's group of dairy maid contestants included Amber Bernarding, Amanda Hamilton, Allison Kemerer, and Emilie Eileen Smith, who also served as dairy maid in

1999. Princess contestants Ashley Hamilton and Erin Agnew were also named as dairy maids. Krista Jo Braymer was recognized for best skit, and Holly Manross and Allison Kemerer were recognized for delivering the best speeches. Rachel Irwin was flower girl, and former dairy princess Heather Riley served as mistress of ceremonies.

This year's panel of judges included Bob Bauer, Terra Ferris, and Susan Slote.

The pageant's impromptu question required each princess and maid contestant to name a song that best de-

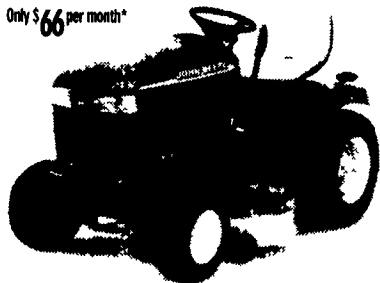
scribed her personality, and required each to justify her answer.

Responses ranged everywhere from contestants not being able to commit to just one song to Holly Manross's answer, which was a song by Shania Twain which describes her, she said, because "it is outgoing and gets people moving."

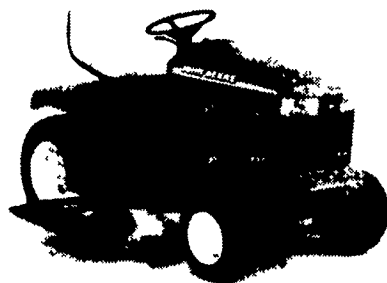
"Sing it!" several audience members called out to Holly during the pageant, who said that she could not recall the song's name.

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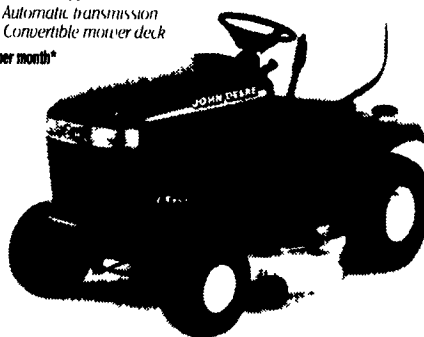


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