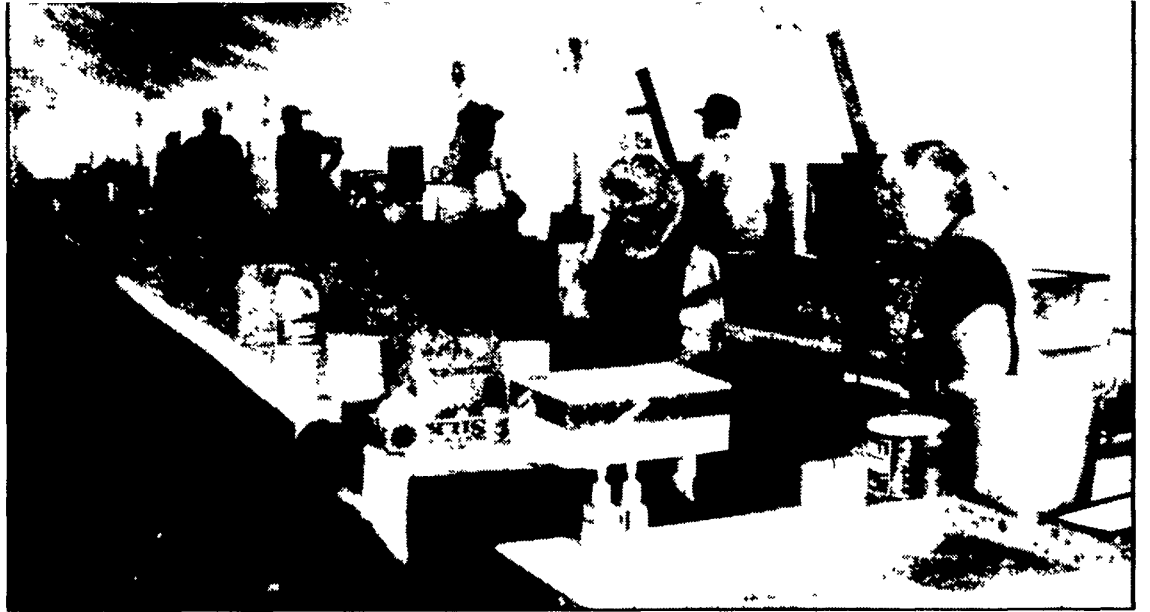


New Fairground, New Traditions For Reading Fairgoers



Volunteers in the Reading Fairground exhibit area (in the 4-H center) hold up the first-place entries Monday. From left, Linda Ernst holds the winner of the Hershey's Greatest Cocoa Cake Contest baked by Kim Miccicke, Bernville; June Schuler with the greatest cocoa cookie, brownie and bars contest winner, exhibited by Chuck Hertzog, Birdsboro; and Helen Readinger with the apple pie contest winner, exhibited by Kim Miccicke.



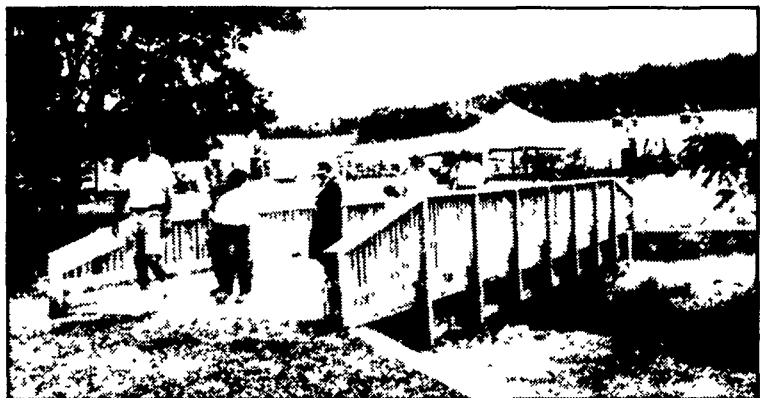
The Cookery — the longtime Reading Fair tradition — returns to the new fairground near Leesport. Home-cooking specialties are offered by the Granges. Virginville Grange members Dorothy Bechtel and Esther Stitzel ready the stand Monday.



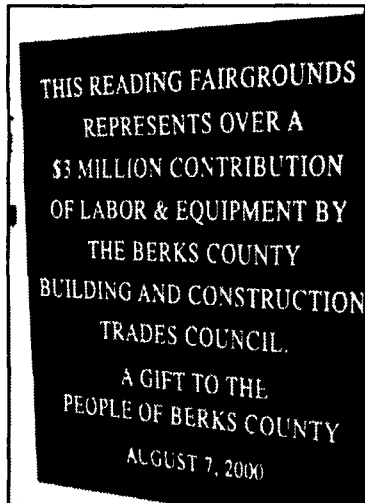
Sheep showmanship champion Amanda Miller 15, daughter of Ron and Joan Miller, Bernville, holds one of the "first" champion trophies at the new Reading Fairground on County Welfare Road new Leesport.



This banner in the new exhibit area provides a great big "thanks" for the gift of the new fairgrounds exhibits from the Berks County Building and Construction Trades Council.



A bridge connects the Berks 4-H Center with the new Reading Fairground.



Located on more than 60 acres, the new Reading Fairgrounds is a testament to the large amounts of time and money donated by the public. This sign, on the new bridge connecting the fairgrounds to the 4-H center, was placed to remind those who cross of the efforts of an entire community.



Dick Campbell, chairman of the wine display, holds one of 42 bottles by eight exhibitors before judging Monday at the new Reading Fairground.

*Photo Collage
By Andy Andrews*



Finally . . . it's done! Volunteers Monday were busy finishing the new fairground up to the last second. So were the exhibitors, who caught some shut-eye. Cody Miller, 6, son of Todd and Martha Miller, Hamburg, enjoys some time off from the fair.



At a cost of about \$3 million (mostly in donations), the new Reading Fairground near Leesport hosts two pole barns on a side connected to a show ring. Each barn measures 125 by 60 feet.