

Pennsylvania Teen Wins Nationally

GAY BROWNLEE
Somerset Co. Correspondent

Sparks (Nevada) — Aleecha Jones of Loysburg, Bedford County, upon hearing the National Make It Yourself With Wool winner was "Pennsylvania," was ecstatic.

"When they called Pennsylvania," said the Northern Bedford High School senior and national winner, "my mouth dropped open."

Although she knew her outfit was well made, she hardly dared it was good enough in the senior division to walk off with national top seamstress honors.

Still, the black satin-lined, coat of 100 percent Pendleton wool with functional pockets and pocket flaps that convinced the judges at home. When accessorized by a scarf, hat, and black leather boots the effect was fashionable and striking.

Earlier, after the state competition last October, Jones had mentioned how difficult it had been to get the pockets to look nice. She stuck to the task and now is glad she invested the time and patience and ended up with a top-notch project.

Underneath the coat, Jones wore a contrasting, well-fitting, cranberry skirt of 100 percent Pendleton wool that featured back darts, invisible zipper, and back slit. A matching cranberry vest was set off by a black silk turtle-neck sweater worn underneath.

She opted all around to follow Butterick patterns.

Several tuxedos constructed by male contestants impressed Jones, she said, as did some of the prom gowns, suits, and dresses of her competitors.

Since the real star of the show was wool, the obvious

indication is its adaptability to any style or season.

Interestingly, Jones currently, is constructing her own prom gown and another for a friend, she said.

Witnessing his daughter's success, Tom Jones said, for the second time in his life: "I'm a pretty proud Papa." The first time he said that was some 17 years earlier, when Karen, his wife, delivered their little girl into the world.

"We are just tickled to have her in the top 13," he added.

Besides her parents Jones, was blessed to be surrounded by close kinfolk for the celebration. There were brother Nick, 15, grandparents James and Shirley Pernel, and Uncle Jack and Aunt Luann Machise from Florida.

Pennsylvania last brought home a national MIYWW junior title in 1987 thanks to 16-year old Judy Rhoads of Somerset County, a sister to Jodell (Rhoads) Antram, a Pennsylvania MIYWW director who attended this year's event in Nevada.

Antram, herself, represented the state at nation's three times and in 1992, was the second runner-up.

For now, however, she is focusing on an exciting new MIYWW category called "Made For Others." The competition is open to anyone, but requires that both the person who constructed a garment and the one for whom it was constructed must agree to attend MIYWW.

Antram is also broadening the states MIYWW exposure. "I've gotten it out of a hotel setting and into public setting," she said about the competition. The last two

years it was located at the Galleria Mall in Johnstown, Cambria County. The style show took place on the Boscov's stage.

Persons interested in the Pennsylvania 2001 MIYWW may contact Antram at (814) 443-3189 for updated information.

Thomas W. Calvert, who is the 2001-2002 president of the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association, not only enjoyed the national MIYWW style show's professionalism but was suitably impressed by the two state candidates.

"Deidra Smith who is our state lamb and wool queen was pulled out in the top 13 (honorable mention) of the juniors," he said. "Both (Smith and Jones) contestants did very well," he added in praise of their performances.

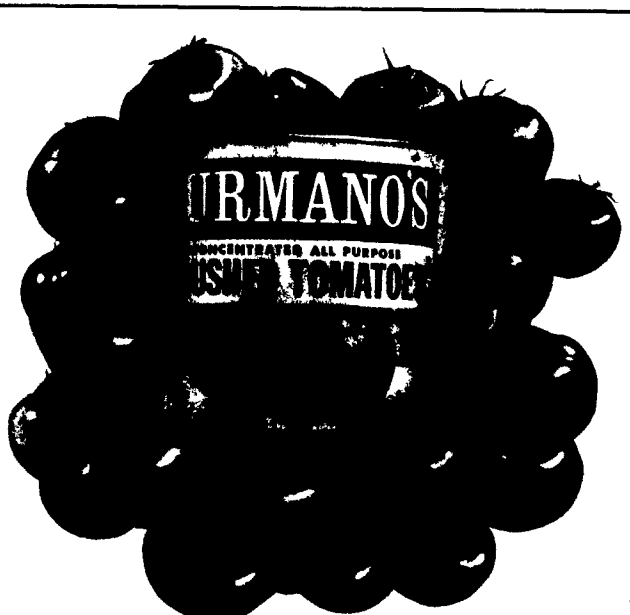
"It was quite a production," Calvert said, mentioning the catchy theme: "God Bless the Ewe S. A."

Miss Nevada Tiffanie Story, a guest performer, sang the Star Spangled Banner during festivities.

Contestants participated in the rigors of two three-hour rehearsals to memorize the choreography and correctly master every step with the professional dancers, Jones said.

Make It Yourself With Wool was held in conjunction with the American Sheep Industry annual meeting in Reno.

Contestants were not allowed to have any contact with their families in the days prior to the contest. However, schedules allowed little time for loneliness. There were judging events, workshops, and practice sessions, which



The Heart Of It All

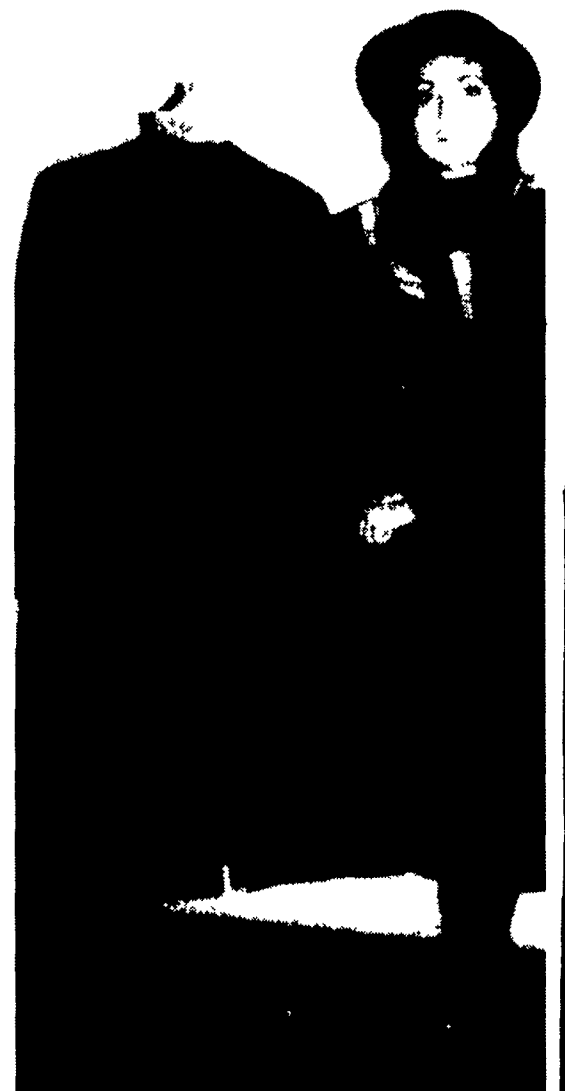
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Aleecha Jones, Loysburg, stitched this fully-lined wool outfit to win national competition in the Make-It-With-Wool contest conducted in Nevada.

fairly exhausted the teens. They also listened to Story's speech about domestic violence.

Jones's awards include a \$1,500 scholarship from the American Sheep Industry Women, a \$100 wool fabric gift certificate from Britex Fabrics, San Francisco, fabric from Franetta Fabrics, and a sheep pelt from Stockman Bank of Billings, Montana.

Twenty-nine contestants participated in the senior division and 27 in the junior division.

After the event, Jones and her brother skied at Lake Tahoe.

Jones is a twirler and loves track sports. At her grandfather Pernel's farm she tends sheep and pigs that are being raised for 4-H projects. She is a nine-year member of the Loysburg Sewing 4-H club and is active in the Grace Community Church youth group.

Jones has participated six years in the state MIYWW and hopes the groundwork will further a dream for a career in fashion design — the field of study she plans to pursue in college.

Class	Grower Name	Acres	Tons/A
Machine Harvest			
More than 100 Acres	Cliff Charles	105.6	43.72
60 to 100 Acres	Earl Lake	63.1	35.32
45 to 59 Acres	Camerer Farms, Inc.	52.8	35.96
30 to 44 Acres	Brett Bowes	40.1	41.72
15 to 29 Acres	Don Mowrer	23.1	33.16
Less than 15 Acres	Dan Weaver	10.5	31.85
MD Cannery			
More than 50 Acres	Dave Marvel	74.6	27.23
Less than 50 Acres	Dale Collins	24.1	19.89

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