

Six Granddaughters Continue Family Tradition: Combine Singing And Milk Promotion

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Singing and dairy promotion have always been important to Paul and Pat Miller, Harrisburg. Although that combination may seem incongruous, the family continues to find novel ways to utilize singing with promoting dairy products.

In recent months, the Millers' six granddaughters have conducted a "nursing home blitz" by taking the milk message to shut-ins across the state.

Maintaining one of the few dairy farms close to Harrisburg suburbs, the Millers' were immersed in dairy-related activities connected with their 253-acre dairy farm. Then in 1970, the family survived a arsonist's barn fire. In appreciation to the many who helped with cleanup and rebuilding, the family went from home to home singing Christmas carols the first Christmas following the September fire.

Soon churches and organizations asked the Millers to present singing programs. The Millers and their three children Debbie, 15; Jeffrey, 13; and Michael, 11, made their rounds as entertainment in church and agricultural circles, and even cut three long-playing records. At programs, they always sang "Make My Milk Today," which a dairy-related company had recorded on a 45 rpm, which sold throughout the U.S.

When daughter Deb reigned as the state dairy princess in 1974-1975, dairy promotion branched out into another outlet. Pat often accompanied Deb across the state and saw the vital role promotion plays in encouraging people to drink milk and buy real dairy products. Pat joined Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Service, where she served on the board for 16 years and as its treasurer for eight years.

All this started long before the Millers' six granddaughters were born. But singing and dairy promotion have been absorbed by



Grandparents Paul and Pat Miller are surrounded by granddaughters, clockwise, Lancaster County Dairy Darling Candice Brubaker, Lancaster County Dairy Ambassador Crystal Brubaker, 1990-91 Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Alternate Heidi Miller, Lancaster County Alternate Dairy Princess Heather Brubaker, Dauphin County Dairy Princess Holly Miller, and Dauphin County Lil' Dairy Miss Emily Miller.

the third generation almost through osmosis. The Miller's son Michael and his wife Linda farm in Fishing Creek. Their daughter Heidi was the 2000-2001 state alternate dairy princess. Another daughter Holly is this year's Dauphin County dairy princess.

The Millers' son Jeff and his wife Cristy, who live on the same farm, have a daughter Emily, 7, who is Dauphin County's Little Miss Dairy Princess.

Interest in presenting pro-

grams at nursing homes were spurred when Deb, now married to Lowell Brubaker, and their children visited local nursing homes. The Brubakers, who farm 237 acres in Manheim and milk almost 200 head, have three daughters involved in Lancaster County dairy promotion. Daugh-



Residents at a nursing home join in with a sing-along conducted by Deb Brubaker and her daughter Candice.



Even dad Lowell with son Blake help out with dairy promotions by leading a calf for nursing home residents to pet.

Even Deb's husband Lowell and their son Blake join in the nursing home events by leading a calf for residents to pet.

"I like putting smiles on their faces," Crystal said of the reason the family enjoys presenting programs in nursing homes.

Apple Streusel Muffins

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup dairy sour cream
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup finely diced apples (peeled)

In a large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and baking soda; set aside. In a small bowl beat eggs, sour cream, and butter.

Add all at once to dry ingredients along with apples. Stir just until moistened. Fill well-greased (or use cupcake papers) muffin tins two-thirds full. Combine topping ingredients, sprinkle over top of batter. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes.

Streusel Topping

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons butter

Lancaster County Alternate Dairy Princess Heather Brubaker said, "The aroma of apples baking reminds me of the fall season. Remember to have a cold, refreshing glass of milk or a bowl of your favorite ice cream when enjoying this recipe."



Lancaster County Alternate Heather Miller uses a skit to entertain and educate the audience about dairy products.

ter Heather, who serves as the dairy princess alternate, presented a skit, "Dorothy In Dairyland." Daughter Crystal, ambassador, presented a speech about osteoporosis, and Candice, a dairy darling, handed out stickers to residents.

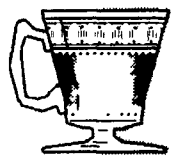
Recently the Brubakers asked their cousins, who are active in dairy promotion in Dauphin County, to help them entertain residents at Serenity Gardens Nursing Home, Northumberland County, where their great-grandmother Pauline Rudy lives.

The program included skits, stories, music, and a talk about the value of dairy products in daily diets. Of course, the six young promoters also handed out cheese and crackers.

After programs at some county nursing homes, the Brubakers serve sundaes using ice cream donated by a local dairy.



Dauphin County Lil' Dairy Miss Emily Miller places an "I love milk" sticker on her great-grandmother Pauline Rudy.



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No matter what one's age, enjoying an ice cream sundae is a pleasure as attested by the smiles on these faces. Seated are nursing home residents with Lancaster County Dairy Ambassador Crystal Brubaker, Dairy Darling Candice Brubaker, and Alternate Heather Brubaker.