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Monday, Sept. 2, 1996

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

## Panel of judges named for 1996 National Sweetheart competition

While the focus of the National Sweetheart pageant is on the girls representing their states, without a judges panel, their would be no National Sweetheart.

Five people were selected to judge the 21 contestants in this year's National Sweetheart Pageant.

This year's panel of judges included:

**Dean Horan**, a member of the Miss Texas Pageant Board of Trustees. Horan has worked with the pageant's production staff for the past 12 years and is currently assistant to the producer. He has judged pageants at the state and local level.

**Llana Young Smith**, of Memphis, Tenn., who has worked with the Miss America Pageant system for more than 23 years. She has been judge's chairman, wardrobe consultant, talent and interview coach and is currently an executive director of a local pageant in Arkansas.

has judged local and state pageants in 15 states.

**T.J. Hutcheson**, who has more than 28 years' pageant experience ranging from past vice president of the Miss Florida pageant, producer and director of the Miss University of Florida pageant, and board chairman of the Miss Florida pageant.

For the past 25 years, he has judged state and local pageants in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Main, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

**Julie Marsh**, who has a 30-year career with pageants, as a contestant, coordinator, director, hostess and production staff member of the Miss Ohio program. She has also served as traveling companion to several Miss Ohios, auditor and adjudicator. She

See JUDGES on other side



## Today's highlights

**The flea market**, always a popular event starts the day at 8 a.m. at McFerren Park. Park gates open at 9 a.m.

**Chuck Field and Ziggy**, a ventriloquist act, will appear at 11 a.m.

**Free, hot, buttered** sweet corn, ready to eat, will be served starting at noon.

**They won't be mowing** grass with garden tractors today. A garden tractor pull begins at noon in the park annex.

**B-4 you leave today**, stop by the Legion shelter for a game or two of bingo. Games start at 1 p.m.

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## National Sweetcorn Festival Schedule of Events

**Monday, Sept. 2**

8 a.m.	Flea Market Opens	Garden Tractor Pull - Annex
9 a.m.	Gates Open - (\$1 Admission)	Free Sweetcorn Served
9:30 a.m.	Antique Auto Show	Beer Tent Opens
	Display Area Opens	1 p.m. Bingo - Legion Shelter
11 a.m.	Outdoor Entertainment - Chuck Field & Ziggy	3 p.m. Dance in Beer Tent - "Willard Cratchloe"
Noon	Midway Opens	4 p.m. Bessie Bingo
		4-9 p.m. Ride Special - \$9

## History of Sweetcorn Festival dates back to late 1930s

Event grows from local festival to one with national appeal

The founders of the Sweetcorn Festival must surely be amazed at the evolution their festival has undergone in 53 years.

Hoopeston busienssmen originated the festival in 1938 to celebrate the end of the sweet corn-canning season., The festival was held over a three-day weekend in the downtown business district.

As is common to most area festivals, a pageant was held to name a local girl to reign over the festivities.

The first year, the girl was chosen by votes of festival-goers. In 1939, however, local judges were responsible for the selection of the Sweetcorn Queen.

In 1940, canning and canning-related industries in Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Iowa and Wisconsin sent representatives to vie for the title.

Since the pageant and festival now had contestants from several states, the name was changed in 1941 from Hoopeston Sweetcorn Festival to the National Sweetcorn Festival. "Miss Sweetcorn" became the National Sweetheart.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce took over responsibility for the festival and pageant folloowing World War II. Their leadership continues today.

The same basic format for the pageant was followed until 1952, when first runners up from various states' Miss America system pageants were invited to compete. At the same time, judges from the Miss America system were recruited to judge the pageant.

As in the Miss America pageant, local winners are awarded scholarships. The National Sweetheart winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship from the Hoopeston Jaycees and a \$200 scholarship from Prairie Farms.

This year's first runner rup receives a \$300 scholarship from Silgan Containers and a \$125 scholarship from Prairie Farms.

Second runner up receives a \$200 scholarship from the Hoopeston Jaycees. The third runner up receives a \$50 scholarship and fourth runner up receives a \$25 scholarship, both from Prairie Farms.

Additionally, winners receive gifts and cash

**Judges** continued from other side

has judged numerous local, state and national talent competitions and pageants.

**Dennis Wall**, a Milwaukee high school English teacher. Wall, who has had formal training in music, has directed local pageants in the Milwaukee area and has judged preliminary pageants in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Arizona and Florida, and the state pageant in Indiana.

He is currently field director for the Miss Wisconsin pageant and helps in preparing girls for the Miss America pageant.

### Weather

Partly cloudy today. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, clear. Low near 60. Tomorrow, continued partly cloudy. High near 85, low near 65.

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