

More than 50,000 persons view Pumpkin Show parade for bands and drill teams

Big Pumpkin Show crowd sees Ohio's Miss America

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CIRCLEVILLE — More than 50,000 persons turned out Thursday night for the second day of the Circleville Pumpkin show and a look at Miss America, Laurie Lea Schaefer, of Bexley. Miss America appeared in a float in an evening parade.

Earlier in the day, Miss America had appeared in a baby parade and was taken on a brief tour by Mayor Richard L. Gerhardt and other Circleville officials.

"I've seen the largest pumpkin and largest pumpkin pie," said Miss America at an afternoon press conference in the Chamber of Commerce office following the tour.

Indicating she had put a finger "in the middle of a pie next

door," Miss Schaefer said she was introduced to various items made from pumpkins. Declining many samples, she explained that would be a way "to get fat quick."

She expressed surprise at the large crowd and size of the show and promised, "I'll be here next year. It's just great!"

The "large crowd," Mayor Gerhardt estimated, was about 40-50,000 people Thursday afternoon. He said the show has attracted many more people than last year, and Thursday afternoon's crowd "looked like an evening crowd."

Miss Schaefer said women are becoming "more aware of themselves and are questioning their position in society. The change is coming from within the women themselves."

Miss America said she may go into graduate school when she relinquishes her crown. She plans a career, possibly in television.

This afternoon, a pet parade was to be staged, and tonight's parade will be for fraternal organizations and civic clubs.

Besides stage performances and midway attractions, tonight entertainment includes musical performances by the Southeastern High School and Adelphi Community Bands of Ross County.

Saturday's closing attractions include afternoon baton twirling contests, pumpkin pie eating and hog calling competition, performances by various high school bands, including Zane Trace, and the Queens Parade.

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