



TRIPPLE CREEK RIDERS member Mary Pierson (above) probably didn't know what she was in for when she volunteered to help bring the club's entry for the meatloaf contest at the

Oberlin-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting Saturday. The club won with its "Road Apples" loaf and volunteered Ms. Pierson to be the queen.



THE ENTRIES TO THE CONTEST ranged from Byron Hale's meatloaf "Three Blind Mice" (top), which won the award for most creative loaf, to others shaped like footballs, a quilt and a fire engine. The judges were sequestered in a back room for judging, where county Commissioner Stan McEvoy (above) did his best to rank them all, along with teacher Marlene Moxter and lawyer Margaret Mahoney.



All hail Mrs. Meatloaf 2013!

The competition was tough, but when the final decision was made, it was the Road Apple meatloaf that won.

That's right: Poo took the crown.

The Tripple Creek Riders club was one of 10 entries to the meatloaf contest held at this year's annual meeting of the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, which was Saturday night at the Bohemian Hall.

The evening opened and closed with meatloaf, but in between the Chamber also managed to squeeze in a business report and a treasurer's report and elect two new members to its board.

Member Galen Olson, a board member, was in charge of the contest, which he said was all about bringing kitsch and fun into the mix at the meeting.

"We got the idea from my cousin Cheryl Muck in Dallas," said Mr. Olson. "They started doing this years ago. I was never able to make it to one of their meatloaf festivals, but always heard details and just knew it was a fun thing to do."

Mr. Olson said that the event was a joint effort between the Chamber board and the planning committee, Jan Bainter and Anita Hirsch.

Normally, said Mr. Olson, the Chamber has about 30 to 35 people sign up to attend the banquet, but this year it drew around 62. Also on the rise are membership numbers, which have increased from 48 last year to 75.

The entries needed to meet two requirements: First, they had to be meatloaf, and second, they had to be

decorated only with edible things. Individual members and groups rose to the occasion.

Two entries were shaped like footballs in honor of Super Bowl Sunday. One was decorated as a quilt, and still another was set up as a pig roast, with a crispy-rice treat that people are saying was a groundhog, honoring the day. Byron Hale, who won for most creative meatloaf, made his into sets of "Three Blind Mice" with spaghetti whiskers, carrot ears and licorice tails. Dorothy Woods won the prize for best tasting meatloaf, listing horseradish as the secret ingredient.

The one that got the most laughs – and consequently, the grand prize – was the meatloaf rolled into balls to look like horse manure on a sawdust floor. The "road apples" were the contribution of the riding club, who designated member Mary Pierson to be crowned and caped as queen.

The meatloaf queen then paraded around the room with her unwieldy trophy (which will travel year to year with the new winner) as master of ceremonies Sid Metcalf sang to the tune of the Miss America song, with lyrics altered for the occasion.

"There she is, Mrs. Meatloaf,
"There she is, no potato peel,
"The dream of cooks whose meat is more than pretty,
"And look! She's already the star of this little ditty!
"So there she is, Mrs. Meatloaf,
"She's our Grade A prime absolute ideal!"



PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES on *The Oberlin Herald's* entry, Carolyn Plotts carefully crafted her loaf to look like the newspaper.