

Directing the Prince and Princess Program runs in the family

BY KRISTEN HAINS

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There aren't many who can claim that basketball star Dan Majerle was their prince.

But for Mary Lyon, it's something that she still likes to brag about.

Lyon, who "retired" from the National Cherry Festival in 2002 after a more than 50 year volunteer career there, spent many years as the Director of the Prince and Princess programs. Each year elementary schools in the surrounding area select a prince and

princess from amongst their first graders to represent them in the National Cherry Festival.

Finding someone to fill Lyon's shoes when she stepped down from the post meant the National Cherry Festival Board of Directors had to go looking for her replacement. It turned out that they didn't have to look far.

Lyon's daughter, Shelley Enger, was chosen by the board to replace her mother. Having worked side by side

with her mother, Enger knew what the job entailed, but she says that by no means guaranteed her the job.

Enger said it was just like applying for a job. She had to fill out an application and then was called in for an interview. The interviewing committee then made a recommendation to the Board of Directors who then vote on the candidate.

"It was not a given by any means," Enger said of her selection.

Enger was no stranger to the

National Cherry Festival. Having put in 31 years of time serving in various capacities, she ended up serving the prince and princess program as a result of her close relationship with her mother.

"I just enjoy doing it," she said. "And my mom and I are just such good friends that I just always tagged along with her while she was doing it."

Watching her daughter take over last year was tougher than Lyon expected.

"I thought I was well-primed for this," Lyon said of her

retirement. "Then came the opening ceremonies. I think it was just a special year last year. The patriotism, the flags, the singer they had was so profound and then those little princes and princesses walked out and I just lost it."

She adds though that they were tears of joy and a lot of pride. "I'd been a part of it for so long there was just such a sense of pride to see how far the program has come."

The Prince & Princess Program is presented by Hogarth's Pest Control.

2004 National Cherry Festival Prince and Princess Program



Dawson Mortensen-Chown
Esperanza Pulido
Bertha Vos



Jacob Tucker
Kaitlin Sargent
Elair



Peter Hansen III
Nicole Peterson
Buckley



Jordan Moutsatson
Anna Thorson
Central



Joseph Schepperly
Morgan Scollard
Cherry Knoll



Zachary Boher
Megan Eshleman
Courtade



Spencer Kroupa
Madison Ostergren
Eastern



Drake Hendershott
Sarah Tondreau
Glen Lake



Tanapach "Win" Lilitbanjong
Madison Machuta
Glenn Loomis



Alex Werly
Jasmine Overholt
Grand Traverse Academy