Beulah woman among 10 finalist in Kroll's contest

By KATHY TANDBERG

When Kroll's Diner spokes-
woman, Pat and Clara, decided to retire, the diner
turned to host a contest in search of a new face.
Known for its German
toasty food, the diner began to seek
contestants who could speak
with a German accent, so it
came as no surprise that at least one woman from Mercer
County entered the contest and became
one of 100 entries received.
Beulah resident Pauline
(Hausauer) Frank became one
of 10 finalists in the contest and she said she owes her
advancement to Barbara Frueh, Bazett, a friend from her
Wednesday night bowling league.
"Barb did it all. She
幕后ed me into entering and said, "Oh,
no, I wouldn't know what to
do. But Barb did it all." Pauline
said.
Barb heard about the
contest when she saw a flyer
eering contestants while
having a meal at Kroll's with her
dughter, Teri Pinsmen. A
multimedia correspondent
for Forum Communications,
Teri wrote a story announcing the
contest.
The contest was in the
back of Barb's mind one night
while bowling at the lanes in
Beulah.
"Pauline was bowling on the lane beside me. I thought
er right away and knew
she would make a good Kroll's lady. She's fun and energetic," Barb
said.
When Pauline heard Barb
out, she dismissed her young
friend and laughed.
"I didn't think she was
serious and I thought I would
never make it to the finals
anyway," Pauline said.
Pauline, 84, grew up on a
farm south of Beulah, raised
by German-Russian parents.
She spoke only German until
her parents sent her off to
school where she learned to
speak English. But back home
on the farm after school,
German was all her parents
spoke.
Even today when Pauline
speaks, her German accent
is obvious and comes out true
to her language.
While Pauline was named
among the 10 finalists, she
is yet unsure as to her
status. She's heard nothing back
from Kroll's, but the
diner has already
questioned and video
taped, or they help help
create and submit a video that
was filmed at the
home of Ella Fandrich, one of Pauline's sisters.
Barb even came up with Pauline's wardrobe for her entry on the video.
"I remembered last year for Halloween Pauline and
her bowling team wore Elvis costumes so I had her
wear that," Barb
said.
By Monday evening they
were filming. As the video opens, a jet
liner lands at an airport and
and Pauline had
down pat with a little help
from the cue cards.
"Sit down and eat!"
"Shake it up baby!"
"You're a dog at the door."
"Clarice we gotta hustle!"
Then the video flashes
to Pauline as herself in the kitchen
wearing an apron
patterned after one of her
mother's. There she goes
through some of the lines
holding various props -- a wooden spoon and water
and glasses.
Pauline said Barb helped
her fill out the application and took photos to go
along with the video.
"It was a lot of fun," Pauline
said.
Filming done, Barb hur-
ried the video over to Ha-
zen to Hazen High School
student Dillon Salier.
"I had Pauline go through
the first part four times
and then we picked the
best one. I had the
whole idea in my mind and
told her how to do it," Barb
said.
She said Dillon is
talented at creating YouTube
videos and he talked her
into editing it and inserting
additional video, like the
dreaming of a bubble, the
stirrer and cheerleading.
"I got it to him by 8 p.m.
and just told Dillon what I wanted.
Chris Harvey helped
him. We got it in just under the
midnight deadline," Barb
said.
Once the 10 finalists were
announced, their videos were
placed on a special Web site,
where people could vote for their favorite.
A panel of judges
considered the public vote and also
judged to se-
lect the 10 who moved further in the competition.
An unnamed Kroll's Diner employee said
in a telephone interview the winner had not been
determined as of Tuesday, but added that the Kroll's women
are staple of the company brand for so
many years that will continue with the selection of a new face.
If Pauline is out of the run-
ing, locals have said that
Kroll's missed a good spokes-
man by not choosing her.
She's as authentic a German
as one can get and her
German accent has no trace of Norwegian like can be heard on some of the semi-finalists
contestants' voices.
"I don't have to pretend I'm
German, I'm the real thing," Pauline
said.
Pauline is one of 15 chil-
dren of German-Russian im-
plaiters Philip and Christina
Hausauer. There were seven
and two boys and Ger-
mans was the main language
of the older children in the
family.
"The teacher asked us if we
didn't speak English at home
and we said no, our parents
didn't either," she said.
Pauline and her sisters
know more about German
cooking than many, just as
many good German cooks
do in Mercer County. They
teach one another.
When Pauline was raising her
children, they ate many of the same things.
Her favorites to cook are:
strudel, dumplings, knoephla,
Elsie's potato salad, cheese knoephla, fish-knöphla,
cheese buttons, stern and
gle and meatballs.
Not thinking she would
end up in the top 10, Pauline
didn't tell her children --
Shirley Seeman, Gary Frank,
Randy Frank, Allen Frank
and Phyllis Shuman -- of her
entry until after her name
was announced in the top.
With or not, they support
their mother all the same,
as do Pauline's dozens of
other German relatives in
Mercer County. She also has
13 grandchildren and seven
great-grandchildren.
She said her children all
heard her tell them to sit
down and eat any time
over their childhood so it was
nothing new to hear her say
it on the video entry.
"I don't know what's going
to happen; but we'll see," Pauline
said.
But it's not over until it's
over. So cross your fingers
for Pauline.
The top 10 contest-
video, including Pauline's,
can be viewed at www.nest-
rollslady.com.