

# Grange Princess wears her title with pride

By DIETER KRIEG

ELIZABETHTOWN — MeeCee Baker, the 17-year old Pennsylvania State Grange Princess, joined the oldest of U.S. farm organizations because of what it offers to young people. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baker, Port Royal R2, she has been a Granger since childhood. The Grange is an organization which includes the entire family. Both her mother and father, who operate a 120 acre farm in Juniata County, are Grange members.

Miss Baker was named Pennsylvania State Grange

Princess last July 10 during the organization's annual Summer picnic. Now in the last days of her reign, she treasures the experiences her title provided. She has met hundreds of people and traveled thousands of miles, she told Lancaster Farming last week during an interview on the Elizabethtown College campus. Miss Baker and some 200 other Grangers from across the state were in the area for their 55th annual leadership school. (See related articles elsewhere in this edition of Lancaster Farming.)

Aside from being a princess, the poised and mature Juniata County girl is also an active farm girl and outstanding public speaker. Last week, for example she won the Grange's speaking contest for 14-18 year olds. At home she is herdsman and caretaker of her own herd of Limousine cattle and Poland-China hogs. Her ambition is to work with livestock upon graduation from Penn State University's College of Agriculture. She has been accepted and will begin her studies there this Fall. Her major will be animal science.

A 1978 graduate of Juniata High School, Miss Baker says she loves farming and rural life because she grew up with it. She has also been very active in 4-H programs.

The Grange means a lot to this young lady because of the activities it offers and her realization that it is a family organization. In addition, she feels that the Grange has a lot to offer to her personally, and she in turn has something to offer to the organization.

Other drawing cards for the Grange are the fraternity and fellowship offered at meetings, and the grass roots representation, Miss Baker explained. What's more, she likes the organization's legislative force and voice in government. Confessing to an interest in politics, besides farming, she shyly admitted that she might like to combine these interests someday in order to contribute more significantly to the good of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Another possible career for her might be employment at (Turn to Page 116)



Being a good ambassador for the Pennsylvania State Grange is one reason MeeCee Baker was chosen as Pennsylvania State Grange Princess last year.

## Grange princess wins speaking contest

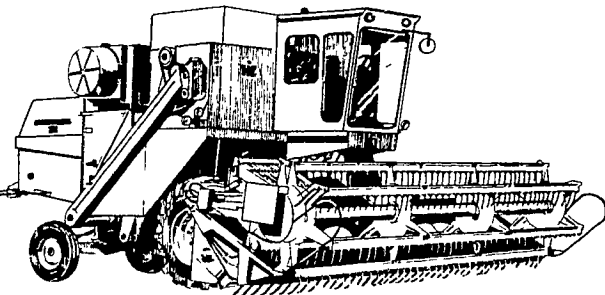
ELIZABETHTOWN -- Grange and the Quality of Life." Seventeen-year-old MeeCee Baker, the Pennsylvania State Grange's reigning princess, won top honors last week in the state public speaking contest at the 55th annual Grange leadership school.

MeeCee, who graduated with honors from Juniata High School earlier this month, won first place in the 14-18 year age group, then received the best-of-show ribbon for her talk on "The

group was won by Mrs. Kenneth Kerstetter, a housewife from Milton R3. Second place went to a Lancaster Countian, David L. Hanks, of Mount Joy, with third place won by Daniel Glessner, of Yoe, York County.

Second place in the 14-18 group was won by Judy Paull, of Lemont Furnace, Fayette County. Mary Styer, of Danville, a third entry was unable to attend.

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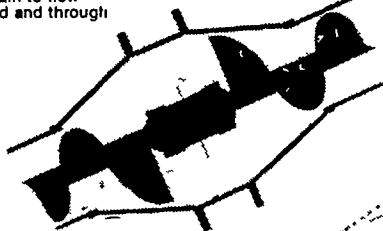
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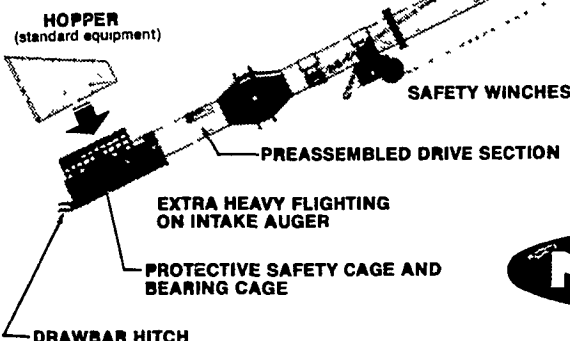
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