

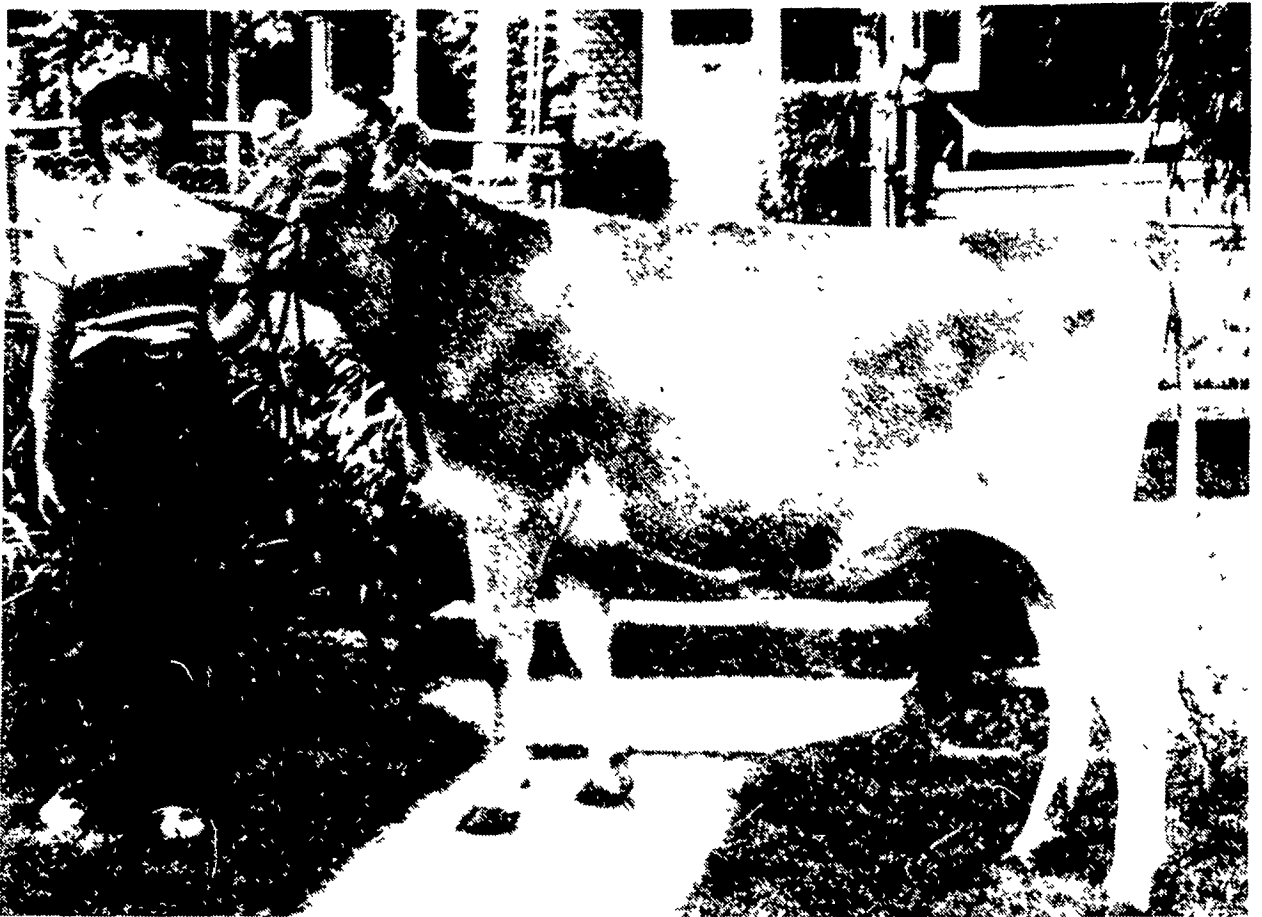
Lancaster's dairy princess sparkles

BY PAT KAUFFMAN
LITITZ — Sparkle. Connie Balmer, the newly crowned 1980 Lancaster County Dairy Princess should add lots of it to her reign. Her dark eyes sparkle at the talk of

meeting people and going places.
 Connie is the 17 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Balmer, Millway Road, Lititz. With her crowning Saturday evening,



Nancy and Jesse Balmer joined their daughter Saturday evening for pictures.



Connie offers a preview of her show animal, Gordline's Choice Carol which she will show in the

county roundup this year.



Connie Balmer, Lititz, the new 1980 Dairy Princess is flanked by Belle Balmer, Mount Joy, first runnerup, left and Lu Ann Brenneman, Mount Joy, second runnerup.



Some of the many gifts Connie received Saturday are shown: bracelets, traveling alarm clock, pocket mirror, umbrella, cow creamer, and tote bag as well as her pewter bowl for Miss Congeniality

she becomes the representative of the Lancaster County dairy industry for 1980-81.

This has been a big year for Connie. She's a 1980 grad of Warwick High School. And prior to winning the pageant, she was planning to seek employment in an accounting or secretarial job. But Saturday evening changed all that. Now she's planning to devote a large portion of her time to the dairy industry.

Her personality not only impressed the judges, it also impressed the contestants. Connie was also chosen Miss Congeniality Saturday, an award which is becoming old hat in her household. Seems her sisters Cindy and Cheryl who have also participated in the pageant have been recipients of the award.

Connie's home farm just outside Lititz is also home for 150 head of registered Guernsey cattle of all sizes. The family milks approximately 80 cows. Connie and her mother, Nancy regularly help with the milking. And when the men are out doing the haying, the ladies take charge of the cows.

This young lady hasn't been sitting around for the past few years. In addition to her farm responsibilities, she has found time to be in the 4-H Guernsey club for 9 years. She has served as secretary and news reporter for the club and is presently its vice-president.

A 4-H sewing club for 5 years and church youth involvement as well as Thursday evening roller skating have helped to fill her hours. She also played trumpet in the Warwick bands and orchestra.

Her love of her breed comes to the front when she talks of her show calves. It seems this young woman has had the Grand Champion Guernsey for the past three years at the county roundup. And last year in addition to having the Grand Champion, she also exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion, a daughter of her Grand Champion.

In total, Connie owns 7 Guernsey heifers and cows. Her father who farms 120 acres on the home farm plus rented land has given the



Connie is no stranger to the dairy industry. While she'll be doing a lot up front for the industry this year, here she shows a working knowledge of the other end.

animals to her as well as to the other children in the family. This year Connie is planning to hit the show ring with a new project animal, a senior yearling heifer.

Connie's Grand Champion cow received an award from Pennfield for her 1979 production of 16,743 pounds of milk and 759 pounds of butterfat. In addition, she was the second high butterfat award winning cow in the Ephrata Fair last year. Connie's cow was topped by her sister's cow in this competition.

Her love and expertise in showing have won for her numerous awards in showmanship over the past few years. She has shown in the County, District, Junior Dairy and All American shows. Connie said it's the "challenge to train animals and the fellowship at shows"

that she loves about showing.

In her 4-H Guernsey club, Connie said she thinks the activities planned are interesting. She said that she'd like to see more involvement from the younger members of the club.

During the competition Saturday, the girls gave short presentations. Connie's presentation was the following rhyme:

Out in the meadow so beautiful and green,
 Stands Bessy the cow, she thinks she's a queen.
 She is much entitled to feel this way,
 Since she gives good rich milk, which we need every day.

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