



The premier Guernsey women in Lancaster County pose with one of their favorite animals - the gentle Guernsey cow. Connie Balmer, left, is Lancaster County's Dairy Princess, and Millie Linde, right, just concluded her reign as the National Guernsey Queen. The gentle Guernsey is Lindenhof Dairy Midas Carla, a seven-year-old who just completed a record of over 17,000 pounds of milk and 800 pounds of fat.

Royal friends discuss dairy highlights

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

Connie Balmer and Millie Linde have a lot in common. They each spent the past year as "royalty" promoting the dairy industry and a way of life they think is superb. They are both attractive and articulate. And they are both enthusiasts of the Guernsey breed.

Millie, 22, openly promoted the Guernsey breed in her position as National Guernsey Queen, a title she relinquished in April, but a job which she will never give up because she believes in the superiority of the breed.

Connie, 18, also likes Guernseys; after all, she has worked with them all her life. But she diplomatically refuses to be drawn into a discussion of their virtues as long as she is Lancaster County's reigning Dairy Princess. It isn't that she's not partial, but she understands that her job is to promote the whole industry, and it is something she has done with relish. Her reign will end on June 20 when her successor will be chosen.

While their approaches may differ, it is obvious that each shares an enthusiasm for the opportunity they had and satisfaction for what they were

able to accomplish. And they agreed that if they had a younger sister they would encourage her to follow in their footsteps.

Connie says, "Being Dairy Princess helped me mature and overcome my fear of standing up and talking to people. It helped me meet new and interesting people, make new friends and be friendlier."

It is traditional in Lancaster County for the Dairy Princess to participate in the Dale Carnegie course, something which Connie feels is invaluable. She adds, "It built up my self-confidence. It helped me so much. I never used note cards when I spoke because we weren't allowed to in the course. It gives you a positive attitude."

Connie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Balmer, 527 Millway Road, Latitz, and is a 1980 graduate of Warwick High School.

Millie explains her feelings, "It makes you able to go out and talk to people. You are doing something for a worthy cause and I feel good about that. Now that my reign is over I am still in the public eye and people still ask for advice. It is a good feeling to go to meetings and talk with people."

They both agreed they were a

little tired of sitting at head tables and eating chicken and ham on the banquet circuit, but Millie laughingly says she learned that the best ham is served at the Lancaster County Guernsey banquet at the Refton Fire Hall.

Both girls are adamant about the need for promoting dairy products, not only with additional revenue, but also by example. Connie states,

"Farmers must use it more themselves. If they use margarine, it doesn't set a very good example."

Millie adds, "We must put more money into advertising. And we must have more articles about the goodness of milk in other newspapers." The current advertising programs which are heard on radio and seen in

magazines meets with their approval, as well as the new association with the Phillies' baseball team with Phillies' jackets, which read "Milk's the One."

Millie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K.D. Linde, Oxford R1, and graduated from Solanco High School in 1976. In 1978 she

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Promoting dairy products was a major thrust of both girls' presentation as they traveled around the county and around the country. Here Dairy Princess Connie, left, pours a tall glass of Millie's favorite drink - rich Golden Guernsey milk. Millie just completed her reign as National Guernsey Queen.

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