



Boni shows off Maplebound Astronaut Dahlia, one of the 50 cows on their farm, which is named Ronafa and stands for Rob, Naomi and family.

## Dad inspires new princess

BY KIMBERLY HERR

**WILLOW STREET** — Start with a belief, add a generous portion of talent, a heaping amount of hard-work and mix with some inspiration from Dad.

What's the result?

For Willow Street's Boni Gochenaur, it was success at the Lancaster County Dairy Princess contest June 18.

"My dad and I had talked about it (the contest). He kind of wanted me to do it," Boni said. "I thought it would be good experience with meeting people and learning more about the dairy industry."

Although the inspiration and encouragement came from her parents, Bob and Naomi Gochenaur, 419 Penn Grant Road, the talent was Boni's contribution. In order to compete, each contestant had to make up a 30-second commercial for milk.

Boni, age 17, sang her commercial to the tune of "Follow the Star."

"It invited people to come and be healthy and to drink milk for fitness," Boni said of her song.

In addition to the commercial, each girl had to answer an impromptu question on the stage. Boni's asked what message she would deliver if requested to speak at a meeting of a group of people not directly related to farming.

Boni's winning response was, "Milk is good for everyone, and you need it to function properly."

Although Boni admitted to feeling a bit nervous about the question part of the contest, she found a positive side to it.

"I looked up some different things about the dairy industry to find out and make sure I knew what was going on," she said, explaining that she learned a great deal about dairy farming.

Armed with her new knowledge, a belief in the product and information she gained while aiding her parents with their 50 dairy cows, Boni is ready to start on her milk campaign.

The blonde hair, blue-eyed winner hopes to stress the importance of milk to the people she plans to meet.

"I want to make people more aware of how milk can be used," Boni explained. "Reaching kids is my main goal. They are the ones who will be the future generation."

In order to get her message across, Boni will be doing super-market promotions, awarding ribbons at local fairs and attending 4-H roundups and field days. She will also be speaking at banquets and the meetings of various organizations.

With her dairy princess duties



Lancaster County's new dairy princess relaxes on the front porch of her parent's Willow Street farm.

and her classes at Lancaster Mennonite High School, where she will be a senior, Boni's planning a busy year. She also plays the flute for her school orchestra, sings in the school chorus and enjoys "working in the kitchen."

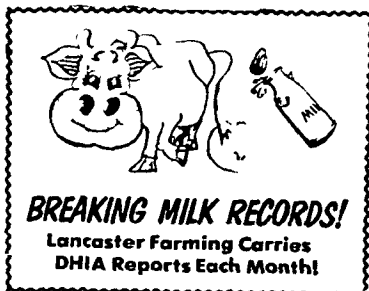
In addition to these activities, she will also be taking a public speaking class at Dale Carnegie Courses.

Her future plans call for training at Lancaster General Hospital

School of Nursing.

"Ever since I was a little girl I wanted to be a nurse," Boni said. "It's a service to mankind and hospitals always intrigued me."

But, before nursing comes an active year of being Lancaster County Dairy Princess. When asked what advice she would give to girls thinking about entering the dairy princess contest, she replied, "Do it, but you have to be prepared to give yourself for that year."



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