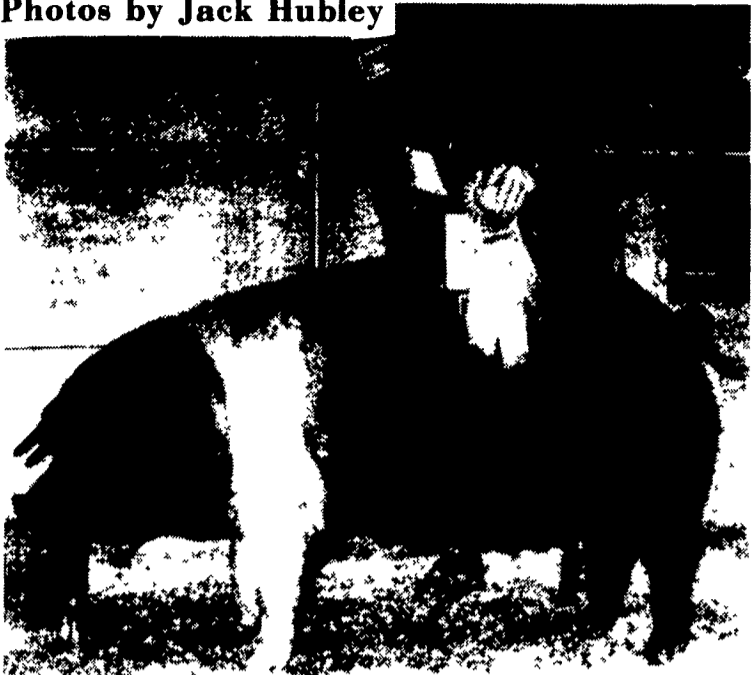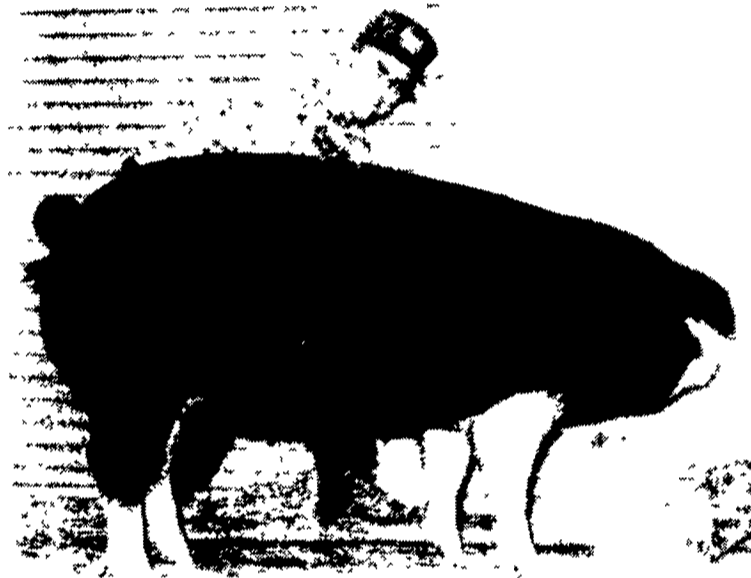# Western judge finds top quality swine at Farm Show

Photos by Jack Hubley

The champion Hampshire gilt with exhibitor John Strawbridge.

Keith McConnell of Volant, with his champion Poland China gilt.

Clyde McConaughey and daughter, Donna, with their grand champion Duroc bred gilt.

Jim Parlett and son, Gus, of Airville, York County, show their champion Chester White.

BY DONNA McCONAUGHEY
Staff Correspondent

HARRISBURG — Although Farm Show '85 did not officially open until Sunday, there was plenty of activity in the hog barn last Saturday, as Pennsylvania swine breeders paraded their best across the tanbark during the Bred Gilt Shows.

Judge Hank Freter of Oklahoma had the task of sorting more than 250 head of purebred hogs. This "western" judge found the high quality hogs that are doing an excellent job putting eastern hog breeders on the swine industry "map" difficult to sort.

Winners in pairs seemed to be the prominent pattern of the day. In four out of eight breeds one exhibitor claimed both champion and reserve champion honors.

John Strawbridge of York county took home champion and reserve champion honors in both Yorkshire and Hampshire competition. His outstanding pair of Yorkshire January gilts sired by Avalanche took the champion and reserve champion awards.

In the Hampshire show a January gilt sired by CB 11-5 was named champion. The reserve champion's dam is a half sister to the champion, and both gilts carried the service of CB Superman, the grand champion Hampshire boar at the 1984 KILE.

The Duroc competition boasted the largest number of entries per breed for the 1985 show. Clyde McConaughey and Family of Indiana county took top honors in this breed. The McConaughey's pair of February gilts claimed the champion and reserve champion prizes. These gilts were both out of BD Foreshock and bred to CM Meat Man. This championship represented the McConaughey's twenty-fifth champion since they first entered swine at the Farm Show in 1941.

The Poland China breed was the fourth show to see one exhibitor claim both champion and reserve champion ribbons. Keith McConnell of Volant showed a pair of March gilts which caught the judges eye. McConnell is also a long-time exhibitor at Farm Show and has won many championships in swine competition.

Jim Parlett of Airville, York county, won the championship in the Chester White breed. Jim and his son Gus are well known for their outstanding Chester Whites, having won top awards throughout the east coast.

The reserve champion Chester White was shown by Charles Griest. The Griest family resides at Abbottstown and maintain a small Chester White herd. This winner was one of two February gilts Griest had entered in the show.

The Parlett Family came back again to win the championship in the Spotted Swine show. A January gilt sired by WBSF Waylon, this eye-catching gilt was due to farrow in February to the service of RA Deacon.

The reserve champion Spotted Swine was exhibited by Joseph Gardner Jr. of Youngwood, Pa.

The Landrace champion was exhibited by Tunnel Hill Farm of Seven Valleys. The Mummert family has shown many Landrace champions at the Farm Show.

The reserve champion Landrace was shown by the Jay Blatt family of Annville, Lebanon county. This February gilt was sired by Shueys Mr. Chief and bred to LDL Burly.

In Berkshire competition two long-time exhibitors claimed top awards. Russell and Arlie Cornbower of New Freedom have shown Berkshires at the Farm Show since it reopened after World War II. This championship was their second.

Champion spotted swine honors went to Jim Parlett, who also showed the reserve. Parlett also had the show's top Chester White.

Arlie Cornbower shows his father Russel's grand champion Berkshire bred gilt.

Veteran Landrace exhibitors, the Mummert family poses with their champion gilt. From left are Harold Mummert II, Barbara Sue, Barbara Ann, and John.

John Strawbridge of Stewartstown with his champion Yorkshire. Strawbridge took grand and reserve honors in both the Yorkshire and Hampshire shows.