

Modern milkmaid trucks her wares to amazed Yorkton householders

By COLLEEN BAILEY

YORKTON, Sask. — The milkman's trade was invaded for six weeks by a pretty 18-year-old blue-eyed blonde. Barbara Peet is the first milk delivery woman for the city of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, since the war years.

Possibly this modern milkmaid has opened up a new field of employment for women. But, hold the cow, think of the adjustments for everyone!

Barbara experienced most of these on her route. At that six o'clock hour of the day she shocked numbers of men and women customers, had the toddlers whispering — "it's a lady milkman", and has a marked leg to show some fancy foot work with someone's mongrel pup.

The job is finished now as Barbara prepares for first year arts at University of Saskatchewan. She took a few minutes from her shopping sprees to tell about her different kind of summer job. Besides the many interesting highlights to remember she now has three hundred and fifty dollars to spend on a new wardrobe.

When Barbara finished high school in June she applied for several jobs including hotel clerk, waitress, swimming instructor and tourist information director. "I was busy writing grade 12 exams and waited too long," she admits.

Discouraged with the availability of employment she was all ears when her father Cec Peet, dairy plant owner, mentioned that he needed a part time man for holiday schedules. Barbara volunteered, coaxed, and was hired for route number one. Like any other employee she was put through the one week training with the regular delivery man, going house to house making a list of approximate 'takes', and also for a short course on "truck manipulation."

The next week she was on her own. Up at 5:20 she would jump into blue jeans, shirt and "sturdy nurses shoes dyed navy". To work at 5:50 the morning began by loading the truck with the cases of milk and dairy products. "The other staff were wonderful at helping me to get loaded," Barbara recalls appreciatively.

Her vehicle she started out in is the standard gear truck—



Barbara Peet, Yorkton's lady milkman, starts her morning work.

four forward. This one had the gears in backwards and to this she commented, "no trouble. Just some getting used to."

The reaction when she started ringing doors bells was usually, "stares from the lady of the house," and repeatedly "what are you doing?"

The customers seemed to enjoy the novelty. They liked the change, but the dogs were the ones who sensed the

change of scenery or routine. "They barked, chased the truck for blocks and three times, tried nipping my heels. I was sniffed at, growled at and nipped for days when the one big mongrel got up enough nerve to give me this," said Barbara as she showed her token of objection still on her leg.

The route involved about 30 miles of driving each day, and

a lot of walking. For this effort Barbara lost 10 pounds.

Would she like to have the job again? "Next time I'll start job hunting earlier," Barbara replied.

The oldest of three children in the Peet family, Barbara has her aims set on taking a secretary's course after her degree in arts. "Then I'd like to try a travelling type of job, possibly with civil service."