

Mrs. Wm. Earl DeHart . . .

Active New Holland Fair Floral Chairlady

By Mrs. Charles McSparran
Farm Feature Writer

The 41st annual New Holland Farmers Fair will be held October 4 to 7. It is said that this fair has the highest paid premium list on farm and home exhibits in Pennsylvania.

The people of eastern Lancaster County beautify their homes with many beautiful flower annuals and perennials and many housewives take pride in their house plants. This is evidenced by the flower exhibits at the fair.

Mrs. Wm. Earl (Mary) DeHart, Ranck Ave., New Holland RD2, and her committee of seven will be very busy handling some 500 entries expected in the flower department of the fair this year. Last year they had 550 entries but recent dry weather may reduce that number.

Mrs. DeHart has served as chairman of the flower department for seven or eight years and helped on the committee several years before that. Their department is located in the Boy Scout home on South Roberts Avenue. They will accept entries Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Wednesday from 8 to 11 a.m. They have several classes for house plants in flowering plants and foliage plants and many classes for annuals and perennial specimen. There are 14 classes for artistic arrangements and five classes for childrens arrangements.

This is strictly an agricultural fair with a full line of farm and home products. Fancy work, canned goods, baked goods, fruits, nuts, eggs, vegetables, jellies and preserves will be housed in the school auditorium; livestock, corn, hay and tobacco are in a tent on S. Railroad Ave.; grain and potatoes at A.B.C. Groff's Equipment Co. and art and handicrafts are in the Earl Sauder Building on North Railroad Avenue.

Dr. Louis E. Williams, a dentist in New Holland, is new as president of the New Holland Farmer's Fair this year. He expects thousands of people to attend the four day events which have become a tradition. The fair opens each day at 1 p.m.

An attraction for the ladies is the baked goods and candy sale to be held in the school auditorium

Wednesday noon. Proceeds will be given to the New Holland 4-H Sewing and Cooking Club.

The Opening Parade will form at the Park on East Jackson Street Wednesday at 7 p.m. and move up Brimmer Avenue to Custer, north on Custer to Main Street, then east on Main back to the Park.

Thursday the Tractor Driving contest will be held at 6:30 p.m. and the Tug-of-War contest with several firemen's teams participating will take place at 9 p.m. They usually have about 16 groups taking part.

Friday is Kid's Day. They will be delighted with the many rides at the fair. The rides are mostly on North Roberts Avenue and Main Street. The Pet Parade will be held at 7:30 p.m. Another Tug-of-War elimination will be held at 9 p.m.

Saturday will feature the Baby Parade at 4 p.m. The Farmer's Fair German Band will perform during the evening all over the grounds and the Lamplighters will furnish entertainment at 7:30. The finals of the Tug-of-War will be held at 9 p.m.

One of the main attractions of the fair is the 4-H Swine Show and Judging Thursday afternoon. They will be sold Friday at 2 p.m. Another is 4-H baby beef judging at 1 p.m. Thursday, prior to being sold.

Mrs. DeHart plans to exhibit a very beautiful green, rose and pink hairpin lace afghan at the fair. The committee workers usually are too busy at fair time to exhibit very much.

Mary, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Glass, Bowmansville, was born on a farm. At a very early age her family moved to Bowmansville where her father worked at Harding's Bakery.

Mary was always very musical. She started taking piano lessons at six years of age and took lessons for ten years. She gave piano lessons to 30- some students over a period of 10 or more years.

She played the piano and electric organ for 39½ years for Bowmansville Lutheran and Reformed Church and Sunday School (now the United Church of Christ). She has been playing the piano for the New Holland Rotary Club every Monday night for 25 years. She played for the Young

Men's Business League in New Holland for a number of years. She also did substitute playing for churches and Lions Clubs. She says "I love organ and I love opera."

Mrs. DeHart also sings. She joined the church choir when she was nine years old. She has been in her church choir ever since, until this summer when she quit. She never took any vocal training.

She was asked to have a singing audition for Radio Station WRAW, Reading, one time. When she went there was no one to play the piano to accompany her so the man asked her if she could play. She said "Oh, a little." So he said she should just accompany herself. She did and was immediately hired for a 15 minute night program playing and singing semi-classical music. She always ended the program with a sacred number. She did this for several years but quit because it was inconvenient to go so far at night.

Mr. DeHart retired six years ago, having worked at New Holland Machine Company 14 years previously. He likes to be busy so spends 20 hours or so a week stocking frozen foods at a grocery store in New Holland.

Mrs. DeHart worked 15 years at Leininger Hosiery Mill at Mohnton, at Playtex in New Holland and as a waitress at Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland. She too likes to be busy. She does part-time volunteer work as an assistant leader at the Welch Mountains Rec Center, assisting preschool children to learn various things. This is sponsored by the Trinity Lutheran Church in New Holland. A bus brings the children to the center.

Mr. and Mrs. DeHart are members of the Retired Citizens of New Holland and go to their meetings and on their trips. They have about 160 members.

The DeHarts are also members now of the Trinity Lutheran Church of New Holland. They belonged many years to the Bowmansville Lutheran and Reformed Church and Earl served many years on the vestry there. Mrs. DeHart also taught a Sunday School class of teenagers there besides helping with music. She is a member of the Constant Workers Sunday School class of her church and substitutes teaching the adult class. She is a member of "The Dorcas Circle" of Lutheran Church Women and has charge of getting their programs.

DeHarts have one daughter, Marilyn Witman of Morgantown. Her husband is a Certified Public Accountant in Reading and also spends some time in New Holland. They have two sons. One is in Lehigh University and the other will graduate next June from high school. Marilyn is a registered nurse, having trained at Reading. She doesn't work as a nurse now but is very active in community work. She works on the Water Authority, in the

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Mrs. Wm. Earl DeHart, New Holland RD2, shows a beautiful afghan she will exhibit at New Holland Farmer's Fair. In the background are some of her mother's dishes she prizes.



Mrs. DeHart has spent a lifetime in music, singing and playing.

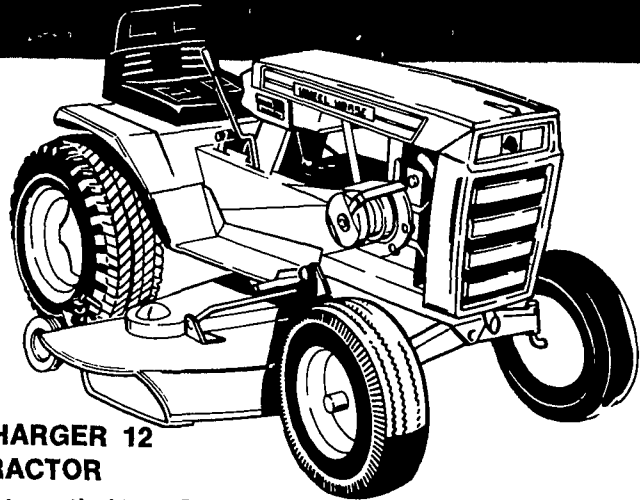


Mrs. Mary DeHart, chairman of the Flower Department of the New Holland Farmers Fair, has her fair book in hand as she looks over her own flowers.

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