

At Shirk's "Cardinal Farm Home"...

They Offer Hospitality To Non-Farm Families

As summer approaches many tourists and vacation-bound urban dwellers are attracted to beautiful, bountiful Lancaster and neighboring counties with their large barns and well kept buildings. As has been the privilege of some city folks for several decades to visit their country cousins, now some less fortunate pay their hard earned savings just to get out in the lush, green meadows and woodlands, to breathe fresh air, to hear the birds sing, to hear the cattle lowing, to hear the cock crow at break of day, to see the good brown soil strips between the grass strips, to sit in the shade of the old apple tree, to fish in a quiet stream, to fondle a kitten, puppy or bunny, to see the good earth plowed and planted, to lend a hand in the busy harvest season, yes, to smell the aroma of country cookin' and to pull up their chairs to a long dining table laden with foods like they have only heard Grandma and Grandpa talk about.

All this and more are to be found at Cardinal Farm Home, owned and operated by Herman A. and Verna Shirk and daughter Sylvia of Quarryville RD1. Their 131 acre farm is located in the southern part of Lancaster County on Cardinal Drive, which is the road from Drumore Center on Route 272 to Mechanic Grove on Route 222.

As the Shirks are starting their sixth year in the farm vacation business they are eagerly anticipating the return of old friends they have made because many of them return again and again. They thoroughly enjoy meeting and entertaining these folks. They have taken pictures of almost all of them and have them entered in an album which to them is a collection of fond memories.

Shirks have a very good clientele of doctors, lawyers,

Farm
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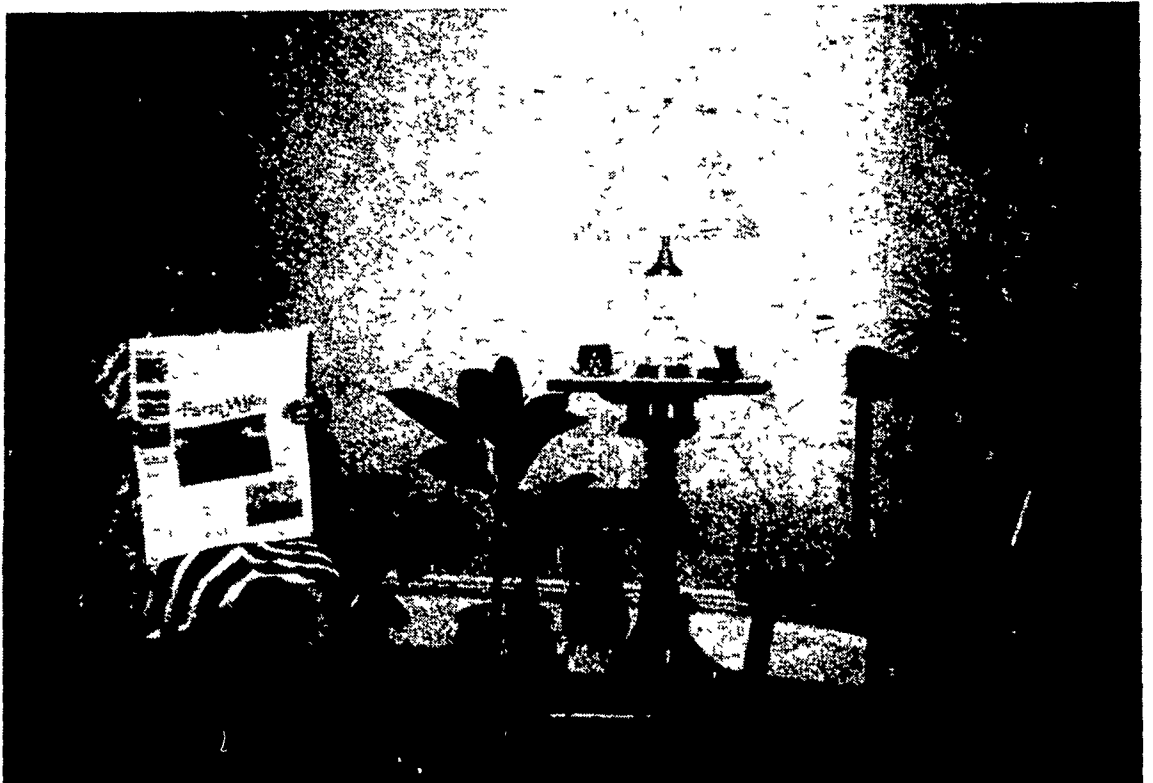


executives, teachers, writers and their families. They have come from the British Isles, Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Holland and Australia, as well as quite a few states in the United States. Most come from the New York metropolitan area, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Boston and a few from Chicago, Michigan, Oklahoma, California and Massachusetts.

Last year they hosted 433 people from 119 families and over half of them were repeats. Some talented guests have given Mrs. Shirk things they made. There are two signs hanging in her dining room. The one says "The Shirks" and the other one, decorated with a cardinal and green twigs, says "Cardinal Farm Home."

A very talented wood carver carved a realistic Holstein cow and an artist painted a picture of their farm. A photographer made two large pictures of their farm scenes. A guest who works at Tiffany's in New York gave Mrs. Shirk a sterling silver cream pitcher and sugar bowl. The cream pitcher is a cow and the sugar bowl is a milk pail. Also, a guest from Ireland gave her a little ceramic horse with Ireland printed on it. These gifts are highly treasured by Mrs. Shirk.

Shirks belong to the Pennsylvania Dutch Tourist Bureau and their name appears in their publication as well as in the Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Directory and in an airline magazine. Pat Dickerman, editor



Mrs. Shirk likes to relax with one of her favorite magazines in her great-grandmother's platform rocker. The straight chair also came from her. The child's rocker came from Mr. Shirk's great-

grandmother. A few of her many house plants are in the background. Also a painting of their farm done by a vacation guest.



Mrs. Herman A. Shirk, hostess of Cardinal Farm Home, holds some prized gifts from vacationers—a sterling sugar bowl (milk pail) and creamer (cow) from Tiffany, New York, a ceramic horse from Ireland and a hand carved wooden cow. The shingles beside her were painted by two vacation guests.

of "Farm and Ranch Vacation Guide" published by Rand McNally, has stayed at Shirks' on various occasions and wrote about them and their business in this publication. There have been write-ups about Cardinal Farm Home in the New York Magazine and the Washington, D. C. American Motorist.

Shirks have a brochure printed by the thousands which is given out at practically all the tourist attractions and the Lancaster County Visitors Official Information Center. All this has given them very favorable publicity because they furnish clean, comfortable accommodations, serve fresh,

delicious, wholesome, country food family style in a congenial atmosphere and surround their well-kept farm setting with green lawns and beautiful flowers. Most of all, news of Cardinal Farm Home has spread by word of mouth because guests not only return but bring with them their friends and relatives.

These vacation seekers are more concerned with an escape from the city and being able to relax then they are attracted to the often over-commercialized tourist attractions. Shirks, on occasion, do take these guests on a short trip to see the country but most generally provide brochures of places to see and

sometimes secure the guidance of Mrs. Samuel E. Zook of Strasburg RD1 who goes with them in their automobiles showing them places of interest and taking them to household sales and places that sell antiques.

Shirks have a capacity of 19 or 20 guests in their two farmhouses. They can sleep seven in their own home and about 12 to 15 in their guest house. They also provide cribs and high chairs for small children. The guest house is used exclusively for their guests and has complete housekeeping facilities which include heat, four bedrooms, bath, complete with linens and bedding, a large combination kitchen and living room with TV, refrigerator, electric stove, dishes and utensils and an automatic washer in the basement. The guests rooming in the guest house are also privileged to dine at Shirks' home where three family-style meals are provided a day. The homestead has two guest rooms, two baths and laundry privileges.

Mrs. Shirk makes homemade bread, pies, cakes and puddings and serves their home raised vegetables, meats and fresh whole milk. During the peak guest season they consume three or four gallons of milk a day.

Shirks have a herd of 25 Holstein cows and as many heifers and calves. They do their own milk testing. They ship their milk to Abbott's in Philadelphia.

Guests like to be out in the barn at milking time and like to help feed calves, clean the stables, ride tractors, help bale hay and unload it, ride the garden tractor for mowing meadows and road

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Mrs. Shirk looks over her vacation guest book. Beside her is her album which has colored pictures of nearly all the guests she has entertained. Her poster board is well supplied with brochures of tourists' attractions in Lancaster County.