

banks and help shovel corn in the fall. The children find plenty of entertainment with the play equipment and outdoor game equipment. Shirks also have one black and two white rabbits, many cats and kittens, a couple dogs and six chickens of various species just for the children to enjoy. Herman takes the guests on hayrides and made fishing poles for the children to go fishing

with in their meadow.

Shirks are within close proximity of the Robert Fulton Birthplace, and golfing, minature golf, swimming, boating, fishing, riding and tennis facilities as well as the Amish country. For winter sports enthusiasts skiing is but a short drive and sledding and skating can be enjoyed right on the premises. Such beauty spots as duPonts Longwood Gardens and Winterthur and the Hershey Gardens are within an hour's drive. Most of the guests come by their own cars but Shirks will meet guests in Lancaster.

Mrs. Shirk says "Our guests are our cash crop." Besides being a lot of hard work and very confining to the family this can be quite rewarding and enjoyable. At the same time it does provide a great vacation at a reasonable price to city families. Shirks vacation facilities are by reservation only. They are booked almost solid till Labor Day and even have some bookings for September, October and December.

Shirks can also accommodate a limited number of self-contained campers and trailers but do not provide water and electrical hook-ups. These people are permitted to use the family bath and laundry facilities. The camp sites, like the farm vacation accommodations, can be had by the day or the week.

The farm vacation idea came to Mrs. Shirk after she had equipped her home and the house on their other farm to house workers on the Muddy Run dam project. She had 10 or 12 of them there for two or three years and after that project was finished she kept workmen who were helping relocate Route 472 in the Black Rock area north of Kirkwood. These men stayed at Shirks for over a year.

Of entertaining the vacation guests she says "I enjoy it." She gives much credit to her daughter Sylvia who has helped her over the years but also her husband who has cooperated in every respect. It truly has been, and of necessity must be, a family enterprise. Mrs. Shirk now has two local girls who help Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 19, 1973–23

her on two shifts with the housework, cooking and serving, and with keeping the lawns in trim.

Mrs. Shirk has two large freezers and two refrigerators in her home to store all the foods for her family and guests. They raise and butcher a steer each year which she freezes and she buys chickens from a neighbor to freeze. She freezes over 100 quarts of rhubarb. They raise some of it but she has to buy some to freeze as this is a favorite food with the guests. She buys about 12 quarts of asparagus and 70 quarts of cauliflower to freeze. She also freezes berries and vegetables which they raise-strawberries, blueberries, corn, lima beans, peas, sugar peas, sweet potatoes and squash.

Mrs. Shirk makes sauerkraut and cans it. She buys peaches and cans about 100 quarts of sliced peaches. She cans pears, cherries, raspberries, grapes for pies, grape juice, tomato juice, tomatoes, green and yellow string beans and chow chow. She also makes black raspberry jam, all kinds of preserves, watermelon pickle, pickles and relishes.

Shirks have a large garden that provides most of their berries and vegetables, although at the end of the season they run out and Mrs. Shirk buys them in 20-pound packages. Everyone helps with the garden, even Mrs. Shirk finds time to help some to plant and work the garden. She also helps feed the cows occasionally. She used to work in the fields some and with the milking when it was done by hand:

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Herman too was from New Hollan.He worked in the Samuel A. Shirk country store south of New Holland, then later for New Holland Machine. He also worked for area farmers, then for Glicks Cannery in Smoketown.

After Shirks were married they lived two years at Smoketown, then bought the farm where they now live in 1935. They bought the neighboring farm around 1957

Shirks have four children. They all have graduated from Solanco High School. Gladys is married to Howard Clevenger and they live in Vincentown, N.J. She graduated from Rider College Lawrenceville, N.J. which is a suburb of Trenton. She works for American Cyanamid Company

Glenn received his B.S. and Masters degrees from Penn sylvania State University and is associate County Agent at West Chester. Dale does artificial breeding and is at Hagerstown Maryland.

Sylvia, living at home, has been her dad's right hand helper with all the farm work as well as her mother's full-time helper inside and out. She is an expert seamstress and makes nearly all her own clothes and curtains and bedspreads for the home. She was active several years in Senior Extension work and enjoyed their square dancing and roller skating parties, plays, etc. She has been a member of Fulton Grange and the Lancaster County Pomona Grange for four

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