

Homestead Notes

Pat Erway, Editor



Mrs. Janis Horst. . .

'Involvement' Key To Modern Housewife's Success

by Sally Bair

Mrs. Irvin B. Horst, R D 1, Newmanstown, is a typically busy Lebanon County farm wife and mother, but manages to find time for many interests outside the home.

She exudes enthusiasm as she discusses her many roles and she emerges as a good example of how women today can no longer accurately be called "just housewives."

Janis believes strongly that everyone benefits when women are involved in activities outside the home, but adds, "You cannot get involved so much that you neglect your family. Your children must come first."

She is a firm supporter of the Penn State Extension Service in Lebanon County and says she particularly enjoys attending their one-day educational functions. She says, "getting out to these classes helps me feel better physically, mentally and emotionally."

She not only attends classes, but she is one of the many volunteer teachers who conduct Lebanon County's extension clothing courses. The courses are offered spring and fall and range from very basic sewing skills to

tailoring. The latest course that has attracted a lot of interest is teaching how to sew double knit pants and jackets for men.

Janis says, "This is so very new and different that many women are afraid to try it. Men's clothes are really not hard to make." She said she is surprised at the comments which usually indicate that the men are very pleased with their wives' efforts. The most common report is, "They really fit my husband!"

As evidence of how easy it is, Janis says, "I have made four pair of pants for my husband and a sports jacket. Now I must work on trousers for my sons." She says she makes all her own clothes and does a lot of sewing for her two daughters.

As a "reward" for their work the volunteer teachers were able to attend a workshop on the Bishop method of clothing construction. According to Janis, this was going to be a great treat for her.

"The most rewarding part of being a volunteer is that you can make lots of friends. You also get a lot of ideas from the others, so it's not just a teaching job," Janis says.



Janis Horst dips ice cream at the booth during the Lebanon County Dairy Princess

contest. She's been a member of the planning committee for two years.



Gardening is one of the real joys of summer and here Mrs. Horst harvests her very delicious looking crop of strawberries.

Although clothing is a main interest for her, Janis also attends the courses offered on foods and crafts. "They are helpful and there is always a good response to the classes. Many of those attending now are town women."

Her great interest in extension work, plus her reputation for hard work has been responsible for getting her elected as secretary of the Executive Committee for three years. As a result she is closely connected to their problems and their successes.

A 4-H leader for eight years, Janis says her club's projects "range from cooking and sewing to home improvements and health." They are called the Elcoettes, and her daughter Cindi, 17, is a teen leader and assists with some of the project work.

"4-H has changed in the years I've been a leader. There are many more projects now than there used to be, and there are many more city kids involved in the total 4-H program," Janis says.

The Horsts have lived on their 115 acre farm for 14 years. They

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Winter brings leisure time, and Janis enjoys passing the long winter evenings by knitting. Here she shows off her work on a shawl for daughter, Cindi.