

# Homestead Notes

Pat Erway, Editor



Mrs. Verna D. Yost. . .

## World Traveler, Singer, Farm Wife

Mrs. Ivan R. (Verna D.) Yost of Quaker Church Road, Sadsbury Township, as co-owner and operator of the Cainsdale Farms registered Holstein dairy herd, spends on the average of five hours a day milking, feeding grain, cleaning milking utensils, making up feed charts, doing the drawings and registering calves and keeping individual cow breeding, calving and production records

Their farming project is a family enterprise all the way. Even the children, at an early age, talk with authority concerning various phases of their operation. Ivan Jr., 9 years old, and Karen, 6, wash the cows before milking them, put the milker straps on the cows and feed the calves.

Yosts have one hired man, Dennis Kauffman and his family live in a mobile home on the premises. Mrs. Yost sometimes runs the baler and one of their landlords sometimes helps with the raking.

Yosts do not own their farm. They have lived on and rented the John Hooper farm, Christiana RD1 for five years. They also rent the Earl Walker farm, Gap RD, the Hanna estate, Nine Points, and some land belonging to Ms. Libby Deacon. They farm a total of between 350 and 400 acres and grow corn, alfalfa, some wheat, barley, oats and soybeans. They sell some corn and soybeans in addition to what they use. Ivan



Mrs. Ivan R. Yost, Christiana R.1, milks morning and evening.

also does custom work—filling silos, combining and hauling grain and tomatoes in his two trucks.

They raise the bull calves as well as the heifers. They sell most of the bulls at about two years of age at Vintage for beef purposes. Yosts are members of the Lancaster County and the Pa. Holstein Association and the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

Mr. and Mrs. Yost started

outside and her mother needed her to help with the housework. So working with the dairy was a new experience to her after marriage. However, she mostly does the milking with just the help of their children.

Ivan says of Verna, "She's right beside me when I'm doing anything." It keeps her very busy since Ivan is active in a number of activities besides the farm and she keeps things going at home when he is away. He has been very active in the Young Farmers. He has a mantle full of trophies from the Young Farmers for hay, grain, corn, corn silage and for a plowing contest. He was first a member of Garden Spot Young Farmers and served on committees when he was at Cains.

He now belongs to Octoraro Young Farmers. He has served as their president, as vice-president of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association in 1968 and president in 1969. In 1969 he was also president of the



Mrs. Verna Yost talks through their citizens band radio to her husband while he works in the fields. Her certificate for completion of the Dale Carnegie Course in Effective Speaking & Human Relations is on the wall.



Mrs. Yost was all smiles in April, 1973, as her husband Ivan (left) received his certificate for completion of his three year course in Public Affairs Leadership from

Dr. Robert E. Howell (right), Extension Rural Sociologist from Penn State University, who served as their group leader.

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farmers 11 years ago. They farmed on the halves 6 years for Ivan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. John Yost at their farm at Cains. It too was a dairy farm. His parents still own the farm but live north of White Horse now.

Verna is the daughter of Mrs. Martha and the late Sam Hershey, Kinzers RD1, near Spring Garden. She graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School and took a five month course three winters and graduated from Ontario Bible Institute in Kitchener, Canada. She was a bookkeeper at New Holland Farmers National Bank about five years before marriage. Even though born and raised on a dairy farm she never helped with outside work because she had two brothers to help

National Young Farmer Institute. That year they held their annual meeting at the Host Farm in Lancaster County. Yosts attended the National Young Farmer Institute in Texas 1968, Kansas 1970, South Carolina 1971 and California in 1972. It will meet in Indiana this year. In 1970 Ivan and Verna received the region Community Service monetary award and plaque.

In 1969, while Ivan was president of the Young Farmers, he and Verna completed a Dale Carnegie Course in Effective Speaking and Human Relations. It meant attending classes one night a week for fourteen weeks. They received certificates for the course. Since then he has served as master of

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