

Homestead Notes

Pat Erway, Editor



Introducing Anne Hinkel. . . .

Assistant Home Economist is Sold on 4-H Program

By Sally Bair
Feature Writer

"I find every day a learning day, and that's why I like my work. You don't ever get in a rut; in fact, I don't see how you could - there is always so much stimulus."

These are the words of Anne Hinkel, Lancaster County's assistant home economist. Anne came here in March from a position in Extension in Monroe County to replace Joan Lucas who got married, and she says, "Living in Lancaster County is a totally new experience."

Anne calls herself a "town girl," and says she has lived all her life in three college towns of about 10,000 population. She grew up in Bloomsburg where her father has been professor of business education for 28 years, she went to college in Indiana, Pennsylvania; and her first job was in Monroe County Extension office located in Stroudsburg. So she was pleasantly surprised to find that Lancaster County is not just a "quiet farming community." She says, "It's a lot busier with a lot more going on than I expected."

In Stroudsburg she was in the heart of the Pocono resort area where she says, "There was no community feeling because everything was geared to tourists." Despite the growing tourist trade in Lancaster County she finds it a much warmer community to live in, and she said she is particularly impressed with the great variety of

scheduled cultural events.

Monroe County had lots of mountains and trees, but Anne says, "The rolling farms here are gorgeous. I'm amazed that you can stand in some areas and just see farms for miles."

Anne is still getting used to the fact that Lancaster County has so many more people than Monroe County with a population of 45,000. "In Monroe County I could drive across the county in 30 minutes," she says. "I'm not used to the city traffic here, but I never feel lost on the back roads because there are so many houses and people. Maybe I have a good sense of direction, or get good directions, but I have never been lost. Having every country road named is a big help."

"A very definite difference in the counties," Anne said, "is the 4-H program." In Monroe County there were 200 4-H'ers with 30 volunteer leaders. Here the program is ten times larger, with over 2500 4-H'ers and 300 adult leaders," Anne said, "In Monroe County we worked very closely with everyone and knew their abilities. But we always called on the same people." Here she said she is just beginning to get to know the people in the program and to know their capabilities.

Anne said she finds the people of Lancaster County "very open and always willing to help. I'm always happy to meet them, and I never felt there was any kind of barrier."

Since she's been here she has been concentrating mostly on 4-H



Anne Hinkel (left) helps the consumerama team prepare for their trip to 4-H State Days. Team members are: (left to

right) Robin Fellenbaum, Anne Spangler and Debra Gregory.

work because there are so many activities in the summer. She is one of the advisers to the 4-H county council and she speaks earnestly about their possibilities: "The more I work with them, the better I like it. They have good potential." She said one of her goals is to get the county council members themselves to take more responsibility for their program. "We're really fortunate in having so many older teens who are still interested in 4-H." She feels it is important to keep them interested and use them as leaders when they get out of 4-H.

Anne said, "I get a lot of satisfaction, especially through 4-H work where you can see youth making steps. Everyone gains something."

Although it was obvious, Anne added, "I'm really sold on 4-H - I think it's the best thing going!"

Anne was a 4-H'er in Columbia County, but since then she says, project work has become a lot more flexible. She said today there is often interest in some areas where no project book has been developed, but if an adult is willing to sponsor such a project the 4-H'er can take it.

She just helped coordinate the Michigan 4-H exchange, and she said, "I am very much in favor of such exchanges. It is a good experience for everyone involved. It helps you learn about a different community and allows an interchange of ideas." She recalls that the most memorable experiences she has had are trips within the United States and two trips abroad, and she feels everyone should have the opportunity to share in similar excursions. Interstate 4-H exchanges and programs like the



County Council co-president Anne Spangler and Anne Hinkel discuss County Council's participation in the upcoming 4-H Achievement Days.

International Farm Youth Exchange "can expand worlds and help you learn about people and 4-H in other places." She added that Lancaster County will be getting an IFYE in September.

Anne agreed to "dig back into the cobwebs" and tell about her 4-H work which began when she was nine and took her first clothing project. She said, "I held every office and was president several times." She was active in county events and gave a demonstration which won at the regional contest. One of her proudest accomplishments was being selected to attend state dress revue with a long gown, after having won county dress revue for three years. But at the same time she said, "The experience was disillusioning so now I'm glad to be on the other

side where I can help to solve some of the problems."

She said, "I was never able to attend many state events because of our family vacations. Now, I'm getting to events I never went to as a 4-H'er." She said her summers were very busy with friends and activities other than 4-H, so "I can sympathize with 4-H'ers who just can't attend every event."

Anne says her home economist from Columbia County, Anna Mae Lehr, "really influenced me to study home economics and to work in Extension."

In high school she was president of the Future Homemakers of America and County FHA secretary. She majored in home economics at Indiana University of Penn-

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Some days the telephone never seems to stop ringing, but telephone requests are all answered cheerfully, no matter how small the problem.