



Mrs. Nevin Hershey . . .

Hershey's Entertain Tourists to Lancaster Co.

As schools are closing for summer vacation families all across the nation are taking to the roads for a change of scenery. What better farm land and what better kept farm buildings could they see than in Lancaster County, Pa. Tourists have long appreciated this fact and have more than filled local motels. As a result quite a few farmers have taken them in for lodging and in some cases provided their meals. City folks enjoy getting away from the crowded hot streets and into purer air where there is plenty of room to roam.

There was a time when city cousins came to visit on farms for extended summer vacations and in most cases the farmer's wife found herself working many extra hours to feed them, seldom receiving more than casual verbal thanks. Now quite a few farmers' wives are making entertaining a profitable business. Why not put the large farm house to work as a supplement to the farm income? Mrs. Nevin (Ruth) Hershey, Ronks RD1, is doing just that. She started when a friend asked her to help with an overflow of guests in 1966. She took a few that year and now is pretty well booked for July and August. She won't take any after October 31st. She takes some over Easter vacation. She has three rooms for guests. Each is furnished with a double bed and cots can be set up for children. She does not provide any meals.

Hersheys' farm is located on Cherry Hill Road between Paradise and Route 741. Their farm is northeast of Strasburg so they are in the center of tourists attractions. They do not advertise, however, the Mennonite Information Center and the motels call them when they need extra rooms. Their business has increased largely by guests returning and by word of mouth.

They have had guests from 25 states and 14 countries. They've had guests from England, Canada, Viet Nam, France, Germany, India, Switzerland, Egypt, Argentina, Lithuania, Australia, Ireland, Sweden and Belgium. The visitation by people from other countries has been a great experience. The exchange of recipes has taught the Hershey children to eat foods they did not like before, for example — they would not eat rice until they tried Egyptian rice as prepared by a lady from Egypt.

The visitation by city families to the farm is perhaps one of the best ways to help create better understanding between farmers and urban dwellers. Mrs. Hershey says "We visit a good bit with them. We get an education and they do too." The guests watch them milk and help with some farm operations. This is a real thrill to someone who has never been on a farm. Hersheys have made some acquaintances of celebrities through this business too. One was Mrs. Ronald Savores, Mrs. Richard Nixon's secretary.

Hersheys have entertained International students also. They had one young man over last Christmas and the year before a man, wife and child. They also hosted Fresh Air Children for ten years. They've only had four different ones because the same ones kept returning each year. They have made lasting friendships with them. These young people practically consider them as family. They attended one of their weddings in Tennessee a year or two ago.

Hersheys own and operate their 53 acre dairy farm known as "Melody Lawn" where they live and rent 52 acres. They raise 50 acres of corn, 30 of alfalfa, 5 of barley, 8 of wheat and the balance is in pasture.

They keep 29 registered Holstein cows which are all home



Mrs. Nevin (Ruth) Hershey, Ronks RD1, holds "Melody Lawn Archie Maize", one of their best

cows, a three year old.

raised except two they recently purchased. They ship their milk to Inter-State and are in DHIA. They also have 15 heifers. Their rolling herd average is 15,052 pounds of milk and 566 pounds of fat. Their most promising cow at present is "Melody Lawn Archie Maize." She produced 17,000 pounds of milk with 647 pounds of butterfat in her last lactation of 305 days. At present they also have six Holstein steers they are feeding.

Nevin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hershey who live nearby in a house they built, has lived on this farm since he was four years old. He and Ruth moved into the farm house and worked for his father one year after marriage, farmed on the halves with his parents for 12 years then bought the farm in 1972. In addition to their dairy they raise a few pigs and butcher a pig and a steer each year. Nevin does his own butchering. He is handy about farm maintenance. He made three stainless steel water hose reel holders. He does his own carpentry such as building a shop at present and paneled and put ceiling tile on rooms in the house. He also made picture frames.

Nevin and Ruth have a large garden which both work in. She freezes and cans a lot of vegetables as well as fruits and makes preserves.

Ruth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Neff, who own a small farm near Paradise and raise chickens. She grew up on their large dairy farm which her brother now farms. She said "That's where I learned to milk." Hersheys have no hired help on their farm so Ruth helps milk morning and evening except during the summer when their son helps in the evenings. She always cleans the milking utensils and the milk house. She also helps work up the ground in the spring.

Hersheys have two sons. Dale, 13, will be an eighth grade student at Pequea Valley Intermediate School this fall. He has a Hereford steer and is in the New Holland Baby Beef Club. He helps milk in the evenings this summer in place of his mother and helps his dad to feed the stock. He enjoys running the tractor. He is good help in the fields such as plowing and working in the hay. He also helps his mother mow the lawn. During the school season he feeds the heifers and gets hay down for the cows. His ambition is to be a farmer.

Steve is five years old and will go to Paradise Elementary Kindergarten this fall.

Nevin belongs to the Holstein-Friesian Association, Inter-State Milk Producers and the Pennsylvania Farmers Association. He is a committeeman for the local A.S.C. and attends the county meetings at the Farm & Home Center.

Ruth says "We enjoy exhibiting at the West Lampeter Community Fair. She has exhibited cakes, cookies, cup cakes, pie, candy, canned fruits, jellies, relishes, pickles, spiced cantaloupes, embroidered scarfs and a quilt. Nevin had the champion exhibit of hay two years. Ruth helps make milk shakes at the Dairy Bar.

Ruth is a very good seamstress. She worked at the Paradise Garment Factory about five years before marriage. She is presently making a bridal gown and gowns for an entire bridal party for this fall. She makes all of her own clothes and made almost all of Steve's when he was small. She says "I enjoy sewing. I do a lot of sewing for my church sewing circle." She makes dresses, little boys boxer shorts, shirts and long pants. Last winter she made 20 or 25 dresses and a lot of boys short pants. Most of these garments went to the Mennonite Central Committee at Akron but some went to the Clothing Bank. She sewed some too for her sister.

Hersheys are members of Paradise Mennonite Church where Ruth is the Contact Sister. She is also a Junior Girl Activities leader, working with girls 7 to 14 years of age. They have a meeting once a month. Their activities aim at helping others. They make favors for hospitals, ditty bags for the Harrisburg State Hospital, cloth books using liquid embroidery, slippers, stuffed toys, Bible picture booklets, pot holders, roll bandages from old sheets for the MCC which are shipped abroad to hospitals, fringed bureau scarfs, comforts, scrapbooks and cancer pads for the Cancer Society. They visit private homes where there are shut-ins and sing for them. They went Christmas caroling for shut-ins last year and packed and delivered 40 fruit baskets. Ruth is a substitute Sunday School teacher for small children. Nevin is a substitute Sunday School teacher, assistant secretary for the Sunday School and assistant usher for church. In January he

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Ruth N. Hershey does a lot of sewing for herself, for her church sewing circle and others. She made the suit she is wearing and is working on a dress.



by
Mrs.
Charles
McSparran
Farm Feature
Writer