

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 19 No. 36

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 20, 1974

\$2.00 Per Year



Lancaster Farming Photo

Built in 1745, Fort Zeller is a prime example of Rhine architecture, and one of the few left standing in America. It is being preserved on the

Lebanon County farm of Eugene Hoffman, who is married to a descendant of the original builder, Henrich Hoffman.

Conserving History and Land

By Dick Wanner

"When I was growing up on a farm, I never wanted to own a farm, and I never wanted to be a farmer. It was too much work," Eugene Hoffman told Lancaster Farming when we visited his farm on Tuesday. Now he not only finds himself a farmer, but deeply committed to conserving the land on his farm, its unique history, and farming itself as a way of life.

Hoffman, his wife Sylvia and their three boys, 13-year-old Eugene Jr., 12-year-old William and Franklin, who is nine, live on a 150-acre Lebanon County farm near Newmanstown. A few

hundred feet from the front door of their farmhouse is Fort Zeller, Pennsylvania's oldest existing fort built to protect settlers during Indian wars. Sylvia Hoffman is a descendant of the Fort's original builder, Henrich Zeller, Palatinate German

who arrived in America in 1710.

A tour of the fort is a must for any first-time visitor to the Hoffman farm. The unusual roofline is one of the first features Hoffman points out. It is typical of early 18th

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Wylie Baker

Equestrienne and Sports Fan

Wylie Baker likes sports and outdoor activities; however, for the past few years her main interest has been riding and showing horses.

Wylie, who is 18, lives with her sister Sue and her parents Mr. and Mrs. John U. Baker, Jr. at 731 Stoney Battery Road in Lancaster. Wylie has been active in 4-H for almost six years. She was a member of the Boots and Saddles 4-H Horse and Pony Club and is presently vice-president of the Silver Spurs Horse and Pony Club. Wylie has also helped younger club members by serving as a teen leader.

The Baker girls have two

horses of their own and board three for other families. Wylie helps out with the feeding and grooming along with doing part-time bookkeeping for her father's trucking business.

While in 4-H, Wylie has attended many horse shows and usually competes in the three gaited class. Local shows she has attended include Quentin, Lancaster County and Devon, along with the Penn National Show in Harrisburg.

Along with her horse riding abilities, Wylie is interested in sports, especially basketball. This fall she will be a freshman at

Some Price Complaints, But . . .

Bumper Wheat Crop Harvested

With the wheat harvest virtually complete in the five-county Lancaster Farming area, all indicators point to a bumper crop, with yields going as high as 65 bushels and averaging in the 50-bushel per acre range. Prices, we learned on Friday morning, have varied all over the board, from \$2 a bushel up to \$3.85, at a time when the Chicago Board of Trade pegs the new wheat crop at about \$4.50.

As we went to press, July wheat was selling on the CBT for \$4.50. Grain dealers are afraid of that price and they're afraid of the volatile market, we were told by William McFetridge of Rosenthal & Co., a commodity brokerage firm in Allentown. He feels dealers may be loathe to buy wheat unless they can get it at a good discount from the CBT price.

"About half my customers are selling their crop as feed wheat at \$2 a bushel," we were told by George Underwood, a Cecil County, Maryland, custom operator who does a lot of business with Pennsylvania Farmers close to the Maryland line.

"You can't even grow wheat for \$2 anymore," Underwood complained. "The area I work has traditionally been known as a number 2 garlic wheat region. But this year, the farmers are getting hit worse than they've ever been. I've never seen

dockage like this."

Fortunately, it appears that most of the local wheat crop is going for more reasonable prices. L. M. Snively, a Lancaster County flour miller from Lititz, said his price range has been from \$3.80 to \$4.10 a bushel. He had some unkind words to say about dockage for garlic wheat. "I think there are a lot of times when the buyers hit the farmers too hard," he said. "They stir around till they find a spot with a lot of garlic and then they pay the farmer less than he should be getting."

Garlic hasn't apparently been too much of a problem in Lancaster County, according to associate county agent Arnold Lueck. Lueck added that he feels the small

grain crop generally is in excellent shape this year. "I've had reports on barley yields going as high as 100 bushels to the acre. The crop came out of the winter in excellent shape. It was pushed along by a cool, wet spring, we had fewer rainstorms which meant less lodging than in some years, and the crop just matured beautifully. We had good color, good weight, few insect and disease problems and more quality than I've seen in a few years."

Lueck added that both wheat and barley were combined about a week late this year because of wet weather in late June, but that didn't seem to matter much.

One trend he feels is more

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Irrigation Pays Tobacco Grower

By Dick Wanner

The "wish-a, wish-a, wish-a" sound of sprinkler irrigation is just like the ringing of a cash register for tobacco farmers, according to John Yocum, director of Penn State's Northeast Research Center near Landisville. "It definitely pays to irrigate," Yocum said Monday. "In a dry year, you could probably save enough crop to pay for half the expense of irrigation equipment. We don't irrigate here at the research farm, but some of our neighbors do and they've had excellent results."

Yocum added that there are some regulations on using water from streams. One is that a farm must adjoin any body of water which is used for irrigation. Local extension offices

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Wylie helps out with the grooming and feeding of each horse on the farm. The family boards three other horses which also require attention.

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