

Homestead Notes



Nancy Jenkins and Jody Alexander

4-H Leaders Helping to Get Children Involved



by
Mrs.
Charles
McSparran
Farm Feature
Writer

Horses and ponies are becoming more popular than they were a few years ago. Part of this may be due to 4-H horse and pony clubs. One of the newest ones in Lancaster County is the Conestoga Crusaders 4-H Horse and Pony Club which organized last April or May. Mrs. Peter B. (Jody) Alexander, Pequea RD1, and Mrs. Robert I. (Nancy) Jenkins, Conestoga RD2, are the leaders. The club has eleven or twelve members and meets once a month at the Alexander farm.

Mrs. Jenkins says "Many children get horses and ponies but never take care of them. Now that the club members do, they are really enjoying their horses. I think a parent has to get involved by helping the child saddle and bridle their horse, hold it and work with it. That is the main reason I'm involved in the club."

Mrs. Alexander says "I am very enthused with the 4-H horse club. It is a marvelous way for the children to get involved and not have expensive equipment."

The purpose of this club is to teach the children to take care of and handle their animals. The children have to discipline themselves and their horses. Mrs. Jenkins says her children, Julie Ann and Paul who are club members, have to feed, exercise and use their animals, groom them, clean their hoofs and clean the stable.

All of this 4-H club's members have attended the two mounted meetings they had. Mrs. Jenkins says "We train the children off the main roads and on trails. We are most grateful to Tom Grassel and James Lydell for letting the club members ride through their farms because many farmers do not permit horses to cross their farms. Nine of the members and both leaders attended the 1974 Lancaster County 4-H Horse Show on the Columbia Pike. They hope to get into the Lancaster County round up next year.

Officers of the Conestoga Crusaders are Margy Alexander, president; Jackie Shopf, vice president; Gene Eisenberger, secretary; Donna Walton, treasurer; Julie Jenkins, news reporter; Joyce Ressler and Dale Eisenberger, song and game leader. Each member pays 25 cents a month dues with which to build jumps and a small ring at Alexanders to practice with.

Mrs. Jenkins, who calls her own horse a prayer horse, wonders if anyone wants to get a good home for a pony or small horse. A girl in her community is saving money and wants to get one.

Alexanders' farm has 140 acres and is located on Sand Hill Road and Sickman's Mill Road in Conestoga Township. They breed and raise Thoroughbred racing horses. At the present time they have four yearlings, three brood mares, three riding horses and three ponies of their own and are boarding a pony and a horse. They have lived on this farm two years. They farm part of it and get it into



Mrs. Jenkins trains dogs by demonstrating with the Doberman Pinscher on left and the English Springer Spaniel on the right.

pasture. Another farmer has rented some of it and raises a little corn and alfalfa and has the pasture on shares.

Before coming to this farm Alexanders had a 23 acre farm at Washington Boro for four years. They had two horses there. Jody originally came from Virginia. Peter grew up on a farm in Baltimore County, Md. He is president of Fleck-Marshall Co., a wholesale plumbing and heating company. This company was originally from Williamsport but now has branches also in Harrisburg, York, Baltimore and New Holland. They have an office in Lancaster.

Alexanders have four children. Margy is eleven years old, Danny six, Julie five and Suzanne two and a half years. They attend school in Manor Township.

Mrs. Alexander formerly served as assistant leader of the cooking club of the Penn Willow 4-H Community Club. Her hobbies are horses, vegetable garden, lawn and flowers.

Alexanders are members of the Conestoga United Methodist Church where Mrs. Alexander teaches a Sunday School class. She is an active member of the Junior League of Lancaster and serves on committees.

The Jenkins family has lived on Main Street, near River Road in Conestoga Township for two and a half years. Before that they lived in Lancaster and near Safe Harbor. Actually Nancy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Habecker, owned the home where Jenkins live from the time she was six years old until Jenkins bought it two and a half years ago from her mother. Nancy attended Stone Hill School, a one room school, graduated from Penn Manor High School and went one year to Millersville State College.

Nancy named her horse "Pegasus" for the Greek mythology winged horse. Besides her interest in the 4-H horse and pony club and her household duties she has interesting side lines which take a lot of time. She took training at the Lancaster Dog Training School which is held at the baseball park in Mountville in summer and at "The Hut" in Columbia in winter. She trained her own German Shepherd dog six years ago, then trained her doctor's dog. Her husband bought and showed a Doberman pinscher. This dog died but she trained her Doberman pinscher dog "Elsa" which is now a AKC certified companion dog. She has trained her English Spaniel dog "Muffin" but this dog is not finished training for a degree.

Nancy uses these dogs for demonstration dogs in connection with her work at the Country Club Kennels on Stony Lane, Pequea Township. The kennels are owned by Walter & Sara Lefever & son Charlie who have a boarding kennel for dogs and cats. They have enough pens and outside runs for fifty dogs. They don't breed and sell dogs, but keep the animals when people are on vacation and keep some just to be trained. Nancy works two hours every day but Sunday training any breed dogs. The most she will train in a three week training period is a half hour for each dog each day. She also has an obedience class Tuesday nights to teach dog owners how to train their dogs. It is a basic obedience class which includes heeling, sit stay exercise, down stay, stand stay, recall, and finish. She teaches for ten weeks, one hour each evening.

Mrs. Jenkins helps Carroll and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Herr, near Rawlinsville, plant pumpkin seed, tomatoes and with eggs. Herrs grow regular crops, pumpkins and tomatoes, keep 31000 chickens, 25 to 30 steers and 25 to 30 hogs. She helps Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Heller of the Berry Dale Farm near Conestoga to pick strawberries, cherries and raspberries. Nancy also worked on friends' nearby farm with tobacco.

Robert drives 40 foot tractor trailers for Yellow Freight System whose main terminal is on the Manheim Pike, just north of Lancaster. He has driven a tractor trailer for six years. He served on the Lancaster city police force from 1960 to 1966.

They have three children. Russell, 14, will be in tenth grade at Penn Manor this fall. He wants to go to the Willow Street Vo-Tech School to become a motorcycle mechanic and probably go to a mechanic school. His hobby is keeping a large motorcycle scrapbook. He helps his uncle on a farm near Rawlinsville. Russell has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 146, which meets at Conestoga Elementary School, for two years.

Julie Ann, eleven years old, is in seventh grade at Marticville Middle School. She is active in the horse 4-H club. Her half Shetland pony and half Arabian horse's name is "Prince." She has had him for two years. She



Mrs. Robert Jenkins and her horse Pegasus, Julie and her horse Prince and Paul with his pony, Pixie.

took some flute lessons.

Paul, 9, has a Shetland pony named "Pixie" in the 4-H club. Paul is in fourth grade at Conestoga Elementary School.

Jenkinses are members of Safe Harbor United Methodist Church. Nancy taught Junior class in DVBS. She is in a prayer group that meets from 1 to 3 P.M. on Wednesdays and a Bible study group that meets in the homes every other Thursday night. She, Russell and Julie used to sing in the choir.

Mrs. Jenkins was president of Stevens Elementary School PTA in Lancaster and later became a member of Conestoga Association of Parent Teachers.

She has a collection of miniature kerosene lamps.

Here are some of her favorite recipes as well as recipes for a zucchini squash casserole and a peach short cake of Mrs. Alexander's.

EGG PLANT PARMESAN

½ medium or large firm eggplant
¾ can (29 oz.) tomato sauce
1 pound pack Motzerella cheese (wrapped & sliced)
1 can grated Parmesan cheese
Dried bread crumbs
2 or 3 eggs

Peel eggplant, slice into pieces about ¼ inch thick. In separate pans have beaten eggs and bread crumbs. Dip slices of eggplant alternately in eggs then bread crumbs, covering completely. Then place eggplant slices, in sheet pan, under broiler to golden brown on both sides.

Now use about ½ or a little more of tomato sauce to cover eggplant, then Motzerella cheese, the rest of the tomato sauce and sprinkle on grated Parmesan cheese. Turn oven to 325 degrees for about ½ hour or more until cheese and tomato sauce meet and blend together.

VEGETABLE DISH

Boiled sliced zucchini squash covered with a cheese sauce made from a little milk mixed with cheddar cheese soup.

SERVING TREAT FOR WEIGHT-WATCHERS
rey toast crackers

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Julie, Paul and Mrs. Jenkins pose with their hobby collections -- horses, motorcycle scrapbook and miniature kerosene lamps.