

Jennie Groff

Farm Women Society Leader



by
Mrs.
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Farm Feature
Writer

Mrs. Levi (Jennie) Groff, Colerain Township, president of Farm Women Society 16 for 1974 and 1975, is an old hand at her job and will be among the county convention goers today at the Lancaster Bible College. She was at the first meeting of this society which was organized October 28, 1939 by the then state Farm Women president Mrs. Adaline P. Edwards. There were 25 charter members.

Mrs. Groff, a 35 year member of Farm Women Society 16, has served about half of the time as either president or vice president. They meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the homes of the members or sometimes go on a trip. They visited Hickory Farms in Park City, Lancaster, this year and some of the members went with the Green Tree Thimble Club to see the winery in Pequea Township. The society goes to Conestoga View once a year to play Bingo with the patients. Mrs. Groff and a couple others usually go to the Lancaster County Farm Women Camp at Camp Swatara, Lebanon County, in the summer.

Nine or ten Society 16 members are attending Lancaster County Farm Women convention today and a couple usually go to the State convention at Harrisburg in January. They support the county project which has been the Jaycees Camp for Retarded Children this year. They meet in members homes and sew cancer pads and hospital bed pads. They also give to a number of charities such as Heart Haven. They have bake sales in Quarryville and food stands at farm sales to make money. Mrs. Groff is also active in other community organizations. She and Levi have been members of the Octoraro Farmers Club for twelve years or more. This organization is 117 years old. There are about ten families in the club at the present time. They meet binonthly on the third Saturday, mostly in the homes of the members for a dinner meeting. They inspect the farms while there and have an educational and entertaining program. They had a corn roast at Groff's in September.

Mrs. Groff has been a member of the Green Tree Thimble Club for about 15 years. They have 16 or 18 members and meet once a month in the homes. Nine or ten quilt at a time through the winter months at the Octoraro Presbyterian Chapel. They quilt quilts for people. They give donations to different charities. They went on a trip to an azalea farm and to the Pequea Valley Vineyard & Winery on Rawlinsville Road in Pequea Township this year.

Groffs belong to the Octoraro Presbyterian Church where Levi is an elder, sings in the choir and has been a trustee. Mrs. Groff has been a member of this church about 35 years or more, secretary of the Fidehs Bible



Mrs. Groff's chief hobby is making quilts. She displays a few of the ones she has on hand. Lovely is the word for all of them.

Class for 32 years and was a Deacon woman for a two-year term. She is a member of Circle 3 of the Women's Association and on the Local Church committee for the Women's Association. Circle 3 meets from 9:30 a.m. till noon then has a covered dish luncheon the first Wednesday of each month. Being on the local church committee keeps Jennie busy serving wedding receptions, fellowship suppers and three weeks ago they entertained three churches.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Groff have lived on the farm all their lives. They have lived on their farm two miles south of Nine Points on Georgetown Road or route 896 since 1936. They farm 297 acres of corn, wheat, barley, alfalfa and clover on their three farms. Groff's son Melvin and grandson Dennis do most of the farming now and live in a house on the farm. They have 50 Holstein cows and 40 head of young stock, some of which are registered. They raise all of their own calves. They ship their milk to Lehi Dairy Co-op.

They also have 6 sheep which they have sheared in the spring. They keep 6 Yorkshire sows and raise all of their litters. These hogs are sold as they are ready for market. They butcher three for their own use. They also keep 50 Sexlinks (heavy) laying hens which they buy and raise from day old chicks.



Mrs. Levi (Jennie) Groff, president of Farm Women Society 16, has cellulose pads, scissors and a piece of an old sheet ready to make cancer pads.

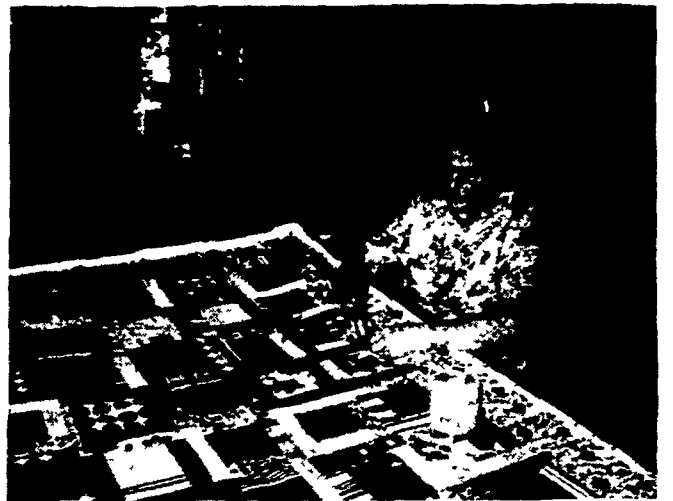
Mrs. Groff says "When we moved here I always cut and husked corn, put away tobacco and drove the tractor to bale hay and straw. I'd rather work out as in. The children always cut and husked corn too. I help feed pigs and chickens when the men are busy."

Mrs. Groff helps in the garden and mows the lawn. She freezes and cans a lot of vegetables and cans fruit. Last week she made a lot of apple and pear butter. She always cooks and sieves the fruit ahead of time and freezes it. She makes it in a copper kettle, puts it in jars and freezes it.

Jennie was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Galen Eckman and grew up on a farm near New Providence. She always worked out in the fields with horses. Levi was the son of Joseph Groff and grew up on a farm near Mt. Eden Lutheran Church, south of Strasburg.

Groffs have five children. Melvin has always farmed the home place. He married Levera Trout and they have one son, Dennis, who also helps on the farm. Donald married Mary Hershey. They have four girls and a boy. He drives a gas truck for Whitelock & Woerth, near Green Tree. Gladys married Earl Gibson and they have two sons. They live at Atglen. Earl works for Diversified Printing Corporation near Atglen. Martha married William Frutchey Jr. and they live in Quarryville. They have a son and a daughter. Bill is a carpenter. Mildred married George Reinhart. They have two sons and two daughters. They own and operate a dairy farm in Bart Township.

As for Jennie's hobbies—she has a lot of geraniums and a lot of house plants. She used to have 60 African violets but



Mrs. Groff is knotting this quilt which is made of odds and ends of pieces of material and the design is similar to the Log Cabin pattern.

gave them up. She used to tat, crochet and embroider but her main pastime is quilting. She says "I gave five for wedding gifts, sold five, gave my five children each one and my grandchildren each one—that's 14." That adds up to 29 and she has a large chest full of quilts of every description. She patched and quilted them. Some are old familiar patterns but some she designed herself. They are beautifully made. She knots a few but most of them are quilted. She likes to cook also and shares these recipes with us:

PUMPKIN PIE

- 1 nine inch unbaked pie crust
- 2 cups sieved pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups whole milk
- sugar to taste

Beat eggs and mix all ingredients together. Pour into crust and sprinkle a little cinnamon on top or put coconut in the pie. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes and lower temperature to 350 until baked.

XXX SOUR CREAM PEPPERNUT COOKIES

- 3 cups white sugar
- 1 cup lard
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Cream sugar and lard, add eggs. Mix together the sour cream, soda and cream of tartar. Add flour enough to roll or drop, 5 to 6 cups to drop. Put on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees.

APPLE BUTTER

- 2 bu. pears sliced
- 2 bu. apples sliced
- 15 gal. cider
- about 15 lb. sugar
- about 2 tablespoons cinnamon (optional)

Bring cider to a boil. Add fruit, about a gallon at a time. After you get fruit all in, boil about 4 hours, depending on the apples, until it is thick enough. Stir all the time.

RICH CHOCOLATE CAKE

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 cup lard
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup shour milk
- ½ cup cocoa
- 2½ cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup boiling water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream sugar, lard and add eggs and sour milk. Sift together cocoa, flour, soda and salt and add. Add boiling water and vanilla. Bake at 350 degrees.