

Farm Wife

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When you approach this well-kept farm you see the sign "Rayba Acres Farm, Notary Public and Guest Accommodations." Reba has been doing notary work for 8½ years. This work consists largely of notarizing signatures, filling out applications for license plates, driving permits and car titles. She says she tries to be home Fridays and Saturdays as they are big days as are Mondays. Her earliest caller was at 3 A.M. but generally people come to secure her services between 7 A.M. and 10 P.M.

Mrs. Ranck also does bookkeeping for Sauder Chevrolet Company in Manheim at her home. She does bookwork plus a financial statement for the end of the month. She does this work mostly in her spare time but puts in about 40 hours a month at it, largely the first ten days of the month. She says her home work comes first but naturally the office work comes first when her month end work deadline is nearing. She has worked for Sauders for 12 years.

Another business Mrs. Ranck is conducting is lodging tourists. She is beginning her fifth season. She lodges people throughout the entire year. She has accommodations for 12. There are three guest rooms, four when needed, and she has handled as many as 14 at one time. Being so near the tourists attractions of Lancaster County she gets a lot of people for just a few nights but she also has a number of them return for just the relaxation of living on the farm. She doesn't prepare meals for any of them but this is not a problem since there a number of good restaurants nearby. She is registered with the Penna. Dutch Tourist Bureau and people who have been at their place tell others. She has entertained guests from 24 states and from 18 other countries.

Reba grew up on Kauffman Fruit Farms, just east of Bird-in-Hand on Route 340. She is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Kauffman, Bird-in-Hand RD1. A brother and three nephews are also in the business at the present time. They have 100 acres mostly in peaches and apples but they also have cherries, pears, blue and white grapes and a few plums. They have a cider press and make cider to sell. Reba's father is in charge of their locker plant and does custom work in cutting meat for people and also tends to their grocery store. Reba went to the Weavertown one-room school for four years then to Weavertown Mennonite School. She graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School. She worked for the John N. Sauder Auto Company of New Holland for 2½ years before marriage. They sell Chevrolets and Oldsmobiles.

Reba and Ray have three children. Robert, "Robbie", is 10 years old and is in fourth grade at Locust Grove Mennonite School. His chores consist of feeding the sheep, feeding the heifers, feeding the cows hay and bedding the cows and heifers on Sundays and occasionally other times. He hopes to get in the 4-H Holstein Club this year. He took piano lessons.

Rhonda is 7 and in second grade at Locust Grove School. She likes to draw and paint. She made a nice in-depth snow scene before Christmas. She helps with feeding at the barn. Both she and Robbie had calves they raised. She also helps her mother in the house.

Ryan is their active two-year-old son.

Rancks are members of Ridgeview Mennonite Church, north of Intercourse. Reba belongs to the sewing circle which meets once a month. She says "I enjoy that." They do quilting, knot comforters, make dresses, pajamas, diapers, hem blankets and make health and sewing kits. They get their materials cut ready to sew from Paradise Cutting Room, on the Paradise Mennonite Church lot, and take the finished products to the Mennonite Central Committee at Akron. Reba used to teach the primary Sunday School class. She and Ray sang in Christmas choruses. Ray was Sunday School Superintendent for three years and the third year was on the church council. He did teach one of the adult Sunday School classes but substitutes for the various adult age groups now. Reba was on the staff of "Maple Breezes", their church's district publication, for five years and editor one year.

The staff gets together one day a month to edit it. Their district comprises their church, a church they started in New York City, two in North Carolina, one in Tennessee and one in McKean County, Pa.

Ray belongs to the Pa. Farmers Association, Pa. Holstein Association, the Holstein-Friesian Association and Inter-State Milk Producers. He was president of the local in 1972 and 1973. He was a delegate to Philadelphia in 1973 and Reba went also. He is in DHIA. He had 611 pounds of butterfat and 15,557 pounds of milk rolling herd average ending September 1974. He had 619 pounds of butterfat in December.

Ray and Reba have been active in Locust Grove Parent Teacher Fellowship. They go to most of the meetings and Reba was cashier at their auction in July for their building fund. She was treasurer of Paradise Elementary PTO two years also.

Rancks have their work done by 6 P.M. and enjoy their evenings at home. Reba plays the piano. She also does fancy work in the evenings. She says "I love to knit, it's my number one hobby. I love to quilt. I do some sewing. I crocheted two afghans. I've done some crewel and regular embroidery." She knitted several afghans, sweaters, a lap robe and a half dozen cap and scarf sets. She made several for gifts. She has made 6 or 8 quilts, either appliqued or embroidered, and donated some to the Mennonite Relief Sale. She also makes needlepoint pillow tops. Reba attributes her creativeness to her mother. Mrs. Kauffman makes all her own clothes, makes a lot of quilts for Reba and her children and for the relief sales. She also makes afghans for the relief sale. She knits, crochets, does embroidery and needlepoint.

The family enjoys picnicing on their picnic grounds in the summer and going bicycle riding together. Mr. and Mrs. Ranck and the two older children have bikes and Ryan rides on a seat with his mother. They also rent a camper to go camping in the summer. They went camping to the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, Black Water Falls in West Virginia and the Poconos. They flew to Hawaii with 200 others on the tour in 1972 and have traveled a lot by car. Reba also traveled before she was married. She had been in all but four of our 50 states. In connection with traveling she started collecting little pitchers in 1953 and by now has 115 or 120. Most of her pitchers are souvenirs from places she has been. The last one she got in Milwaukee last November.

Reba enjoys working with her flowers. First to bloom are crocus, then daffodils, tulips, annuals, begonias and she has a lot of mums in the fall.

They have a nice garden in the summer. Ray cultivates it and Reba picks the vegetables and freezes them. She also freezes their strawberries and makes strawberry jelly. She cans 150 to 175 quarts of fruits, mostly peaches.

Mrs. Ranck says she's a meat and potato cook because that's what her family likes. She isn't much for trying new recipes but the following are family favorites:

SHOO-FLY CAKE

4 cups flour
2 cups brown sugar
¾ cup shortening
Mix together. Reserve 1 cup for top of cake.

Add to crumbs:
1 cup molasses (King syrup)
1 tablespoon soda
2 cups boiling water
Pour into greased 13 x 9 inch pan. Sprinkle crumbs on top. Bake, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

TROPICAL PUDDING

3 eggs
½ cup sugar
3 tablespoons flour
Juice from 1 No. 2½ or a No. 2 can pineapple chunks
Cool till thick. Cool.
Mix with pineapple chunks:
2 cups miniature marshmallows
3 oranges
¾ to 1 cup whipping cream whipped or 2 cups Cool Whip.

CHILI

1 pound ground beef (optional - onion if desired)
1½ teaspoons salt
1½ teaspoons chili powder
3 tablespoons flour
1 6-oz. can tomato paste
3 cups water
1 30-oz. can kidney beans
Brown beef, stir in salt, chili powder and flour. Add tomato paste and beans. Thin with the water as needed. Simmer 45 minutes.

GRAHAM CRACKER PUDDING

Line a glass dish with ground graham crackers mixed with melted butter.
1½ cups brown sugar
2 tablespoons butter
¼ cup milk
Cook 5 minutes.
Add 3 cups milk.
Mix together:
2 beaten egg yolks
4 tablespoons flour

2 tablespoons cornstarch, gradually adding 1 cup milk
Bring to boil for few minutes. Be careful to add last four ingredients before the other mixture is very warm. Add 1½ teaspoons vanilla.

CHICKEN POT PIE

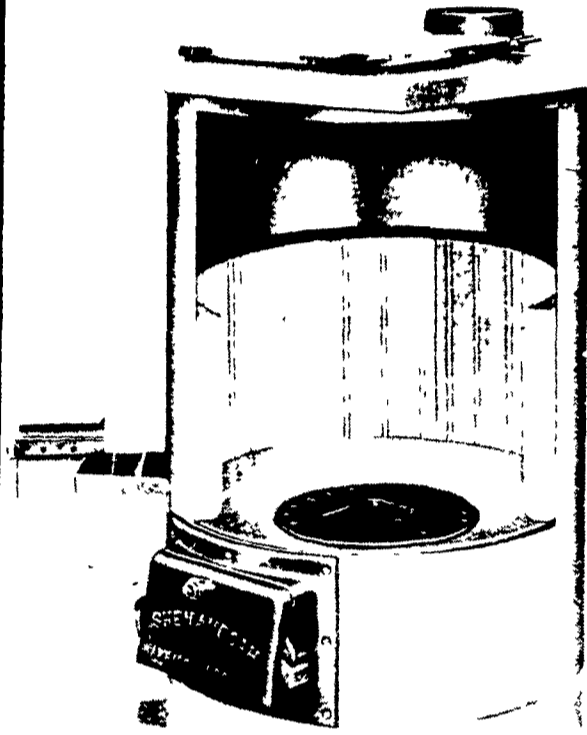
1½ pounds meaty chicken pieces
2 or 3 potatoes
2 teaspoons salt
Water to cover

Cook chicken in salt water until tender, cool slightly. Take meat off bones and cut into bite-size pieces. Add walnut size pieces of potatoes. Bring to rapid boil and drop in pot pie squares.

POT PIE DOUGH

2 cups flour
1½ teaspoon salt
2 eggs (break up with fork)
2 - 3 tablespoons water.
Roll very thin.

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