

Farmwife-Author Loves Working With People



by
Mrs.
Charles
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Farm Feature
Writer

Mrs. Henry B. (Marian) Leaman, 1891 Windy Hill Road, West Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, whose Holstein cow dowry influenced her husband to raise Holsteins rather than Guernseys, has been his constant companion with milking the herd. Their medium size herd has not only maintained a consistently high butterfat average but has increased it again this year.

Country Corner

with: Melissa Piper
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Bicentennial Spirit has reached the youth of this country as well as the adults with the 4-Hers quite involved in the activities. One young man particularly interested is 22-year-old, Jerry Linker from Charlotte, North Carolina who is nearing the finish of his 610 mile horseback ride from that southern state.

The 4-Her is reenacting the famous ride of Captain James Jack, who carried the Mecklenburg Declaration to Philadelphia 200 years ago.



CAPTAIN JACK - 22-year-old Jerry Linker will reenact the ride of Captain James Jack, who in 1775 carried news of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence from Charlotte, N.C., to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Linker will leave Charlotte on May 31 and is expected to arrive in Philadelphia on June 23.

Linker was chosen from a number of applicants who showed outstanding horsemanship abilities and an interest in recreating the bicentennial event.

Young Linker will be passing through Lancaster County next week and will be aided through the county by local 4-H Horse Club members. County 4-Hers will meet "Captain Jack" at the southern end of Lancaster County and will guide him to Park City where the young man will hold a press conference on Tuesday, June 26 at noon. The 4-Hers will then escort the rider to the limits of Lancaster County as the young man rides on to his destination of Philadelphia.

Anyone interested in hearing Linker speak of his travels which began earlier this spring is asked to attend the press conference at Park City at noon on June 26.

Leamans have 31 registered and grade Holstein cows and 35 heifers. Their average butterfat test was 600 pounds last year but their rolling herd average at the present time is 828 pounds (4.1 test) and 15,498 pounds of milk. One of their grade cows recently completed her lactation with 833 pounds of fat and 16,000 pounds of milk. Leamans have proven that a small farm can be profitable for dairying because they own and operate a 21 acre farm. However, they rent parts of five small neighboring farms, farming a total of 85 acres, of which 74 are being tilled and 11 acres are pasture land. They double crop some of their acreage. They raise 60 acres of corn, 18 of hay, 6 of barley and 5 of wheat.

Henry is a son of Harry S. and the late Mrs. Leaman who owned and operated the farm which Henry and his family now own and farm. The elder Mr. Leaman now lives on the farm beside Henry's family. He had a Guernsey herd when he farmed. With this background Henry had in mind to have a Guernsey herd.

Marian is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clarence Garber of the New Danville area. Her brother Jay now farms the home place at Lancaster R.D. 6. Her father had a Holstein herd until 20 years ago when he had a dispersal sale. He gave each of his children a Holstein heifer when they were 18 years of age. When it came time for Henry and Marian to get married Marian said, "If he gets me he'll have to take the cow too." This he did and through having this one Holstein he decided to stick with that breed.

Leamans have seven children. All of them have taken responsibilities at home. They can take over the farm and housework when their parents go away. They very ably managed the farm work and household duties in 1968 when Mr. and Mrs. Leaman went on a camping trip to the United States and Canadian Rockies for 25 days. Each were given a choice as to whether they would attend their local high school or the Lancaster Mennonite High School. All of them took piano lessons.

Sara was graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School and is a Licensed Practical Nurse. She married Leslie Keener and they live on the Strasburg Pike. She works five half days a week nursing in a private home in Lancaster.

James and Kenneth are twins. They were graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School and were in Voluntary Service. Jim took a course at the National Camera Institute, Denver, Colorado. He married Sheryl Huebert from Nebraska and they have one daughter. They live in Hesston, Kansas where he has a camera repair shop known as Pho-Tech. He is a lens repairman. He employs one full-time man and another one is learning the work and will be working for him. Ken took an electrical course. He married Judy Myers from Northumberland County, near Milton. They have a two and a half year old son and live on Shiprock Road. Ken and Roy Metzler build houses and sell them. He does the electrical and plumbing work.

Ronald was graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School and just completed an electronic correspondence course from Bell and Howell in Chicago. He works at the New Holland Planing Mill and helps with the farm work and milking at home in the evenings. He plays softball on the Willow Street Mennonite Church team.

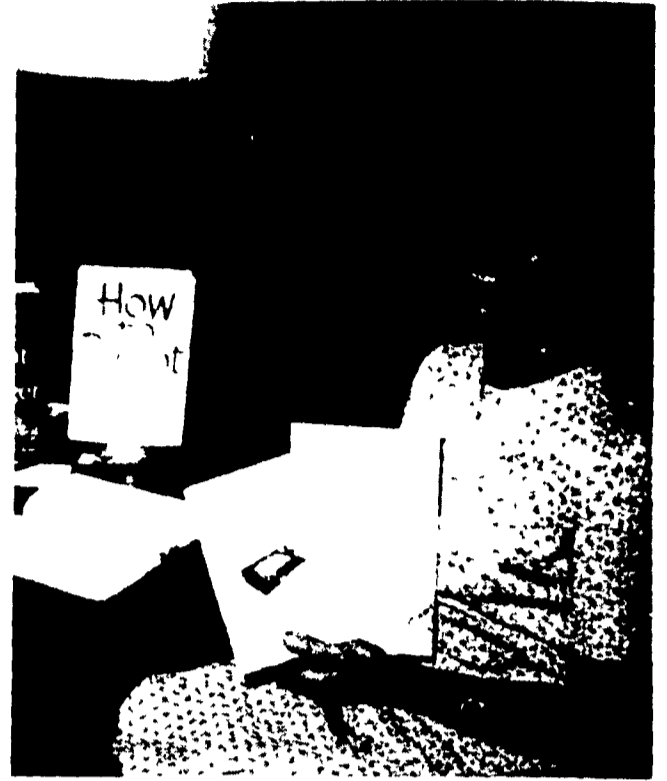
Rachel was graduated from Lampeter-Strasburg High School and is a Senior at Goshen College, Indiana, where she is taking a nursing course. She enjoys obstetrics. She likes to sew. She makes all of her own clothes, including winter coats and has made men's slacks and shirts. Her mother taught her to sew. Rachel, Ken, Jim and Ron play the guitar.

Lois was graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School and works for Willow Valley Farms, selling poultry and meat at Meadow Brook Market. She will spend next year at home and would like to work at a nursery school next fall. She really enjoys art and will be taking an art correspondence course this year.

Carol is a Senior at Lampeter-Strasburg High School. Carol is very musically talented. She enjoys singing and has been singing soprano in the high school girl's chorus and playing in the hand bell choir. She enjoys playing the piano and also sings with a group of girls known as Jubilee Singers from her church. Carol likes to cook and sew. She makes a lot of her own clothes. She also helps milk in the summer.

Mrs. Leaman was graduated from Manor High School. She is the intellectual type person who is willing to learn for herself and is not afraid to tackle new things. She is a wonderful homemaker who enjoys sewing, cooking, baking, gardening and yet finds time for spiritual leadership, writing and doing things outside the home. She gives much credit to her girls. They and Mrs. Leaman take their choice of what they want to do. She has a vibrant personality and a hospitable and kind disposition. She loves people. She provides three meals a day for her father-in-law who lives beside them. She is an expert seamstress. She took an Extension tailoring course and studied Simplicity's "Sewing For Men And Boys." She makes slacks and sport coats for Henry and Ron and even took time to make a sport coat for the girl's chorus director at the high school. She grows a lot of flowers, including a lot of roses, peonies, cannas and annuals.

She says "The thing I enjoy most, next to my family, is Community Ladies Bible Study." This is a group of 6 to 24 women who vary in age from 21 to their 60's that meet every Tuesday morning during the school term in the Willow Street Mennonite Church library. They have a few grandmothers who baby sit and have a story time for pre-school children. They have had women attend who are members of just about every denomination, even some who do not go to church. They have Bible study and a



Mrs. Marian Leaman is holding copies of the two books she wrote. With her Bible as the main text book she shows some of the study books used by her Homebuilders group.

prayer time. Mrs. Leaman says "I give spiritual leadership. The most amusing thing is seeing these girls grow spiritually. It's a real close relationship."

Mrs. Leaman has written a couple books. The first one, edited by Glen Sell, was written for Heralds Of Hope in 1968 and entitled "Guideposts To A Happy Marriage." The next one "Patterns For Christian Family Living" was published by the Christian Education Board of the Lancaster Conference of Mennonites in 1973. Mrs. Leaman's daughter Lois designed the cover for the next printing of it. In between the publication of these two books Mrs. Leaman wrote articles for her church publication.

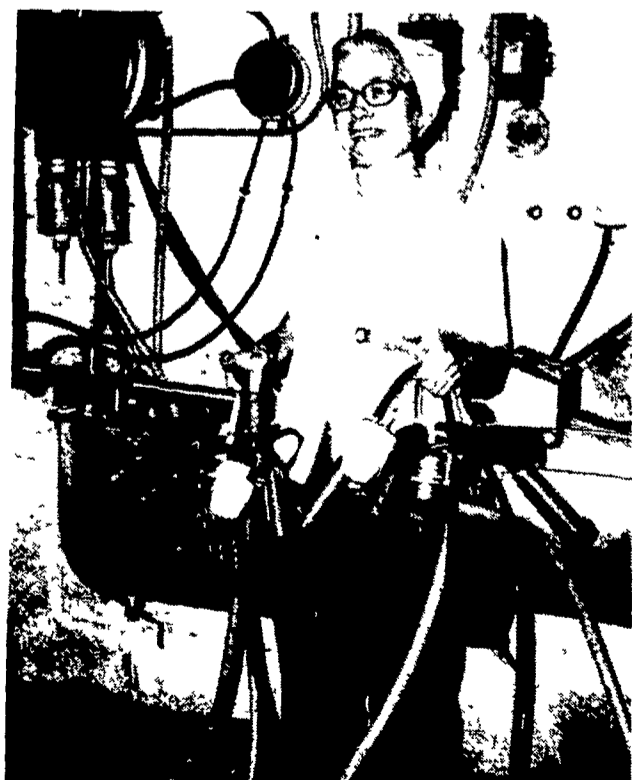
She served as president of "Homebuilders", an organization of women of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference whose work deals with literature. They had literature for newlyweds, parents of new babies, bereaved parents and for unwed mothers. She said "I really enjoyed giving leadership to these meetings. I'd rather work with literature and people." It isn't hard to understand why she doesn't have time to belong to the church's sewing circle. The Homebuilders' elected officers planned a mass meeting with a speaker in the fall and something original in the spring.

Marian says "I enjoy very much giving talks to women's groups. I gave four Mother's Day talks this year." She has started making video tapes "Homemaker Happenings" which are aired over Channel 5 on the Reading Cable TV. John Ruth, pastor of Zion Mennonite Church, has been directing this. She and Eunice Lehman are going to be co-hosting these programs. They select their own topics and take turns going on the studio in Reading and tape two half hour programs. Three other ladies assist with dialogue and discussions.

Mrs. Leaman acts as a tour guide occasionally for the Mennonite Information Center, Lincoln Highway East. She is one of 15 or 20 tour guides. They go with people in their cars or buses. She says "I love this personal interchange. I find it's a great opportunity to listen and to talk to people."

Leamans are active members of Willow Street Mennonite Church. Mrs. Leaman teaches the Joy Givers Class of women in the Sunday School and Carol is secretary of

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Mrs. Henry B. Leaman, West Lampeter Township, helps milk every morning and evening.