

Homestead Notes

Cooking, baking are hobbies of farm wife

By JUDY MITCHELL
Berks Co. Reporter

KUTZTOWN - "I think about it sometime," Jane Treichler says wonderingly of the honors she and her husband have received over the years. Noting that their farm operation in Kutztown R3 is not big, it seems to her that size is not everything. "I guess it's because farming is our way of life," she adds. Feryl Treichler was twice named Outstanding Young Farmer, first by the Jaycees and then by the Kutztown Chapter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association.

The Treichlers are however, equally dedicated to community action and have shared in the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Region II Community Service Award, and most recently, the 1975 Berks County Grange Outstanding Farm Family Award. The Grange award is co-sponsored by the Reading Fair Association and is announced each year at a banquet held just prior to the opening of the Reading Fair. To qualify, you must be a member of the Grange and a farm family, Jane explained. Qualified families who wish to be considered must present a booklet outlining their qualifications to the Pomona Grange lecturer, and they are then judged according to their dedication to farming and contributions to their community.

Farming has always been a family affair with the Treichlers. Jane has helped with the milking "morning and night . . . as long as we've been on the farm, I guess," and also lends a hand during the busy harvest season. The oldest son Keith, who is 22, tried outside employment but decided that he liked farming better and is presently living and working at home. The younger son, Rodney age 20, is married and works as a diesel mechanic; but Jane points out that "that comes in handy too" because Rodney comes around and keeps the tractors and equipment in good repair. The farm consists of about 50 acres, but they rent additional land and altogether farm approximately 300 acres. The main crops are hay, alfalfa and corn. Their dairy operation consists of a registered herd of Holsteins with 52 head of milking cows and about 25 heifers.

Although Feryl belongs to a number of dairy related associations, Jane says that they are most active in the Grange and the Young Farmers Association. Although she has held various posts with the Grange in the past, she is not presently holding office because her husband is current Master of the Virginville Grange and it is not customary for the wife of the Master to hold office. Most of her community service centers around the Grange, the most recent of which was the organization of a Senior Citizen's Group for Virginville and the surrounding area. Jane helped get the ball rolling by arranging to advertise in a number of area papers, and a first meeting was finally organized with 29 senior citizens attending. The group, which meets twice a month at the Grange Hall in Virginville, has grown to include about 50 members. "I've always enjoyed older people," Jane explained, "probably because I spent so much time around them." Her mother was already 42, she pointed out, when she and her twin sister, younger members of a family of eleven children, were born. Helping organize the Senior Citizen group was, she said, "one way of showing how I feel about older people." Her interest in helping others, however, also extends to include young people. She says that she has a little more free time now that her boys are

grown, and she is looking into the possibility of teaching cooking and baking to a 4-H group.

A generous spirit is often communicated through a person's manner, but this farm woman's warm and friendly nature is such that it seems even to come across in newsprint. Jane was featured in a newspaper article for her part in the family's Outstanding Farm Family Award last year and a woman she never met read it and decided to write her. The two women corresponded, eventually arranged to meet, and have since become friends. In a prominent spot in her family room, Jane proudly displays a magnificent geometric afghan, a personally crafted gift from her new found friend.

Into her busy life as a farm wife and active community member, Jane finds time for a wide variety of activities. Cooking and baking would have to be listed as her "number one hobby." She says that she really feels sorry for women who don't like to cook, particularly if they have to cook three meals a day like she does. Her baking has earned her considerable notice in local contests over the

before my arrival and was still planning to bake shoo fly pies later in the day. It seems that her baking coupled with her generosity insures that she seldom goes anywhere empty-handed. The baking done that Friday would be distributed here and she and her family in their travels during the week. She told me that even though sick people are often to eat them, she always takes some home baked with her when she visits a shut-in. The cake or pie for the family of the sick person, she explained, "to help out."

In addition to her cooking and baking, Jane has a large garden in the summer and is busy canning freezing fruits, vegetables and sauces for the months. Although she normally cans close to 300 jars a year, she says she will have to cut down this year because of her household growing steadily smaller. Her youngest son, mentioned, Rodney is already married and living from home, and Keith is planning to be married next summer. Jane is already planning to be busy next year however, with her latest interest which is quilting. She recently completed her first quilt, a white one with a beautiful rose pattern. She had her quilt made by friends who showed her how, and her son who is quilting frame for her. Next winter she will take orders for two more quilts, one for each of her sons.

The latest happening in the lives of the Treichlers centers around a young man from New Jersey who hasn't told any of our friends about it yet," Jane said. "so this will be kind of an announcement." Mark is a high school senior who is interested in agriculture next fall at the University of New Jersey. Since he does not live on a farm, he has been looking for a farm family who he might live and work with thus to be sure that farming is what he really wants. Jane was referred to the Treichlers by the Berks County Extension Center. The family had the opportunity to visit Mark recently and it has been agreed that he will be on the farm the coming summer with them. He is due to arrive on June 20. Jane said that the young man could have room and board in return for his help with farm work, and she and Feryl agreed. It appears that Mark can be easily accommodated in the large farmhouse, and one thing for sure with Jane in the kitchen, he will most certainly be well fed.



Jane Treichler looks over some of her many cookbooks that have provided her Berks County family with an abundance of home-cooked treats.

years, most notably the grand championship of the Kempton Fair pie baking division. She won the contest with an elegant lemon sponge custard pie. Given the opportunity to sample the prize winning recipe, one can easily understand how it won her top honors. A remarkably high chiffon cake stood waiting for Jane to top it with a cooked coconut icing, a duplicate of the baking feat which earned her the top spot in a Grange cooking contest.

I was amazed to learn that Jane had also baked bread

Society 31

Farm Women Society 31 Dairy Princess met at the home of Mrs. Muri Solanco Fair Aument, Quarryville on May 17. Roll call was answered by each member telling about an unwanted article they have in their home.

The business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Robert Kauffman. Donations were given to the St. Joseph Cardiac Unit, Lanc. Co.

A fun night was for the evening p Scavenger hunt which resulted in makings for our o band. The next m be a family picnic at Muddy Run Pa

Country Corner

The joys of farm life examined

By MELISSA PIPER

There are infinite advantages to growing up on a farm but the everyday chores coupled with unexpected happenings often lead to a hectic day and the longing for a vacation in the city.

I knew our newly purchased beef calf "Licorice" was going to mean trouble the day we brought him home from the neighbors. My sister said he looked "kind of wild" and I realized she was correct when he kicked me getting into the truck!

As usual, I had been "volunteered" to hold the burly calf so he would not jump around on the ride home and the one-half mile trip seemed just too long to wrestle with such a lively animal.

Even before he was old enough to peer over the boards of his pen, Licorice was getting into trouble and when summer rolled around we decided to put him outside where the grazing was good. But the calf, which had sprouted up to almost a miraculous

size, was determined to make us do a little extra work such as running, jumping and bounding over numerous obstacles.

On one of the hottest days of the summer several years ago, Licorice decided that his pasture was just a little too restrictive and leaped (but not cleared) the wire fence surrounding the pasture.

Tearing down yards of fence, posts and connections, the steer roamed about the farm with an arrogance befitting a king. It was about this time that I decided to finish my chores and heading for the barn I sighed loudly "Oh No!" For Licorice was heading toward our neighbors lawn and the destruction he had in mind was far beyond contemplation.

Our neighbor had just settled down in a lawn chair to enjoy a cold drink when a brown and white missile flew past his house, afraid of being dumped onto the ground, the man jumped and scrambled for the porch. Licorice tore through the maze of lawn furniture and circled behind the house

heading for the flower beds and strawberry

My shouts for help had brought several members to the front lawn and in a sequence resembled the funniest Walt Disney movie. The entourage of people took out after Licorice.

The steer's imagination led us through the nearby orchard, down over the steep bank around the barn and it was not until after that he quietly stepped back across the fence and began to munch the grass in the yard.

To this day I am still amazed that we were able to chase that steer around for such a long time without collapsing. And as I began to retrace my steps I made a definite decision never to buy another animal or at least buy another wild steer. My resolution however was short-lived. For walking back to the house I saw a brown mass chomping at the apples in our yard. Dusty, had slipped his halter, once again, the joys of being a farm girl were quickly forgotten. I started one more chase!