

2 Weaver employees promoted

NEW HOLLAND - Larry Shirk, 242 South Street, Almage, and Kenneth Walkowiak, 128C Kloss Drive, Lancaster, have been promoted to positions within the sales division of Victor F. Weaver, Inc., New Holland. Shirk joined Weaver in 1975 upon graduation from Elizabethtown College where he received a Bachelor's Degree in sociology. Walkowiak has been named to the position of district sales supervisor, frozen foods department.

LIFE

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father never gave a thought to perhaps not doing it.

Whether it was pounding a sledge hammer to break concrete where a new silo was to be erected, or giving artificial respiration to a newborn calf, my father has always faced his responsibilities without hesitation. We did everything the hard way for quite a few years, but in spite of that, nothing was ever left undone.

There were a number of months that the milk check didn't cover expenses, but Dad kept right on struggling, managing, and achieving. He had to. Having come to the United States as a refugee from communist East Germany (where his farm, prized Holsteins and other belongings were forcibly taken away by the government), he aimed for new goals. And he never backed away from them.

The communist government in East Germany had stripped him of everything but his family, determination, ability to work hard and long, and good health. He knew that that was all he needed to make a new start in life. Nobody said it would be easy, and it wasn't.

Aside from the thousands of days of hard work, there have also been countless days for headaches and heartaches. Examples would include the horror with the communists in East Germany and ordeal with a tuberculosis infected dairy herd which claimed nearly 200 head.

Dad has always worked hard. Even now, in his mid 60's, he can tuck a bulky 100-pound feed bag under one arm and empty it evenly into a

manger. No hour of the night is too important for rest when cows and heifers are giving birth. During many a night Dad has gotten out of bed three and four times in order to assist a cow and calf. Occasionally he gets no sleep at all.

I remember walking across more than 100 acres of pastureland each Spring. There were thistles out there and the way to get 'em was to dig 'em out. We had chores ranging from the most boring to the most fun. Some we minded, and others we didn't. Dad never showed whether or not he was bothered by any of the more boring tasks. He just worked. Stifled by neither physical demands nor debts, he has proven what hard work and determination can do.

I've seen him work hard, and I have watched him take satisfaction in his accomplishments. I have heard him talk proudly of his best cows and bulls, and followed him on a tour of the remodeled house. It's almost fit for royalty.

But most precious of all are the years of life on the farm. My father could have been a professional athlete or an aeronautical engineer. He could have made life much easier for himself and his family. But his preference was to become a dairy farmer.

Because of that decision some 40 years ago, I was given the opportunity to experience life on the farm. Despite the hard work and occasional shortcomings, I wouldn't trade that away for anything.

In choosing to work and live on a farm, my father gave me a most precious and treasured gift, and I love him for it.

Have a happy Father's Day!

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