

Homes sought for the elderly

LANCASTER -- The Christmas season is the time for giving and for sharing. It is a time for family gatherings, fellowship and fun. However, an older person with no friends or relatives close by is often lonely over the holidays. In fact, life can be lonely for these people all year long. Through the Shared Living

Program, the Lancaster Office of Aging arranges to have an older person "adopted" into the home of another individual or family.

"We stress the family atmosphere," says Mrs. Jean Pulinka, Shared Living Coordinator. "This is not a boarding home situation where the older person stays in his room all day. We want the older person to be accepted as part of the family."

Some commitment is required on the part of those who open up their homes. They are asked to provide a furnished bedroom and do the meals, laundry and cleaning, although the older person may help if he or she wishes.

But there are also many safeguards built into the program. A home provider is able to screen any person to decide whether he or she would fit into his home. The coordinator works closely

with the home and the individual to ensure a satisfactory arrangement for everybody concerned. And there is no set time limit for the arrangement so that if family circumstances change there is no ongoing commitment.

Many families that have shared their homes with an elderly person enjoy the contact with another generation. They like having a grandparent figure around and enjoy the contact with the past that this provides. There is also a financial remuneration for the family.

For more information, contact Mrs. Jean Pulinka, Office of Aging, 50 N. Duke Street, Lancaster, Pa. 717-299-7979.



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On being a farm wife

—And other hazards

By
JOYCE BUPP



Spellbound, we sat last Sunday as the domed ceiling of our school district planetarium transformed from a network of mundane white tiles into a sea of shining stars nestled against a velvety black sky.

"What was the Star of Bethlehem?" was the question we had gathered to ask. With sight and the resounding tones of accompanying carols, we scanned the skies of 2,000 years ago, searching for that same light that men have sought for centuries since.

Was it a meteorite, an uncommonly brilliant shooting star? Was it a comet, dazzling wise men as they peered heavenward? Was it a configuration of several solar system planets, a phenomenon that occurs at intervals of 800,000 years?

But, the "what" of that light pales beside the "why" of it.

Because of its light, generations have focused on a love, a joy, a peace, a hope that fills the hearts of all believers.

That light lives on today, illuminated and explained, not with modern technology, but from within the hearts of mankind.

You are the light. You reflect the glory of that star seen long ago from the dry and windy hills of Palestine.

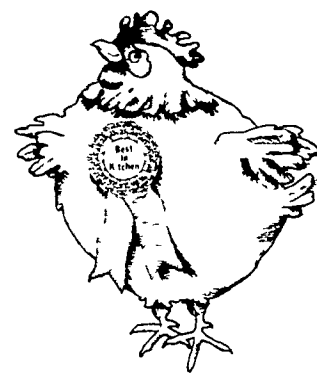
Your light glows in the shining eyes of a toddler, hands clasped before the overwhelming beauty of a newly-lit tree, manger scene shining beneath.

Your light shines in the happy eyes of a lonely person, remembered with a gift of thoughtfulness, a kind word, a chance to share Christmas with the family of man.

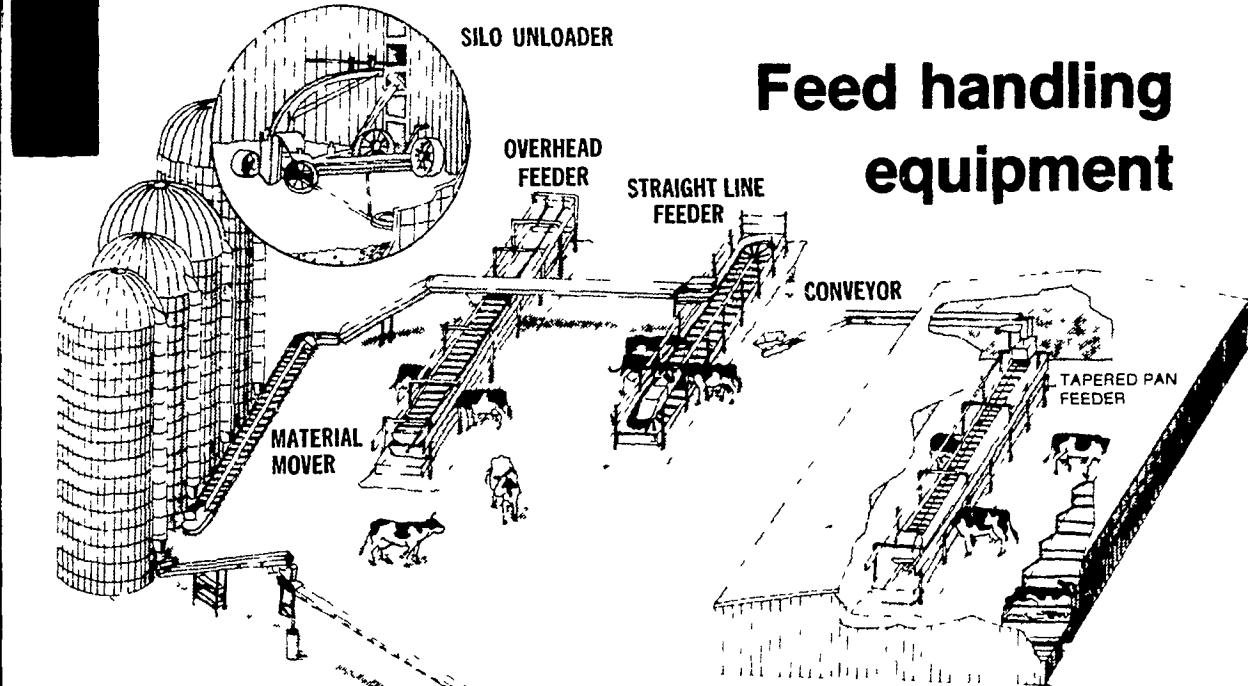
Your light shines in the joyful eyes of Christmas Eve worshippers, faces glowing in the candlelight of a darkened sanctuary, as they raise their voices to the haunting chords of "Silent Night".

May the light that is Christmas fill your hearts, your homes, your lives with blessing and peace, not just at this season, but throughout the year.

Merry Christmas!



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