

Rosalyn Kummer

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Crawford County. Also on that staff was associate county agent Lee Kummer

"After two years, we knew we were ready to become engaged," she recounts. "But there were two things I had to do before I could get married. One was to transfer my divinity credits to a school nearby, and the second was a 'pilgrimage'."

That pilgrimage was to accompany her Scottish-

born 90-year-old grandfather back to his homeland for a visit. Again, the trip was made on a flight that carried the Penn State choir on a cultural exchange. Within two weeks after setting foot on Scottish soil and the reuniting with his relatives, Rosalyn's grandfather died. The force that had compelled her to make the trip had become clear to Rosalyn.

Fulfilling the second duty began with a trip to register at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian ministerial studies institution, where Rosalyn studied for one semester. With two responsibilities completed, the wedding day was set in April, 1960.

By Fall, Lee and Rosalyn returned to school together, this time for Masters degree studies at Purdue University in Indiana. While Lee continued his agronomy major, for Rosalyn it was again a return to the home economics labs.

But before the year was out, a life-changing decision faced the newlyweds. Back home on the family dairying operation, Lee's two uncles, who were in partnership with his dad, had decided to leave the milk business.

"We had never really talked about going into farming," Rosalyn reflects. "But there was no real decision to make. Lee came home as soon as his classes were finished to start dairying with his father. I had to stay on in Indiana to finish my thesis, meanwhile teaching as a home-ec professor heading the home management house for one semester."

Once settled into the Kummer farmhouse by the summer of 1963, Rosalyn again returned through school doors, this time as a high school home-economics teacher. After three years in

that position and the acquisition of her teaching certificate, she "retired." And with good reason: she and Lee had decided to apply to adopt a baby.

During the year that it took for baby Scott to arrive with the Kummers, Rosalyn again returned to work, as a home economist for Penn Power Company. When Scott was a year old, like many young mothers, Rosalyn felt the need for an outside interest. To "fill a few spare hours," she again felt drawn to the seminary at Pitt, signing up for just one course. About the same time, the Kummers again filled out adoption papers, this time hoping for a little girl.

Penn State, in need of a night school teacher for a short period, offered Rosalyn the job. Mothering, part-time studies, teaching and helping on the Kummer farm filled her days.

Still the call of the seminary came ever stronger. Rosalyn drove once more into Pittsburgh to register for classes. But a new dean was heading the school and he lowered an ultimatum on the young mother: the only way she would be allowed to re-register was on a promise to graduate that year.

It made 1973 another year that is permanently etched in her memory.

"I had two babies, was teaching two days a week in a nursing school and

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 29, 1980—C23

carrying a full schedule of courses. I'd drop the children on my way at a child care center associated with the university. Sometime the diapers went into the wash at midnight; and I remember taking the hired man in to talk to my nursing students one time as part of a class," she laughs. "Sometimes I got desperate."

Then, suddenly years of study and classes were all over, and the Presbyterian church added the name of Reverend Rosalyn Kummer to their ministerial list.

Officially, she was "licensed", which meant a full practicing minister in all ways, with the exception of having her own church. For three years she "practiced around," a period of filling in for vacationing or absent clergy in the area.

"I remember being so scared that I lost my voice the first time I had to preach and asked for a drink of water. The water was a good distance away and by the time someone had brought it, I was speaking again," she laughs.

When Crestview church was "unyoked" from a parish in 1976, the congregation extended a call to Reverend Kummer. In a field where equality is still far more theory than practice, farm wife Rosalyn had been fully accepted.

One of her most satisfying accomplishments, and one that perhaps she especially understands having been a young mother, is the establishment of a Mother's Day Out - a series of weekly classes held at Crestview for community women. Held for two hours on Wednesday mornings, participants pay a \$15 fee for 10-week classes which include free babysitting. Six thousand letters go out yearly throughout the area, offering courses like the popular

communications-assertiveness series taught by professors from Butler Community College, as well as topics like crafts, cooking and home decorating.

Husband Lee is just as busy, involved in a variety of agriculture and community activities. He's a director and past president of the school board, a director of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and Farm Credit and serves on the national legislative committee for the Farmers Association.

Although her work around the barn is extremely limited, Rosalyn still manages to keep up on happenings at the dairy barn, where a capable herdsman manages the milking operation. She likes to know which cows are ready to calve, or who is likely to be tied up for the breeder. One day especially stands out in her mind, when a particular cow was still running with the herd when the A.I. technician showed up. Rosalyn, who recognized the cow only from the feeding end, had to make a quick trip through the animals examining faces until she found the identifying marks.

Would she recommend to other young women that they follow in her footsteps? Thus far, only one percent of theology students are women and there are even fewer with their own churches.

"The ministry is a lot more emotionally draining than I thought," she reflects. "But both farm wives and ministers must be their own persons. Whatever characteristics it takes to survive as a farm wife are about the same things that it takes to be a minister. And every person should do whatever it is they feel inside that they must do."

Jefferson club plans auction

The monthly meeting of the Jefferson Community 4-H Club was held March 18 at the firehall. The members discussed what they like best about spring.

Reports were given on county council, roller skating party, family fun night, spring fling, and the Adams County dance. The club discussed the bake sale scheduled April 5 at the Hanover Market. The 4-H auction was also discussed and members were urged to bring items.

The club hosted the

Loganville and the Glen Rock 4-H clubs to a square dance. The caller was Irwin Rappoldt. The next meeting will be held April 8 on meats identification and judging, which will be presented by last year's state winning team from York County.



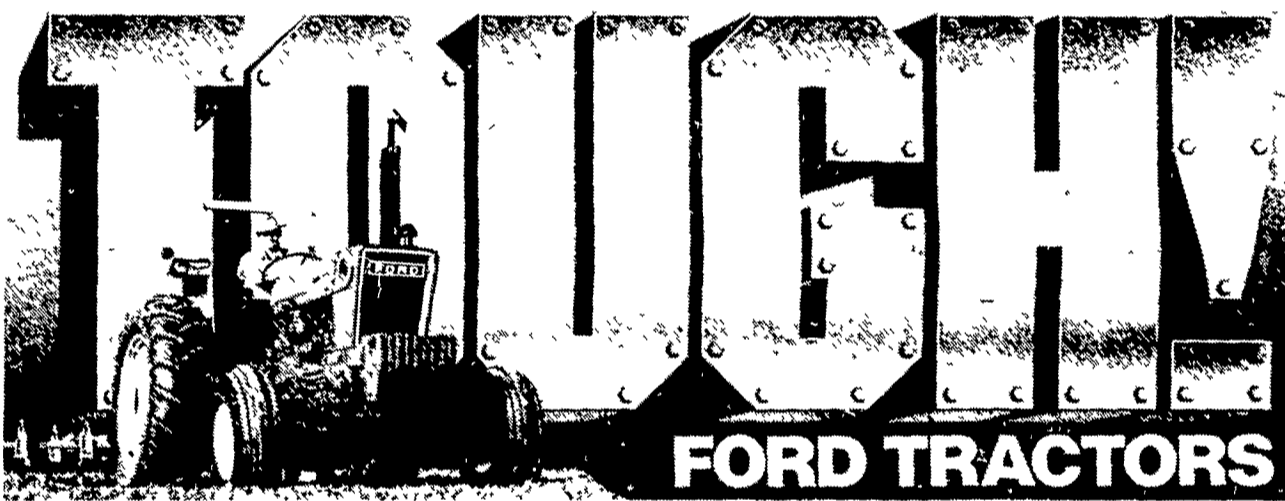
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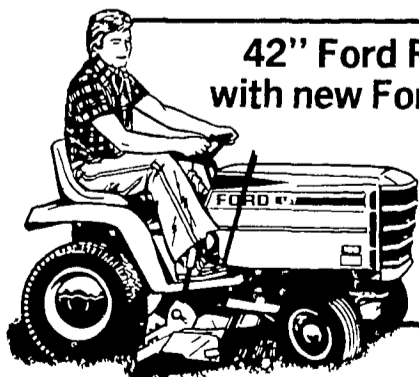
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