

## (Continued from Page C2)

of Georgia, tuition fees less and the University is not in the inner city, she selected the University of Georgia.

She spent four additional years as a vet student there studying physiology, anatomy, pharmacology, pathology, surgery and other detailed courses in medical science. Her senior year was spent working in clinics, each month, a different type to offer a well-rounded experience base. While attending classes which gradually through the four years at vet school moved from textbook to applied and practical experience, Dorrie took it upon herself to gradually condition herself for the physically demanding profession working with large animals. Although she had always been in pretty good physical condition and active in sports, she felt she should push herself to develop the extra strength she would need when treating animals like cows and horses.

She struck upon the idea of swimming long distances using her arms and shoulder muscles to propel her while her legs dragged behind. Dorrie is an example of the adage, "Where there is a will there is a way." She takes challenges in stride with good natured enthusiasm.

While she purposely set out with specific goals of finding a job as a large animal vet working mainly with cows she said she has learned a great many other lessons along the way she had not planned upon.

Being short in stature she worked to compensate for that potential lack of strength with hard work and exercise But when she came to Lancaster County to work she found that she had a big lesson to learn Dorrie explained. When I was born my hair was as red as could be and I had the temper that is associated with it. I learned early to be noticed to either punch or scream and it got results! But I think the Lord had a major role in getting me into Lancaster County where I work with people who abide by an unwritten law that Thou shalt not lose thy temper! I quickly learned to control that bad habit of mine and I am so thankful for that."

Before Dorrie decided to come to work for Carl Troop she asked him if his clients would object to a lady vet coming to their farm. Troop has about fifty per cent Amish customers and Dorrie said he took a sampling of

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opinions and reported to her that his responses were favorable of anyone qualified to get the work done. She then accepted the offer as an associate. A second associate was hired later so that Troop could devote more of his time to the embryo transplants he had begun performing.

Dorrie drives a red Chevy Luv equipped with the basic veterinary supplies and dons typical boots and overalls while on the job. In the Winter her hair is tucked under a ski cap and it is not unusual for someone who has not met her to mistake her for a man. She could use her cartoon abilities to depict some of the misunderstandings she has encountered, but she is not of a nature which places others in an unkind light.

She says she loves this area of the country and she really enjoys the people who live and farm here. She says she likes to tease and talk with her farmers.

At the same time, one notices readily her extensive knowledge of animal health problems, diagnoses and use of drugs as she relates her typical day's work, the problems she encounters and the many possible treatments she practices. Seemingly taking it all for granted, her knowlege that is, she told of the basic problems with cattle reproduction, mastitis treatment, calving problems and twisted abomasums. Rattling off diseases and drugs as quickly as one can say them, she said much of her work falls into following widely accepted medical procedures, careful attention to detail and just plain patience and waiting for the medicine to work. Sometimes, she said, "You have a case which is too far gone and then you pray a lot." Taking her job very seriously she tries to do the best she can and to advise the farmers of ways to avoid recurrences of problems before they begin.

Dorrie works a regular schedule with some evenings on call and every other weekend off. She may have emergency calls any hour of the night when on call due to the nature of her profession. When she is off duty she likes to work in her garden, get her yard mowed and tend to her pets.

Gardening is a new experience for her in the last several years since her family did not have a garden. She handdug the plots she now tends. She grows strawberries, beans, peas, and other typcial home garden varieties of plants. She also has several flower beds to contend with each growing season. Her parents enjoy the overflow from her garden.

One of the pitfalls of being a veterinarian, according to Dorrie, is the constant questions she gets from her friends as to whether she would not like an extra kitten or a stray dog they have found. "I try to fight them all off!" she grinned. But three cats and a Springer Spaniel managed to weedle their way into her care since her Georgia days. Their tales of acquisition range from a near death stray cat which she retrieved while a student at the University of Georgia for which she paid considerable recovery expenses since no one claimed the cat, "of course!" she added. To a cat which leaped into her lap one evening when she was examining a cow on a farm where the farmer was going to take the whole lot of cats to an auction the next day. She said in a weak moment she took pity on that particular cat.

When asked what advances animal medicine has made recently and what problems lie ahead, Dorrie replied that she foresees a major problem for many dairymen in the future with the institution of more stringent milk testing procedures. "We have little clinical proof of the effects of drugs given to lactating animals and nearly all of the drugs available have withdrawal periods which require dumping milk even from untreated quarters. Farmers are going to have to be very careful about handling sick and treated cows. A whole silo of milk can be dumped and traced back to a farmer who is liable for that silo because he shipped milk which should have been dumped."

Dorrie Diggs' experiences coming from suburban Philadelphia, to a major in art, to Penn State, to Vet school, to Lancaster County as a large animal vet are indeed interesting and she says the Lord must have had a lot to do with them.

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