

Photographer chronicles her vanishing way of life



Cranking ice cream

-- father Paul

Gook-a-mal-doh

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
MORGANTOWN — Modern-day "Annals of the Conestoga Valley" are again being chronicled for future generations.

But instead of pen and ink, as with the much-sought popular historical text of that title, it is now being recorded through the camera lens and sparkling eyes of a photographic sprite, whose love of life and love of capturing it on film are clearly reflected in each click of her shutter.

Yvonne Hartz, of R1 Morgantown, is a curious combination of traditional plain background and contemporary womanhood who knows what she wants and then proceeds to seek and grasp it.

Her bubbly yet quiet demeanor would never reveal that she walked into the photographic department of one of the giants of farm machinery manufacturers without formal photographic background and calmly said:

"I'm willing to work for nothing if you'll teach me something."

Perhaps, it was partially her straight-forward honesty

and partially the sheer surprise of her unusual offer that she got the job and has been on the (paid) photo staff of Sperry New Holland for the past three years.

While on the job she can be traveling to most anywhere in North America photographing Twin-Rotor combines or giant corn choppers, her first love is chronicling her farming heritage and way of life.

Her photos of family, friends and neighbors demonstrate the care and talent she injects into each click of her Nikon.

But her diversified interests go much deeper than the camera's viewfinder.

An industrial arts major at Garden Spot High in New Holland, she took an extra year of high school to gather additional experience in that field. She's built a mantel clock and produced metal sculpture. She's driven truck delivering bacteria-free rabbits from Dutchland Labs in Denver and once took a few months off to practice her calligraphy in tracing her family's genealogy.

With these various artistic interests and talents, it's no wonder that she considers



Riding the wind -- sister Heidi

photography a special art form and, almost as with a brush and palette, "paints" the life of her family on the 150-acre Paul Hartz' organic farm on the eastern fringes of Lancaster County.

Favorite subjects include everyday and fast-disappearing activities of her parents and six younger brothers and sisters amidst the peaceful, pastoral set-

ting, which has been in the family for three generations.

Yvonne, now 23, got started with a 35 mm. camera from her grandfather while in high school. She walked in one day to her industrial arts instructor, Tom Reilly, and asked:

"Can you show me how to use this?"

An accomplished photographer in his own rights, Reilly gave her a roll of film with the advice:

"Go start pressing the button."

"The first roll wasn't too good," Yvonne recalls.

"But the second was a winner."

And she's had a lot of

winners since, including a Sperry corporate award for a construction photo taken at Mountville.

She processes and prints her own photos.

"I remember the first time I got into the darkroom," she explains.

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Milking time -- father Paul



Rural heritage -- sisters Heidi and Audrey