

New Farm Women Society organized

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent
EAST PETERSBURG —

Lancaster County has a new Farm Women Society with the formation of 33 last month. It is the second new society to form within the year after nearly 10 years of no new organizations.

For County Farm Women President Opal Ruhl, Society 33's formation is "like a dream come true." The new Society's president is Gloria Eitnier, Manheim R1, who is Opal's daughter. Vice President of Society 33 is Lynette Jerchau, East Petersburg, daughter of former county treasurer Janet Leaman.

Gloria and Lynette got together at Opal's suggestion when she realized that both had a few friends who were interested in forming a new Society. Opal recalls, "We had no room to invite her to join my group, and since she was younger, I thought it would be more beneficial for her to be in a group with those of her own age and similar interests. Gloria and Lynette quickly realized they had much in common and moved ahead with the organization.

According to Lynette, the two formed the society because, "We want to learn to know new people. Each of us invited some friends. We want to be active in the community, and to live up to the Farm Woman motto of 'for happiness.'"

Gloria added, "We want to grow as mothers and in our own way show the importance of being homemakers and mothers.

We want to grow as women and have educational meetings."

Lynette said with a laugh, "We are not looking for an escape from our homes. We are taking our children with us." She said about half the new members have small children, and their programs will definitely be designed to include husbands and children for some of the meetings.

While none of the new members presently live on farms, Gloria pointed out that most of them have rural backgrounds. "Somewhere along the line, we have an earthy feeling. We like the values of rural living even though it is not possible for us to live on a farm," she stated.

They are just now planning their programs for the coming year, but Gloria said they are anxious to draw on members' abilities and have sessions on learning about crafts done by members. Furthermore, she said, "We want to learn to be more self-reliant and to stretch our resources."

Meetings of Society 33 will be held the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., and Gloria noted that an afternoon was chosen so they would not need to leave their families in the evenings.

Both Lynette and Gloria literally grew up in Farm Women, with both of them attending meetings with their mothers. Janet Leaman recalls, "I joined Farm Women when Lynette was one month old. If she couldn't go, I stayed home.

She helped with our food stands at public sales."

Lynette said, "I thought it was neat. I always thought it would be nice to join Farm Women."

Opal remembers her early years in Farm Women. "Gloria was a year old when I joined Farm Women and little did I think that I would have the joy of forming a society which she would be president of."

She says that when Gloria and she first discussed forming a society, Gloria's reaction was that she didn't have the time to give it as Opal did. Opal said it took some persuasion but she convinced her by pointing out, "You can be as busy as you want to be in Farm Women. It fills a need in your life when you have more time."

Starting a new organization has many advantages. Gloria said, "Definitely one of the benefits is that we can do what we please."

With the formation of Society 33, Opal now realizes the goal she set for herself as county president upon taking office a year ago. She had wished to increase membership to over 1,000 because numbers had been declining in recent years. While she is delighted with reaching her goal, with membership at 1004, she was quick to say, "We don't want to stop growing. It would excite me to no end to form another group. Our motto is 'for happiness,' and we want to spread it. By forming new groups and keeping the



Gloria Eitnier, left, and Lynette Jerchau talk over some of the planned activities of their new Farm Women Society 33, organized in September.

groups smaller, we can fill the needs and fellowship better."

She adds, "The credit for reaching the goal, however, goes to the presidents of the 31 existing societies and the two new societies. I could never have done it without them." She encouraged anyone who is interested in forming a new society to contact her, saying that any group with 10 or more interested persons is welcome.

She pointed out that members of Farm Women all have in common an appreciation of "the glory and dignity of farming and rural living. Most of the programs are for promoting homes,

rural living and making women better homemakers. Farm Women makes us real conscious of the needs of the home, home life and the unity of the family today."

The new Society is

meeting primarily in the East Petersburg-Manheim area. Other officers include Mrs. Darien Heagy, East Petersburg, treasurer; and Mrs. Leon Koser, Mount Joy R3, secretary.

Sale Reports

Franklin-Cumberland Co. Holstein Sale was held at Shippensburg, Pa. Fairgrounds on September 30.

Large crowd in attendance. 44 cows, bred and open heifers averaged \$1622 and 4 small calves averaged \$506.25.

Top cow was \$3000 and was consigned by Nicrete Farms at Chambersburg. Jere Rutt, Elizabethtown, Pa., was the buyer.

Ralph W Horst, Marion, Pa., was auctioneer and Manager and Fred Naugle, Carlisle, was manager and handled pedigrees.

Gerald H. Kelso, Newburg, Pa. had a sale

October 3. 55 head averaged \$1098. Top cow sold for \$1835, second high \$1650.

Ralph W. Horst, Marion, Pa., manager and auctioneer. Fred M. Naugle, Carlisle, Pa. handled announcements.

Merle D. Woodring Family, Chambersburg, Pa. had a sale Oct. 2.

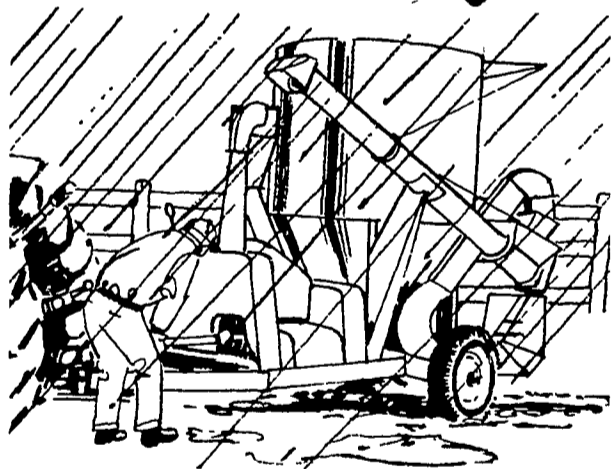
Large crowd in attendance and good prices were obtained with 89 lots avg. approximately \$1800.

Top cow was \$5,100 going to Richard Crider, of Chambersburg, Pa., second price was \$4200.

Ralph Horst and Art Kling were auctioneers and Fred Naugle handled pedigrees.

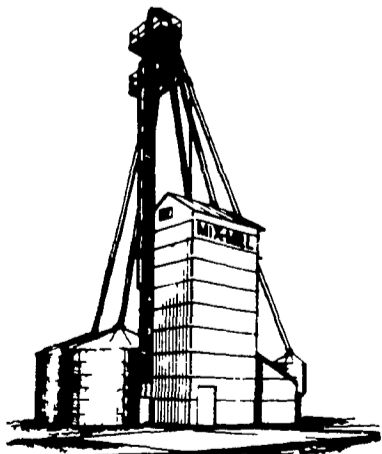
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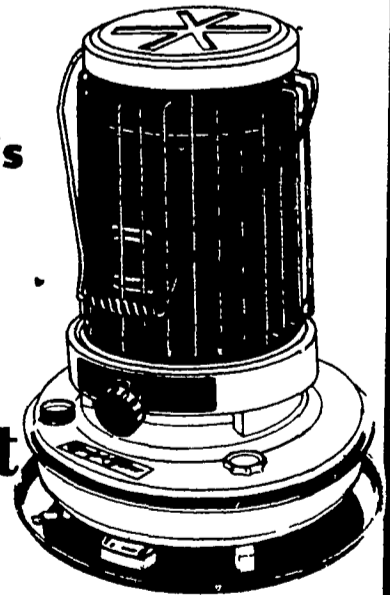
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