

Joanne Smoker

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to help." She admits with a laugh, "A business teacher, Joanne currently substitutes, and last year worked 145 days in the four school districts for whom she 'subs.' She readily acknowledges that she

loves teaching, relishing the contact with young people and the challenges.

It is not surprising, however, because as one talks with Joanne it becomes evident that she thrives on challenges. She says, "You can

learn something from everything you're in. There is always something to learn. If you're not willing to take on responsibilities you won't realize your potential."

Joanne admits that whatever she is doing she just "naturally gravitates toward leadership capacities. If I can contribute and learn from my own experiences and from other people, then I want

working on committees. My talent is organizing and I love to organize and work with people."

At this point of her life Joanne says that she is very involved with her children's education. "They have activities and keep my busy." However, she is a member of Farm Women Society #24, where she was recently president, and teaches Sunday School at the Conestoga Church of the Brethren. She takes time for a card club and is involved with parent activities at school.

When there is time she loves to read and enjoys sewing. And from time to time she takes education courses. "I enjoy being a student and being in a classroom setting." Currently she is taking a computer

course at Franklin and Marshall College.

When she and her husband built their present home, she drew the floor plans. Since they own an acre of land, she also does a lot of gardening and preserving food.

With her talent for organization, and her love of children, Joanne seems a natural as a 4-H leader. As she looks to the future, she says, "I can see problems in 4-H, and the solutions aren't easy. We need to work together as leaders and teen leaders to keep 4-H as a whole moving in the right direction."

As National 4-H Week draws to a close, it is a time to recognize leaders like Joanne with whom the solutions to 4-H's future don't seem so difficult.

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Sometimes I feel fragmented and pulled in so many directions. It seems that I am responsible for so many things to be accomplished. Simply writing letters to our six children must be fitted into a busy schedule.

Lately, I've headed several committees to plan for reunions and a square dance. I'm thankful that others are so helpful but even so there are always little details to be taken care of beforehand. And always there must be refreshments prepared. Somehow I can't get away from food. Whenever I'm really accomplishing something, the kitchen clock says that I must stop and cook a meal.

There is always a button to be sewed on or a seam to be mended. And the telephone ringing not only interrupts what I am doing but usually brings new duties. Out church always needs volunteers to stuff envelopes, sort clothes and

help in the kitchen.

Every fall I put a lot of flower pots from my garden into pots to fill my 25 windowsills. It does take time but I enjoy tending them in the winter.

This year I helped my husband pick up several bags of black walnuts and he hulled them. That has always been my job. There are still a lot laying and I hope we will find someone who can use them.

This morning I've had four interruptions while I was writing this article. The telephone rang, the dryer buzzed, a salesman rang the doorbell and it was time to start the dinner. You see, each month I write eight to ten articles for different newspapers and this too takes a bit of thinking. In addition, I must find the time to get them typed and ready for mailing.

Even so, I occasionally find an hour in the evening to slip back of the barn and do a bit of fishing.



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