

Maryland Holstein Association Ladies Tour Three County Homes

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WESTMINSTER, Md. — Ladies of the Maryland Holstein Association who attended the annual convention Feb. 20, enjoyed another aspect of farm living as they toured three beautiful country homes as part of a progressive luncheon.

The first stop on the tour was the home of Kathy and Marlin Hoff of New Windsor, Md. The 4,000 square feet of modern living space is situated in a secluded wooded area just down the road from the dairy barn. The facade of the home is cedar and stones that were collected from fields on the farm. Structurally, it resembles the shape of the barn. The home was built in 1975.

Kathy greeted the 70 women who entered through the double doors, then made a retreat to the kitchen to serve her delicious, warm-from-the-oven crab dip. (For recipe, turn to page B6.) Most of the visitors assembled in the focal point of the very modern home, the living room and entertainment center.

The two-story cathedral ceiling makes for an airy, light and inviting space. Each end of the large room, which runs front to back on one end of the house, has sliding glass doors with full one story

windows above. Serving a dual purpose, the two-story windows and doors flood the large area with light, as well as provide a view of the adjacent woods. Like a life-sized painting that is ever-changing, the scene through the windows is seasonally beautiful.

The first floor of the Hoff's home features all slate flooring. The large fireplace is also made of stones found on the farm. Kathy served hors d'oeuvres and drinks over the bar which connects the open area to the traditional eat-in kitchen.

After bidding adieu to Kathy in her modern home, the ladies of the Holstein Association left Cold-springs Farm and made their way to the home of the Association president, Joe Schwartzbeck.

The tour proved to be a study in contrasts as the visitors made their way from the ultra-modern to the country charm of Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck's traditional log, brick and frame house. Unlike the Hoff home, Peace and Plenty's homestead is an integrated part of the farming area, with barns and silos just steps from the back door.

Nona served the main course of the progressive lunch, ham with imperial crab, salad, warm fruit compote and rolls.

The Schwartzbeck home supplied a feast for the eyes as well.



Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck's home is an integral part of the dairy operation at Peace and Plenty Farm.

Nona's dairy collectibles hang on every wall, sit on every shelf and even dangle from the ceiling. Her collections include the new and the old, all with a dairying theme.

Lunch was buffet style and served on some of Nona's fine collection of silver and glassware. The living room is full of family treasures including a writing desk that was custom made for Joe's great grandmother Dutrow. The small desk is inlaid with 2,076 blocks of wood, representing 365 different varieties of trees from all over the world.

The grandfather clock, which bears a likeness of the farm on the face, was constructed from a walnut log that Joe pulled out of the field when he was a teenager. Oldest son, Gus, made the oak corner cupboard.

A collection of Bobbi Becker's original folk art paintings are displayed on one wall, and a large self-portrait of one of Nona's ancestors occupies most of another wall. The painting, called "The Beggarman," is a self-portrait of Eugene Poole completed in 1879 while he was studying at the Louvre in Paris.

After the delicious gourmet lunch, the tour then continued on to Taneytown, for the piece de resistance. The home of Louis and Karen Hobson was the end of the trail for the Holstein ladies' tour and luncheon.

The red brick home which dates to 1823, provided yet another contrast. The Hobson home is a beautifully renovated colonial home, decorated with exquisite Williamsburg furnishings and authentic period pieces.

Blue is the theme that runs throughout the lovely home, from the Wedgewood blue velvet swag drapes that Karen made for the living room, to the federal blue

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The architecture of the Hoff's home resembled the barn.



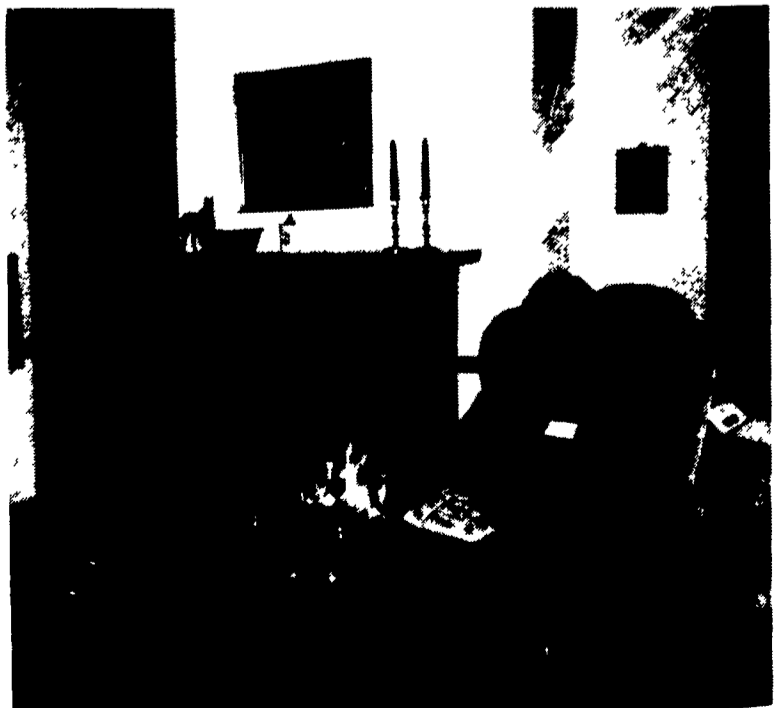
Nona Schwartzbeck served lunch on some of her fine pieces of silver and glassware.



Karen Hobson stenciled a pineapple border in the master bedroom. The bed was handcrafted.



Kathy Hoff is seated next to the fireplace made of stones from fields on the farm. The 4,000 square foot home has a cathedral ceiling in the living room.



Blue is the common thread which runs throughout the Hobson's home. Karen pauses for a moment in the formal living room.