

# Dottie Bard Offers Her Home & Dinner to Guests

QUARRYVILLE — It was cows, not cooking, that attracted Dottie Bard's interest in 4-H as a youngster growing up in southern Lancaster County. Now, however, it is Dottie's cooking ability that is going to benefit current 4-H'ers.

One of the items to be sold during the 4-H benefit auction at the Solanco Fairgrounds on August 19 is a prime rib dinner for four at Dottie's home south of Quarryville.

Dottie and her husband Ronald have been opening their home for family style dinners for the past two years, and Dottie thought offering the auctioned dinners

were a good way to benefit the 4-H program, a program she enjoyed being part of during her growing up years.

The lucky bidder will be treated to the family style dinner served in the dining room of her home, appealingly decorated in "country." In addition to the entree, guests can choose an appetizer, homemade soups, vegetables and any one of her many desserts. Her chocolate cake is the first pick of most guests, with carrot cake running a close second. The chocolate cake recipe is from her mother, and Dottie says with a smile, "My husband married me for my chocolate

cake."

Dottie acknowledges that she "talked about offering dinners in her home for a long time before she actually began doing it." She recalls, "I needed encouragement from Mother."

She took the plunge at the same time her husband Ronald resigned from his job with Farm Credit to work independently as a financial consultant. She ran an ad for two weeks in the local weekly paper, and then removed it because she had such a good response. Since then the word has spread strictly by word of mouth, so Dottie says it is always like having friends because visitors know someone who has been there.

Dottie works fulltime at the Murry Insurance Agency in Quarryville. She notes, "I have a list of things to do before I go to work and another one when I get home from work." It is not unusual for her to bake a cake before going to work while her husband turns ice cream.

The Bards only open their home to guests on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Saturday.

When they are having guests on Friday evening, Dottie frequently goes to the Lancaster Central Market to get fresh foods. She says, "I am there at 5:00 a.m., and it only takes me about 20 minutes. I know which standholders I want to visit, and they know what I want. My husband and I leave with our bags full very quickly."

Dottie comments, "I like to serve as many fresh fruits and vegetables as possible. I freeze all my own corn and only serve that. I make my own applesauce in the fall."

She notes, "I stick to Pennsylvania Dutch cooking. I don't do gourmet cooking, but I do prime rib and chicken cordon bleu which is not strictly Pennsylvania Dutch."

Dottie adds, "I do all the cooking. My husband serves, and with large groups my son helps as well as my brother and sister-in-law.



Visitors are often welcomed into the Bard home through this door. A mat inside the back door states this philosophy: "Back Door Friends are Best." Dottie enjoys the opportunity to meet new friends through her food service.

My parents enjoy washing dishes. It really is an 'all family' project."

She prides herself in having all fresh ingredients and cooking everything fresh on the day it is to be served. The secret to success is simply: "I make a list and do all preparing of food that day. I enjoy cooking."

They serve only one sitting, and only one group, so there is no feeling of being rushed. Often a group

uses their basement room to hold a meeting after eating the meal.

Dottie enjoys having people tell her that they like the "homey atmosphere," or the feeling that "they don't have to hurry." She rejects the idea of opening more evenings a week, saying, "Now it is fun and a hobby. It would become a job if I opened more often."

Dottie also enjoys visiting with

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Dottie convinced her parents to allow her to take marimba lessons instead of an accordion, and now she plays the marimba and the organ for her own enjoyment and in her church.

## Solanco Auction Benefits Local 4-H'ers

LANCASTER — Benefit auctions are very much a part of Lancaster County organizations, and the 4-H clubs of the county are in the second year of establishing their own auction tradition.

As a means of providing more opportunities to the County's nearly 4,000 4-H'ers, 4-H Agent Zoann Parker organized the first auction last summer which raised \$3300. This year she is hoping for a bigger, better auction with more funds being provided to assist the 4-H program.

The benefit auction will take place as part of the expanded three-day 4-H Fair being held this year at

the Solanco Fair Grounds in Quarryville on August 18, 19 and 20.

According to Parker, the auction will highlight the second evening of the Fair, Wednesday, August 19, and will begin at 6:00 p.m. Prior to the auction there will be a chicken barbecue sponsored by the Quarryville Lions Club and the Penn Manor 4-H club.

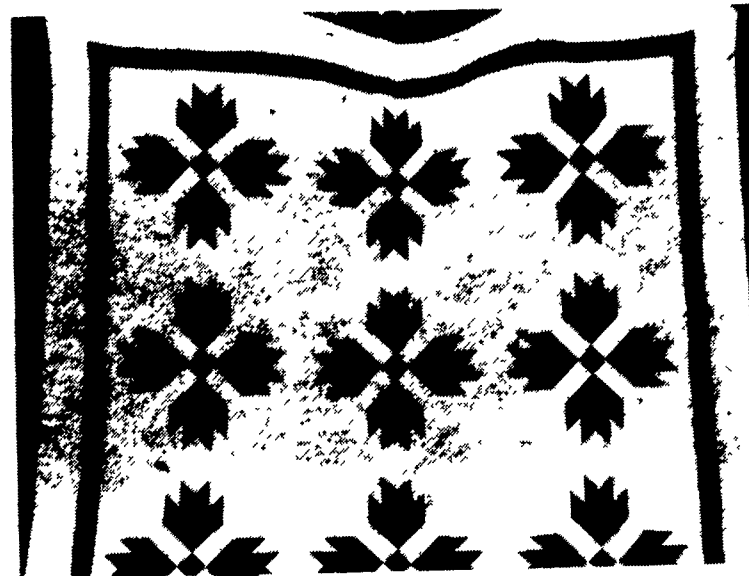
In this Penn State Nittany Lion Country, perhaps one of the most exciting items is a football autographed by Joe Paterno. Paterno, a strong supporter of young people, is one of the featured speaker at this year's Pennsylvania 4-H Week held at the University this

week.

Seven quilts are being featured this year, each one donated by an anonymous "Friend of 4-H." The quilts, fine examples of Lancaster County workmanship, are in a variety of colors, patterns and colors. There is a star log cabin quilt, a log cabin, a dated quilt with a "tree of life," a bear claw pattern and a red bird pattern. There are also several wall hangings, and a comforter, wall hanging and two matching pillows.

Benefit auctions have the reputation of having something for everyone, and this one is no excep-

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This quilt done in the Bear Claw pattern is one of seven that will be sold as part of the second 4-H Benefit Auction on August 19 at Solanco Fairgrounds. The quilt measures 90"x113" and was donated by an anonymous "friend of 4-H."



This is a sampling of some of the many items which will be sold to benefit Lancaster County 4-H'ers at the benefit auction to be held on August 19 at Solanco Fairgrounds in Quarryville. In addition to the tractors, and crossstitched pillows, there are a wide variety of wooden crafts being offered.

# Homestead Notes