

Yoders Triumph Over Illness

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took X-rays to see how effective the radiation had been.

"It took so long to hear the results," Wanda recalled. "We feared the worst."

But when doctors said X-rays showed no sign of a tumor, the Yoders rejoiced. Craig would not need chemotherapy.

At first, Craig returned for monthly checkups. Then in 1986, his severe headaches returned. Doctors thought they saw something on a CAT Scan, but they weren't certain if it was a tumor or scar tissue.

A tough choice

Doctors gave the Yoders a choice: Either put a shunt in his brain to drain the pressure build-up or try chemotherapy.

"That was the hardest decision," the Yoders said. "No matter what we chose Craig would suffer. If we chose the shunt that would drain into his stomach, and if malignant cells were present, it would spread through his whole body and kill him. If we chose chemotherapy, he would become deathly sick."

The Yoders chose chemotherapy. Wanda explained, "If we had chosen the shunt and Craig died,

then we'd regret that we hadn't chosen chemotherapy."

But Craig became so sick on the chemotherapy that they needed to discontinue it. "He had no balance and no control over anything," Wanda said.

The Yoders remained calm during this turmoil. Letters came from people they didn't know. Prayer chains for Craig's recovery were started in the U.S., Taiwan, Germany, and Norway.

Wanda told doctors, "He's going to be okay. I know he is."

She reported, "Doctors, who weren't convinced everything would turn out ok, patted my arm and said, Yes, Mrs. Yoder. We will do everything we can, but the rest is up to a higher power."

Since Craig couldn't continue with chemotherapy, doctors resorted to placing a shunt in his brain to drain the pressure. Immediately Craig felt better.

Amazed doctors told the Yoders, "You do have miracle care. Someone was watching out for him."

Three years have passed since Craig's recurrence. He returns to the surgeon and radiologist every six months for check-ups. Wan-

da said, "To this day if Craig complains of a headache or if he's away and the phone rings, I think of the worst. But I don't dwell on it. I remember all God did before and what he is doing each day."

Loren agreed. "You've got to be positive. You've got to expect the best."

Life today

Despite the time and concern Craig's illness demanded of the Yoder family, they still find time for many church and community responsibilities.

The family is heavily involved in dairy and beef promotion. Jaylene just ended her reign as Mifflin County dairy princess. She now works as the Beef Industry Representative. In the fall she will enter Penn State to major in dairy and animal science.

Wanda is dairy princess coordinator for 10 counties. She headed the local committee for five years.

Marcia, now 16, is a high school senior and works parttime in a local grocery.

Craig, fully recovered with no lasting side effects, enjoys swimming, volleyball and fishing. "I like farming," he said, "except on hot days."

Every six months Craig returns to the surgeon and to the radiologist for check-ups. The treatments did stunt his growth for awhile, but now he is beginning to grow. His hair, which he lost twice, isn't as thick as before. But the important thing is that Craig is healthy, with no damage from brain surgery and radiation.

Loren is director of the soil conservation board and sits on the Union Township zoning board.

The family enjoys hosting exchange students. They had students for one year and for six month terms from Norway and Germany, and several for shorter stays.

"The exchange students become part of our family," Wanda said. Loren flew to Germany to attend the wedding of one of their former students and now Wanda plans to visit them this year.

Students also return to visit the states with their families. The Norway students' parents has visited several times and refers to the Yoders 85-acre farm as "our farm."

Last year, the Yoders received the Dairy of Distinction award for their dairy farm that has been in the



Craig family for 35 years.

Although only a few refer to the Yoders place as "our farm," many view Craig as "our boy."

Daughter Jaylene said, "We couldn't have pulled through (the illness) without the understanding and help of others."

Her parents agreed. "The support of family, friends and even strangers was unbelievable," they said.

Last Call For Country Craft Exhibitors

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Exhibitors deadline has been extended two weeks for the 2nd annual Country Craft Market, September 24 through 28 at Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. Show director Kay Kishbaugh announced, "Last day for applications and deposits is now August 29."

According to Kishbaugh, the extension was made at the request of country artists and craftsmen.

"By signing up these late comers, we can achieve a more balanced show" she explained. But the show director notes a limit is still set on each category, with

space assigned on a first come, first served basis.

The goal is 100 qualified artists and craftsmen, Kishbaugh said. Thirty signed up for the inaugural show last year.

Country Craft market will be open Sunday, September 24, for the convenience of customers and collectors, it also was announced. No admission will be charged.

Remaining days of the craft show will be held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show that runs September 25 through 29, also at the Farm Show Complex. The dairy show is expected to draw

visitors from 30 states and Canadian provinces.

Kishbaugh emphasized that arts and crafts should have a country theme or design. Entries are now being accepted for photography, art, sculpture, jewelry, basketry, weaving, wood work, assemblages and broommaking. Also copper, tin, iron and leather crafts, folkart, stenciling, rag rugs, flow-

er arrangements, stained glass and calligraphy.

All items at the show must be handcrafted. No imports or kit-produced items are eligible.

For more details, write Charles Itle, Country Craft Show, c/o Farm Show Complex, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408. Or phone 717-787-2905.



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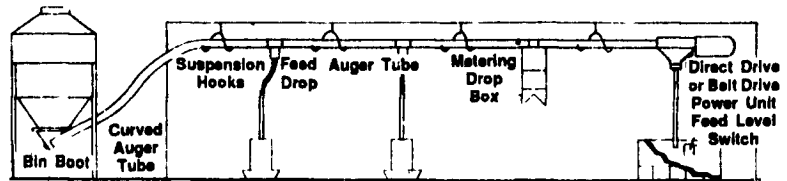


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