

# Farm Women Influence Julia Zahn's Home, Values

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — "A farm wife looks attractive, she lives in an attractively decorated home, and feeds her family nutritionally while instilling eternal values in her family," Julia Zahn said.

This petite woman with soft white hair and shining dark eyes, although never actually a farmer's wife considers herself a farm woman.

"We share the same values and the same love for rural living," she said.

The Society of Farm Women has influenced Julia's life so much that she said, "I believe I have Farm Women blood flowing through my veins."

Indeed, her mother, Barbara Moore, did what she could to see that the attributes of Farm Women were transmitted, if not through blood, through osmosis, to her daughter. Mrs. Moore helped organize the Society of Farm Women in Lancaster County, which grew to include more than a thousand members. A faithful supporter at Farm Women meetings, Mrs. Moore even attended a meeting the day that Julia was born. Julia grew up accompanying her mother to meetings, memories of many linger in Julia's mind.

"I remember one of the nicest activities was when the Farm

Women held a Christmas program for the Moravian Manor Home," Julia said.

Each member brought her children and grandchildren to help entertain the guests by telling stories, reciting poems, and singing.

At this meeting, Julia remembers her grandmother, who had 12 children, recited the poem, "Which Shall It Be?" It was a poem about the possibility of giving one of her children to a childless couple and why she could not part with any of her children.

Many lasting friendships were forged, when individual societies entertained other societies. It was an opportunity to meet people throughout the county, and at the state conventions, people across the state. When Julia became old enough to become a member of Farm Women, she already knew many of the members from accompanying her mother to the meetings.

The Moore family operated Pine Hill Fruit Farm in Lititz. It was there that Julia remembers her father giving her a banana apple tree of her own. Julia became known as the "apple girl," and women at market eagerly bought the sweet apples to make their snitz.

Julia graduated from Penn State with a degree in home economics. At college she met W. Dean Fyock

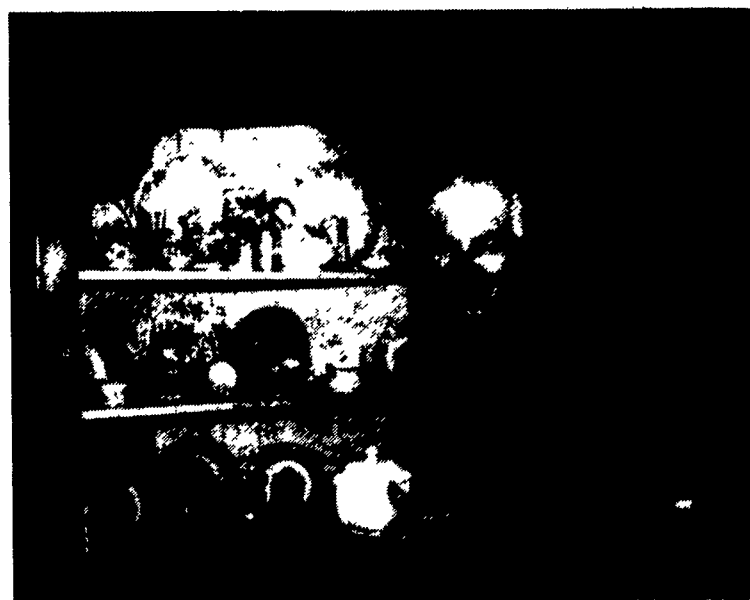
from Cambria County. The couple married. He worked as an agronomist and with the government with the on-the-farm training program in Franklin County, where Julia helped organize Farm Women Society 5. Because Dean had his own radio program about agronomy, Julia said that she became quite "famous" from her husband's radio exposure and she was often asked to appear as a judge or speaker for agriculture-related organizations.

The couple had one child, David. When he was 10, his father died from heart deterioration during the Asiatic Flu epidemic. After his death, Julia and her son returned to Lancaster County to be near family members. Immediately, Julia rejoined Lancaster Farm Women Society 1. To support her son and herself, Julia taught school at Shippensburg University during the summer months and at Lancaster school during the other months.

When Julia's father, Martin, died in 1960, Julia and her son moved in with her mother at the Lititz orchard.

Julia was widowed nine years before she married George Zahn and moved to Chester County. They were only married five years when he died.

Julia said, "Having two husbands who died, taught me that relationships on earth are only



Although Julia Zahn treasures her heirloom china, she allows guests to choose a teacup for sipping herb tea during a visit with her.

temporary, but it's my relationship with the Lord that continues."

Her attitude, Julia said, is not to complain about life. "Whatever happens, God sent, so we go on from there."

After her husband's death, Julia remained in Chester County because she had made many friends in the area and was teaching music in a Christian school.

"I like to think that lots of people love music because they were in my class," Julia said.

Another reason that Julia chose to remain in Chester County, she said, was because "Lancaster County isn't the only wonderful place to be."

Although she no longer teaches full time, Julia teaches music to 4- and 5-year-olds in a Christian school.

Julia keeps her membership in the Lancaster Society of Farm Women although there is a Chester Society that meets nearby.

"At first, I kept my membership with Society 1 because I went back home to take mother to the meetings."

Mrs. Moore died two years ago, three weeks before her 106th birthday. Her mind was alert until her death. Julia said, "She was beating me at Parcheesi and other games two days before she died."

One of Mrs. Moore's great loves was interior decorating. In fact, two weeks before she died, she had Julia rearrange the living room furniture.

Julia's two-story home in West Chester is filled with antiques and family heirlooms. She has all the furniture that her parents purchased when they were first married. Julia, an accomplished seamstress, has made many of the draperies and crewel wall hangings and other accessories. Numerous sets of china and tea cups from

her mother are stored in antique corner cupboards. Julie tells delightful stories about the family's heirlooms. She even has clothing from her parents' childhood, her mother's wedding dress, and other special occasion pieces.

Julia continues to travel to each Farm Women meeting because of the strong friendships forged in the group. Although Julia is president of Society 1 and appointed chaplain for the state organization, she finds time to be a board member for Calvary Home and on the missions committee. She is a speaker at many church retreats, a member of the Ridly Community Chorus, a member of a sewing group called the Klub, and she teaches music one day a week at a school.

Here is one of Julia's favorite recipes. Because the batter may be kept refrigerated, muffins may be made on the spur of the moment for unexpected guests. A gracious hostess, Julia serves the muffins on antique china and allows guests to choose an antique teacup in which to drink herb tea garnished with orange slices, just like her mother taught her to do.

## SIX-WEEK BRAN MUFFIN BATTER

Combine in a large bowl:

16-ounce box raisin bran

3 cups sugar

5 cups flour

5 teaspoons baking soda

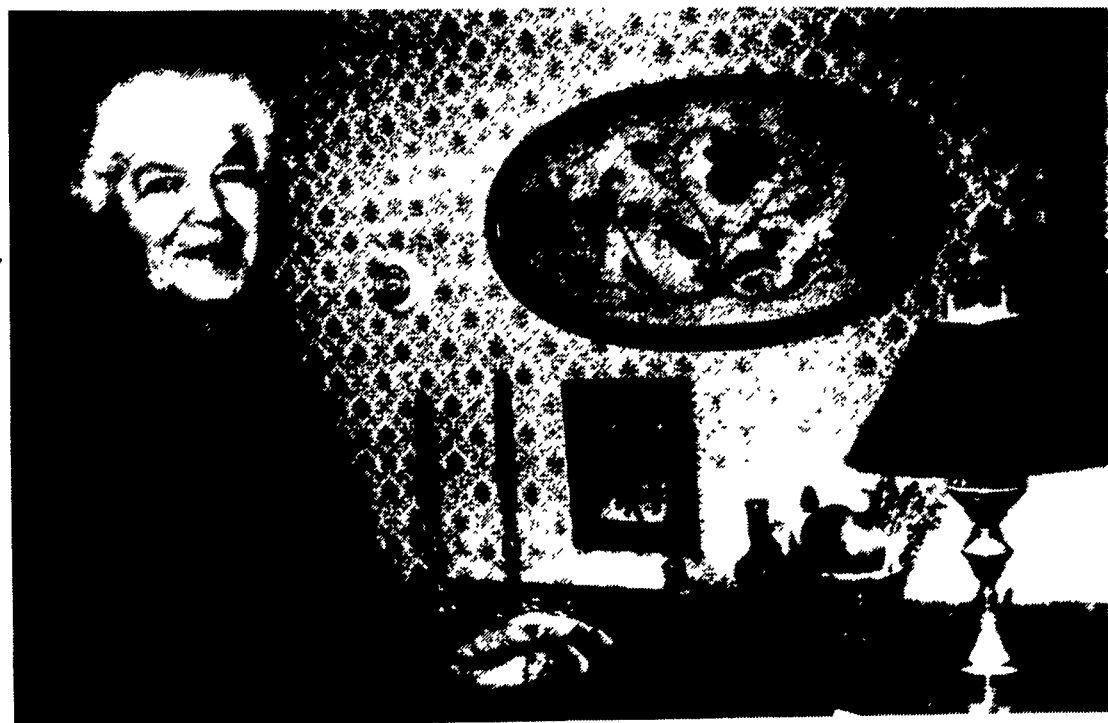
2 teaspoons salt

1 cup shortening, melted

4 eggs, beaten

1 quart buttermilk

Mix together dry ingredients first; add beaten eggs, shortening, and buttermilk. Stir well. Store covered in refrigerator for up to six weeks. DO NOT STIR BATTER. Dip batter into greased muffin tins or paper-lined cupcake tins. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes.



The crewel picture behind Julia shows off her finely-stitched needlework. Julia said, "A farm women looks attractive, lives in an attractively decorated home, and feeds her family nutritionally while instilling eternal values in her family."



Julia is the daughter of the late Barbara Moore, well known for her work in Farm Women and for living to be almost 106 years of age. Julia sits on the sofa, which her parents furnished their home in the beginning of the century.

## Lil' Miss Needed For Lebanon County

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Five-year old Bethany Heagy is currently reigning as Lebanon County's Lil' Miss. Bethany's term ends in June and the Lebanon County Dairy Promotion Committee is looking for a bright, enthusiastic, charming little girl to be Lebanon County's Lil' Miss for 1992.

Contestants need to be 5 to 7 years old. They also must be the daughter of a dairy farmer or dairy

industry employee.

The responsibilities of the Lil' Miss winner include public appearances and dairy promotion functions. Many times she will assist the reigning dairy princess and dairy maid in promoting dairy products in the community.

Anyone who knows an eligible young girl who would like to compete for the title of Lil' Miss of Lebanon County is asked to contact Mrs. Barbara Lentz 717-933-4786 before April 13.