

# Jersey Cows, Roses, Wildlife Inspire Artist To Keep Sketching

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PEACH BOTTOM (Lancaster Co.) — "Once you had color, you'll never go back to black and white," Doris Hough said.

She is not referring to television but to her "beloved Jersey cows." Doris and her husband George purchased their first Jersey cow in 1959. At that time, the Houghs lived on seven acres in New Jersey and bought the cow for the family's milk supply.

"But we got quite caught up with our Jersey cow and built up a herd by buying calves," Doris said.

After 15 years on a New Jersey farm, the family moved to their current farm in Peach Bottom.

"Why would anyone want to move anywhere else when they saw this area?" Doris asked.

In addition to the rolling hills in a secluded area of Peach Bottom, Doris has added to the area's beauty by planting roses, nasturtiums, orchids, and perennials that are ablaze with color.

"Years ago, my eight-year-old son had wanted to plant a flower garden for a 4-H project," Doris said. "That was the first time I planted a flower and things sort of mushroomed from there," said Doris who now specializes in planting old varieties of roses. Her whole front yard is a glorious mass of fragrant roses. She has 64 varieties.

Inside, her home brims with paintings and sketchings of flowers, fox hunts, quail, horses, and outdoor scenes.

"I'm getting ready for an art



A popular piece of Doris's art work is this cheese box featuring a Jersey cow. A rub out method is used with burnt umber and turpentine.

exhibit," Doris said. Her impressive array of artwork will be on exhibit at the Lancaster General Hospital in October. She expects to have 30 to 40 paintings ready by then, but some of her favorites will not appear in the exhibit because she is only allowed to exhibit pictures to sell. Many of her paintings are dear to her heart and she cannot part with them.

"That is a picture of a fox hunt that I went on in New Jersey," she said. "I want to get a horse and ride again." She points to another picture, "That's a picture of the way our New Jersey farm used to look."

Her explanations for her many paintings are punctuated with hearty laughs and exclamations of "Oh, there is a story behind that one."

Doris has taken art classes with several individual artists. "Fortunately, I took classes with an impressionist and he taught me to get things down fast," Doris said as she flipped through stacks of sketch books. "Pigs are neat to sketch. And I like to attend dog shows to find a lot of neat subjects."

Of course, there are plenty of sketches of her beloved Jerseys and also of horses. She plans to use these sketches for oil paintings — and possibly book illustrations — if she finds time.

"There's just so many things I love to do," she said. "I'm just interested in everything."

Doris made a New Year's resolution to paint everyday.

"I haven't kept my resolution, but, at least I'm painting more that I used to paint," she said.

One of the reasons that she is painting more often is because she has more time after a traumatic year last year.

"Last year was a bad year for me," Doris said.

She was injured when she fell in the barn. She required 32 stitches and had four teeth knocked out in addition to being trampled by the heifer herd that spooked when they heard her fall.

As if that injury was not bad enough, Doris was hospitalized with cancer, stung in the face by a mosquito resulting in an affected mosquito bite, and almost losing her mother who suffered from a massive ulcer.

But the very worse event was



The easel is always ready in Doris's kitchen for her to take a few minutes to add some touches to the canvases she is preparing for an art show.



DORIS HOUGH

Many of Doris's sketches reflect life on the farm.

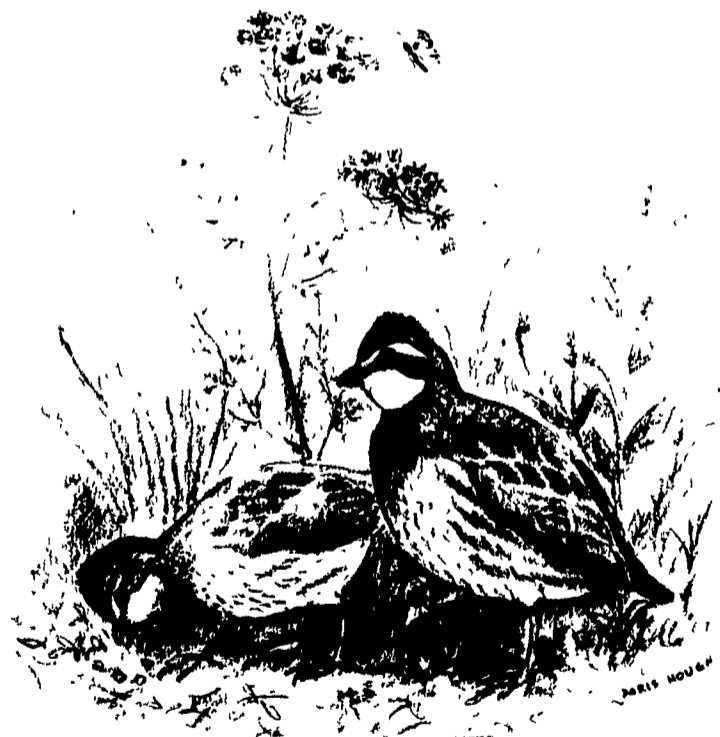
losing her Jersey herd.

"I had a mastectomy because of cancer but that didn't bother me nearly as much as losing the cows," Doris said.

Because her husband George is 80 years old, the cow herd was sold last year.

"It was just too much work for him to do two times a day," Doris said. Before her illness, she had been helping with the milking, calves, registration, and showed locally.

"Since the cows are gone, it overshadows everything. My whole lifestyle has changed," Dor-



DORIS HOUGH

Doris sketched these quail that are reproduced on note cards.

is lamented. "They were all my mourning losing the herd," Doris said.

"You better believe Jerseys are very nice or I wouldn't still be mourning losing the herd," Doris said. "Jerseys are efficient. They give

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This oil painting shows the Houghs' Jersey herd on their former New Jersey farm.

# Homestead Notes