

# Jill Harnish

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Last year, she was assigned to draw a self portrait. She did a pencil drawing of herself as a veterinarian featured on *Time* magazine as Woman of the Year.

Since then, her dream to become a vet has declined. The deciding factor was the day she fainted while watching a vet perform a twisted stomach operation.

Jill has the distinction of beginning a newspaper before she entered kindergarten. The paper, called Nine Points News, began when the family's veterinarian handed the carbon papers to Jill when making a call.

Although Jill could not write,

she asked her sister to write down stories that she told her about family and neighbors.

The neighbors enjoyed reading Jill's newspaper and soon she got subscriptions from not only neighbors but from those at a distance. The paper, published sporadically, contains exaggerated articles such as the one about a local township official who attempted suicide while on a family vacation, a Brownie Bake-Off contest, directions to make Christmas cards, a dating service, ads, and other "hot" community news.

Recently, Jill started to breed Border Collies. She is amazed at

the intelligence shown by Border Collies, which are used to bring the cows from the meadow and to herd sheep.

In between helping on the farm, Jill works 15 hours weekly for a local hardware store.

Jill teaches a two-year-old Sunday school class at Bart Mennonite Church where she is also a member of the youth group.

In addition to having 12 cows of her own, Jill raises seven Suffolk market lambs, three pigs, and one steer.

#### Mother's Duties

Arlene keeps the books on the farm. Known as the creative idea person, Arlene has turned a wash house into her craft room where

she dries flowers, weaves on a loom, weaves baskets, and makes crafts to sell at Christmas. She spends hours in her flower garden nurturing perennials and herbs and does the yard work.

Arlene serves as a Republican committeewoman, is a member of Farm Women Society 15, and helps on the farm. She has been a 4-H leader, Girl Scout leader, and Sunday School teacher.

#### Ed's Philosophies

Ed is taking a year off from community duties, but he had been township supervisor for six years, served on the Solanco Advisory Board, was a previous president of

the Solanco Young Farmers, and this year was named Conservation Cooperative Farmer of the Year.

While Ed still considers farming his hobby, he said, "It's only enjoyable as long as we are making a decent living. Farming isn't as profitable as it used to be. I used to have money to buy toys now I can't."

Ed believes that the economy will force those who don't enjoy farming to get out. He said, "Dairy farming is too much work and too dirty work for a guy who isn't making money to stay in it. He isn't going to get up early seven days a week and get manure on him if he doesn't like cows."

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 11, 1992-B3

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