

Rabbits Sent To West Africa

NEW WINDSOR, Md. — On Monday, June 14, thirty New Zealand White rabbits left Dulles International Airport, bound for the town of Bamenda in the West African nation of Cameroon. The rabbits, all excellent quality breeding stock, will become a part of the "Health for All" Rabbit Project, a program supported by Heifer Project International (HPI).

HPI began working with rabbits in Cameroon in 1981 as a part of a program including a broad range of livestock, from dairy cattle to poultry. The group of families

receiving some of the first rabbits formed a group with the motto, "health for all". Their goal was to encourage small holder rabbit production which would provide low-cost, high-protein meat for rural families.

People living in this area had been dependent on wild animals or "bush meat" as their primary source of protein, but such animals were becoming rare as the population grew. Many families were interested in starting to raise rabbits because they can be fed on weeds and leaves from what is grown on the farm. The rabbits produced can be used as a source of protein, and sold for cash.

The project group began cooperating with St. Mary's Home Economics Center, a Catholic school for girls, married women, young mothers and handicapped women. The school offers home economics courses to women of all religions, emphasizing community development through encouraging village extension activities. Graduates of the school teach families and communities improved health, sanitation and nutrition, and encourage people to consider raising rabbits as a source of protein. To date, over 5,100 people have benefitted from the program, and about 900 families are raising rabbits directly as a result of this project.

The need for improving the

quality of the rabbits available has become increasingly clear over the last few years. The project leaders designed a breeding program that would benefit all participants within a short time, and as a result, HPI agreed to provide the breeding stock necessary to bring about the projected genetic improvement.

All families receiving rabbits must first attend a training course and demonstrate their knowledge in rabbit management and care. Each family is given 2 to 3 months to develop low-cost rabbit hutches and to undertake small scale pasture improvement before being supplied rabbits.

Heifer Project International works in partnership with others to alleviate hunger, poverty and environmental degradation by helping families become self sufficient for food and income. HPI development includes animals, training and technical assistance to low income families in 37 countries and 12 states within the United States. All families receiving assistance are required to "pass on the gift" of what they have received, usually by passing on offspring of their animals to other families in their community.

For more information, contact Heifer Project International, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776, or call (410) 635-8740.



Lancaster Society 1

The Lancaster County Society of Farm Women No. 1 met in the home of Julia Zahn for their June meeting. Ruth Huber served as hostess.

Following greetings by president Fay Garman, Viola Wolfe led members in devotions. She read Luke 22 and a selection from "The Daily Bread." Following the Pledge of Allegiance, members sang two songs, led by Julia Zahn and accompanied by Martha Jane Brubaker on the piano.

Roll call by Harriet Fasnacht was answered by stating "A Safety First for the Kitchen."

The following committee reports were given: for Ways & Means, Dorothy Hollinger announced that an auction will be held at the next meeting. For Sunshine Committee, Sarah Weber reported on the visits that she and Barbara Becker had made. Martha Jane Brubaker noted that the next breakfast is scheduled for June 17

At 9 a.m. at the Country Table. For the Social Committee, Ann Landis reported on the plans for the annual picnic to be held on June 28 at 5 p.m. in the Akron Park.

President Garman gave the following report on the County Board meeting: Christ Home at Paradise was the project selected for 1993; Farm Women's Day will be held on October 14 at The Dutch Apple; members are being asked to contribute to the heifer project which was started by State President Arlene Witman; the county picnic will be held on Tuesday, August 3 at 12 noon in Hoffman's Park in Quarryville. Each person is to bring a covered dish and place setting. Seven hundred people attended the Spring Rally on May 24 in Hagerstown, Md.

Ginny Happenberger, a former teacher in Japan, was the guest speaker for this meeting.

Lancaster Society 14

Lancaster Society 14 was entertained by Society No. 31 at the Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren on April 19. The program included a reading by Milly Groff, a creative Fashion Show and delicious refreshments.

On April 28 members took a bus trip to Cape May, New Jersey for the whale watch. It was a beautiful clear, sunny day. It was educational and fun, with a lecture about marine life and shore birds. Members saw a lot of dolphins — but no whales. The Society had dinner on the way home at the Country Restaurant in New Jersey.

Members met on May 12 at the home of Pauline Stoltzfus. Ada Rohrer had devotions. Each member brought a flower to plant outdoors in answer to roll call. The plants were numbered and each member took a different flower home. The show and tell programs included many interesting new crafts and old antiques.

The Spring Rally was held May 26 at the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown, Maryland. Seven ladies from our Society went along by bus. It was dress up day so we wore hats and gloves. The theme was "Golden Opportunities." It was the 50th Anniversary for the Franklin Co. Farm Women. There were 200 ladies present for the meeting and the luncheon. The program consisted of group singing, a soloist, a speaker, a harpist and the awarding of the door prizes. Members stopped on the way home for a buffet supper at the Country Table.

On June 9 members traveled by car to Manheim to have lunch at the Lyndon Diner. From there members traveled to see the farm home and the Antique House, the home of Nancy Diffenderfer on

Berks Society 1

The June meeting of Berks County Society of Farm Women Group 1 was held at the home of Evelyn Heacock. President Ruth Walters presided at the meeting at which 14 members were present.

As a tribute to our youth program, Scott Rhoads, a junior at Oley High School, made a presentation on his trip to Europe as a member of the Honor Band and Chorus of the 1992 European Concert Tour which featured "The Sound of America".

The July meeting will be a doggie roast to be held at the home of Lillian Hetrick.

York Society 26

York Farm Women 26 held the June meeting at Coakley's Restaurant at New Cumberland. Mary Lantz was hostess. The group took in two new members.

Group 26 will be entertained by Group 1 at Rocky Ridge Park on June 16.

Five members attended the Spring Rally at Hagerstown, MD. A bus trip is planned for September to Hawk Mountain.

The next meeting will be at Alexander's Restaurant at York where members will entertain Group 20 July 13.



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