



With the quilt presented to Doris Thomas by friends are front to back, left, Connie Rutt, Mae Hostetter, and Alletta Schadler. Right, Doris, Kathryn Fry, and Brenda Stallman.

Doris Thomas Honored At Reception

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The well-deserved accolades for 30 plus years of service to education and the community were given to Doris Thomas, retiring Lancaster County Extension home economist at the reception held at the Host Resort last Sunday afternoon.

Doris is well known to *Lancaster Farming* readers for her weekly column "Have You Heard" that appeared each week beginning in 1964.

Phrases such as illustrious carrier in education; outstanding job in efforts to better people's lives; most popular women in the county; and a role model for all people, are representative of the reflections presented by a number of Doris' friends and professional associates.

One especially fine tribute came from Janice Wagner, a home maker graduate of the Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program EFNEP. Ms. Wagner said that she had initiated a cooking program in her home more than 20 years ago so that her five children and the children of neighbors could have a balanced diet. She told of her trepidation at the thought of hosting a well-educated person such as Doris Thomas. Ms. Wagner said because of her family obligations she was not able to complete her high school education until later in life.

"I actually had a grandson when I graduated," Wagner said. "So this lady (Doris) is coming and I'm shaking. And when she came in, I poured her a cup of coffee, and she said 'Janice, relax.' And I felt I knew her for years. She has always been like that. I'll get upset and she will say 'Calm down, you can do it.' She really has been a good friend to me and to everyone. Whether you are poor, rich, black or white, it doesn't matter. Doris will say 'You can do it.'"

Many persons paid tribute to Doris' work. Donald Evans and Paul Wangness brought messages from Penn State University and the Capital Region respectively. Virginia Ranck told of experiences in 4-H while wearing an outfit made in one of Doris' sewing clubs as a youth. Lee Glatfleter reviewed Doris' work with the American Heart Association, and the Rev. Robert Muise, told of her work with the St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Elizabeth Specht joined

Ms. Wagner in reflections from EFNEP past and present.

Sherri Heller brought a tribute from the county commissioners; and Rep. John Barley read a proclamation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Patricia Powley brought gifts from the Pennsylvania Association of Home Economists; Mae Hostetter, the Epsilon Sigma Phi; Brenda Stallman, the Pennsylvania Extension Para Professional Association; Kathryn Fry, the Lancaster County Farm Women's Society, and Connie Rutt presented the roses, quilt, and a check from the Friends of Doris Thomas (everyone who was present).

John Schwartz, Lancaster County extension director, announced that a portrait of Doris will hang in the kitchen of the Farm and Home Center because this kitchen was her dream come true and because of the many years she "mothered" over it.

Alletta Schadler, Lebanon County extension director, was mistress of ceremonies.

But with all the accolades, maybe the poem by S. Joan Hershey in her reflections from the Lancaster County Farm Women Society best summarized the feelings of everyone present.

The poem is as follows:

*To Doris With Love:
Doris we are here to celebrate
your special day,
For many have gathered in your
honor to gladly say,
That the word is clearly known
from coast to coast,
Everybody everywhere thinks
you are the absolute most.*

*You have served this county and
certainly far beyond,
By always being ready, willing
and able to respond.*

*No one was ignored with the
simplist of questions,
Your answers over the years
received honorable mention.*

*Dedicated, loyal and tireless,
are just a very few—*

*Words that express our sincere
appreciation too.*

*There was always much to do
and so little time,*

*For you managed to regularly
speak on radio prime.*

*Many awards and honors you
have rightly received,*

*You clearly moved ahead with
what you believed.*

*Locally and nationally you
served us and others well,*

*No wonder our hearts with pride
and admiration swell.*

*From food facts, to sewing, to
nutrition you would advise,*

*And all these wonderful ideas at
one very low price.*

*You have kept up with all the
many changes all these years,*

*Even computers could not fill
you with any fears.*

*You were always there to help
farm women too,*

*With delightful programs and
recipes and a new stew.*

*Each fall found you at our county
convention too,*

*We are grateful for our lasting
friendship too.*

*Christmas in October was a
really great time for all,*

*Everyone who attended them
surely had a ball.*

*Thanks for the opportunity to
serve food for the bunch,*

*We made some money and they
had an inexpensive lunch.*

*May our motto "for happiness"
be your treasure,*

*For you have touched many lives
in great measure.*

*You have enriched lives with
dignity and poise,*

*So we'll clap our hands with
some appreciation noise.*

Homespun Linen

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Using authentic tools and period equipment, Brother Johannes of the Christiansbrunn Kloster, will demonstrate how flax was traditionally processed in Colonial-era Pennsylvania and how it is still processed in his community. The program, part of a series, will be held at the Hershey Museum on Monday, March 21, at 1 p.m. A half-hour slide program showing the entire process from the plant-

ing of seeds to the finished product will be used to introduce the demonstration. The program is designed to help visitors to better understand the uses for the flax production tools housed in the museum's collections and to gain a sense of the process of textile production in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The program is free with museum admission. For information call (717) 534-3439.

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