

# 90-Year-Olds Just Keep Working

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and vegetables and no fried food or pork since the children were young.

The Harnishes had five children, three sons, and two daughters. One daughter died from an automobile accident in 1980. They now have 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Son John farms a 200-acre farm with 100-head of milking cows.

They refer to the different farms as #1, #2, and #3. Number 1 is the 90-acre farm Clarence and Esther moved to when they first set up housekeeping. They lived on it for 45 years, when they built a house on Farm #2, which they had purchased in 1965.

Harnish sold his dairy herd 22 years ago, but continued raising steers until this year.

Harnish thrives on hard work and finds the winter months a little

too slow for his liking. During the winter, he is always happy to go for parts for his son who is busy with 100 head of milking cows. Harnish also attends educational events on soil, beef feeding, weed control, and other agricultural-related subjects.

John said, "My dad enjoys going to meetings and he has more time to do it than I do. So he goes and tells me what I need to do."

John also allows his dad to choose the seed for planting.

Unlike most folks the ages of the Harnishes, the couple has never been to Florida.

"Maybe we'll go this year," he said.

In 1967, they did go to Israel and surrounding countries for three weeks.

But rather than vacationing, the Harnishes prefer ordinary work days filled with plowing, canning, and enjoying the land.



## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

The summer seems to be going by so rapidly. It is almost September.

The other week my husband and I spent two days in the mountains of Clinton County. We met big log trucks on narrow and dusty roads. It is interesting to see the variety of cabins that are built for hunting clubs.

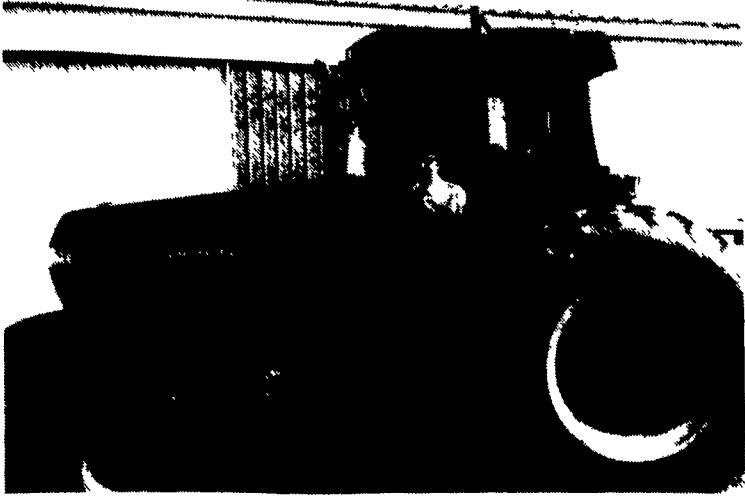
One morning was spent fishing in Bald Eagle State Park. The fish must not have been hungry as we did not even get a nibble in three hours. However, we did come home with two nice catfish as another couple gave them to us as they do not eat them. We really enjoyed them when we got home.

Now I am getting the results of planting a 100-foot row of baby lima beans. It surely took me a while to pick eight gallon of them. And, then almost as long to hull

them.

My husband had a different job. He planted two elderberry bushes two years ago and now they are bearing. He surprised me by stemming them and making an apple-elderberry pie — his first. I tried to stay out of the kitchen so that I would not give too many suggestions. He asked a few questions but mostly managed on his own. The crust was too rich and crumbly but OK for a first try.

Recently, we attended a big, beautiful wedding of a relative. It was an all day affair and we got to meet cousins that we had not seen for ages. Sometimes the resemblance to parents is uncanny. They say that blood is thicker than water and I suppose it is true. Our biggest wish is for the young couple to have a long and a happy life together.



Instead of working 15-18 hours a day like he used to, 90-year-old Clarence Harnish said that now he only works a 10-hour day.

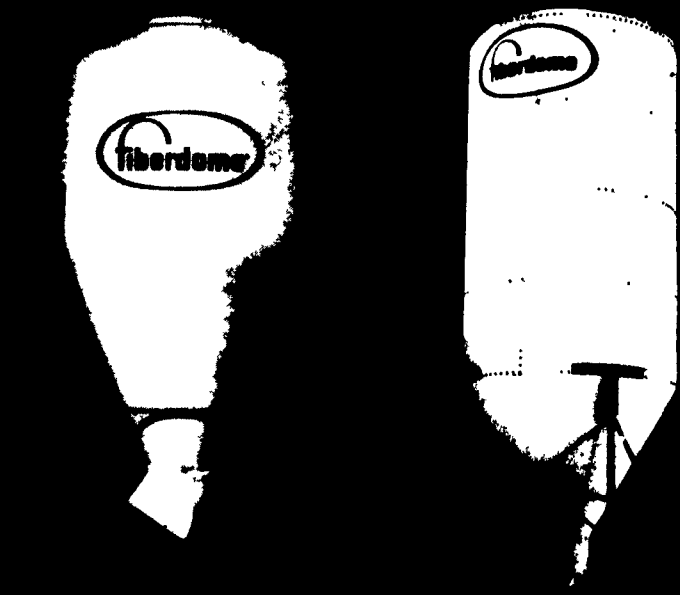
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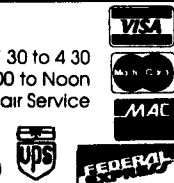
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