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standing among beautiful cows in the long rows down through the station barn made an impressive show. Owners Gerald and Patricia Carr and family, Michael, Paul, Daniel, Lisa, and Austin, farm 300 acres of corn, alfalfa, and oats. Their 95 milk cows average 24,487m, 904f, 804p. BAA is 106.3, and they have received the PBR Award for the last four years.

"At Carrdale we try to breed cows with correct functional type that are also a pleasure to look at and work with throughout the year," Gerald said. "Using a combination of the Red Book and aAa, we try to mate cows to the more popular bulls but not necessarily the top 'numbers bulls.' Udders and feet and legs receive strong emphasis although we try to maintain a well-balanced individual with enough strength and capacity to consume the feed needed for high production."

The Carr family started their farm operation with few assets and borrowed money. The present show place and excellent herd of registered Holsteins is an example of what can be done with determination and hard work. A sign on a public building in Davidsville, seen as the bus passed by, summarized the Carrdale philosophy: "Opportunity is often dressed up in work clothes."

MISHLER HOLSTEINS

At Mishler Holstein farm, Hollsopple, Mark and Helen Mishler concentrate on quality with a relatively small herd of 45 registered Holstein milk cows. The herd was started when Mark and Helen joined the cows they each owned when they got married. Today this outstanding herd has a BAA of 108.9 on 42 head. This includes 9 EX, 32 VG, and none lower than 80 points.

The Mishlers farm of 200 acres of alfalfa, grass, corn, and oats. They try to also have the best crops possible to make milk with their small herd.

"My philosophy on breeding cattle is quite simple," Mark said. "First and foremost, we must have a top type bull that excels in superior stature, strength, and thurl width. Once we have the framework, we then focus on breeding for outstanding udders with excellent udder clearance. As far as feet and legs go, we never really breed for that but instead think that management of the cows play a more criti-



Among the Berkley host family to greet the tour group are from left, Michele, Chip, and Drew Romesberg; Todd Imhoff, and Lewis Berkley.

cal role. Keeping he calves and heifers on concrete instead of a manure pack seems to have kept our troubles limited. And as far as milk and components go, the results we get from using the high type bulls are very pleasing to us."

This impressive show place has been designated a "Dairy of Distinction" by the Pennsylvania Farm Beautification Program.

HILLMONT FARM

At Hillmont Farm, Berlin, the Peach cow family takes your eye. Not only are these beautiful cows housed in free stalls and milked in a parlor, they boast of the first fifth generation Excellent in the herd and have actual records to 29,660m, 1152f, 1010p.

The farm is owned by Jay and Kirk Hillegass and family, Connie, Tine, Juliana, Luke, and Alec.

"Our ultimate goal is to breed

the multiple generation excellent cow with index that shows well," Kirk said. "This is not easy! It takes a very strong cow family to do this. The most important thing is to match the bull and cow to the best of your ability. It helps to get several opinions. In staying up with the index system, we find ourselves flushing our virgin heifers to the newest hot sire or even a young sire. I cannot stress enough the importance of the "cow family."

BERKLINE HOLSTEINS

At Berkline Holstein Farm, Berlin, Lewis and Barbara Berkley and daughters, Michele, Nancy, and Gina have developed 36 EX cows and this type shows through in the 70 cows that stand in the tie-stall barn. Of course, not only do they look good, the latest DHIR year shows the herd average of



The host family at Carrdale Holstein Farm are from left, Dan, Austin, Lisa, Gerald, Patricia, Michael, and Paul.

25,558m, 1002f, 843p. This fifth generation farm is a Century Farm that has 620 acres in two farms with 250 tillable and 220 in woodland.

Lewis told the group that Somerset County is often referred to as

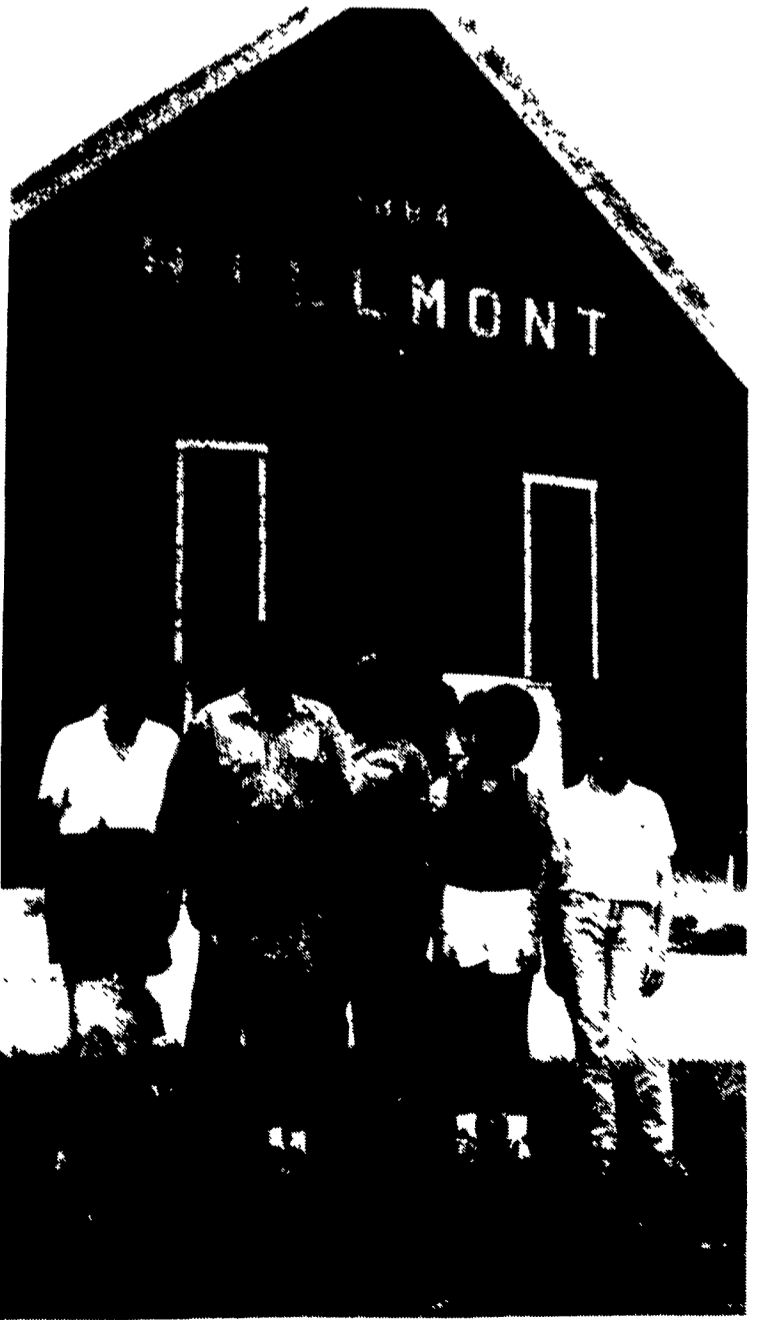
the "Roof Garden of Pennsylvania," and he said the county has a good climate to develop cows. The cooler summer makes the cows more comfortable.

"We put a great deal of empha-

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Merle and Esther and Mark and Helen Mishler were a host family for the national convention tour of Somerset County.



The Hillegass host family at Hillmont Farm are, from left, Tine, Kirk, Luke, Alec, Jay, Connie, Lexi Huston, and Liana.