

# Once A Refugee, Now A Farm Wife

(Continued from Page B2)

After eight years of schooling, Ruth worked in a weaving and knitting factory.

When Ruth was 23 years old, she married one of those Pax American boys — Kenneth Yoder. After they were married, they returned to the U.S. in 1960 and settled in Grantsville, Md. They live on a 237-acre dairy farm that has been in the Yoder family for many generations. The Yoders milk 80 cows on their farm named Cornucopia. The prefix for their registered Hosteins is Schoenenberg.

Ruth's husband Kenneth is also an ordained minister at Oakdale Mennonite Church.

The Yoders have seven children, who are now adults. Heidi Dwight and Annetta help on the farm and take courses at a nearby community college. The Yoders' oldest daughter Sylvia married to Bill Mast and their three children also live on a dairy farm and milk about 120 Holsteins. Isolde is a secretary and has two children. Karen and Marvin Tice recently had a baby, Dirk and his wife Karin have a construction business and are expecting their first baby in April.

"My experience in a refugee camp taught me what it is to get along with a lot less. I still don't like to throw things away," Ruth said.

"We raised our children diffe-

rently, too. They often recall that when they came home from school, they were never allowed more than two slices of bread for a snack. Although they complained then, now they say they are grateful because none are overweight," Ruth said.

Memories of the camp continue to influence Ruth. She said, "In camp, we had turnips brought in by the truckload. The turnips were cooked in everything. I haven't eaten them since."

In Denmark, benches were the only seats available. When the Yoders had seven children, Ruth's husband remarked that they should have a bench to sit on at the table because it allows more people to sit in a smaller area.

Ruth was aghast. "I didn't want a bench in my house because it reminded me of camp," she said.

Since Ruth was the only one of her family to move to America, she and her husband returned to Germany many times to visit family members. Her father died in 1988, and her mother last year. This year, for the first time, her two brothers and two sisters plan to visit Ruth in Maryland.

Ruth and her siblings have never forgotten the hope extended to her family through the help of MCC.

"Until you live through it (being a refugee), you cannot realize how such help is appreciated." She said, "Besides providing material help, the MCC personnel had a big influ-

ence on our spiritual lives by showing us the way to Christ."

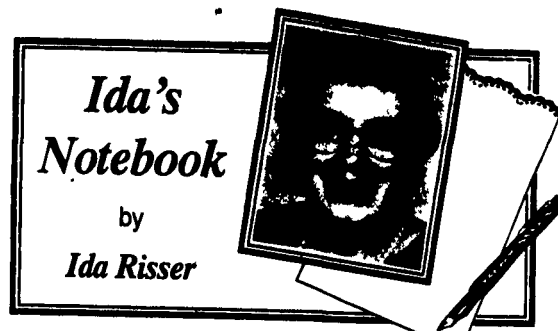
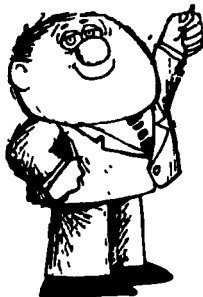
The Relief Sale is one way that thousand of people work together to raise money for families like Ruth's. The nonprofit event includes a heifer sale, house against hunger, arts, crafts, flowers, handmade quilts, wall hangings, antiques, homemade food, and many other items.

Proceeds from the Pennsylvania Relief Sale are channeled through MCC, which has about 950 workers in the U.S. and 50 countries.

The sale held annually the past 39 years has provided \$7,719,450 for relief.

The sale will be held Friday evening, April 5, and Saturday, April 6, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

All donations of useable items in good condition will be appreciated. For more information about the relief sale, call Esther and John Jacob Rutt at (717) 354-2471.



We had a pleasant visit with our daughter and her family in Texas. As a snowstorm was coming, we went to the Philadelphia Airport earlier than we expected to. Then our plane was more than an hour late leaving the airport and it had to be de-iced before takeoff.

As it was nighttime, we could see the lights of small towns and big cities as we attained an altitude of 31,000 feet. The Dallas/Fort Worth Airport was surrounded by more lights than you can imagine.

Our daughter and grandson met us. When we got to their home, we were met by two big dogs and two big cats. As they were house pets we had to get accustomed to living with them and they with us.

We were given a tour of Proctor and Gamble's "Folgers Coffee Plant" where our daughter works. All of their product is decaffeinated here. There were many silos filled with coffee beans. The caffeine that is removed is sold to soft drink companies. The company is very safety conscious and we had to wear safety goggles, hair nets

and also remove all of our rings and watches. If only we were half as safety conscious on our farms, there would not be so many accidents.

We visited the Red River Museum in Sherman and learned about the historical background of the area. We also drove to Denison and saw the birthplace of Dwight David Eisenhower. Ike was born there in 1890. It was a modest two-story frame house. He was one of seven sons and his father worked for the railroad.

A Rev. Lancaster preached at the Methodist Church where we attended in Sherman. He jokingly told the congregation that Lancaster, Pennsylvania was named for him. In the afternoon we took a walk with the two big dogs on leashes. They pulled so hard to make us walk faster. It was cold in Texas when we were there, although some fruit trees had already bloomed. The redbud trees in the woods around their home were very pretty. I'll finish an account of our trip next week.



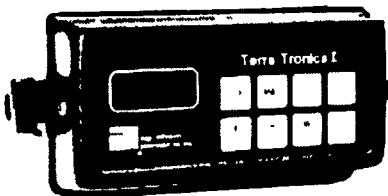
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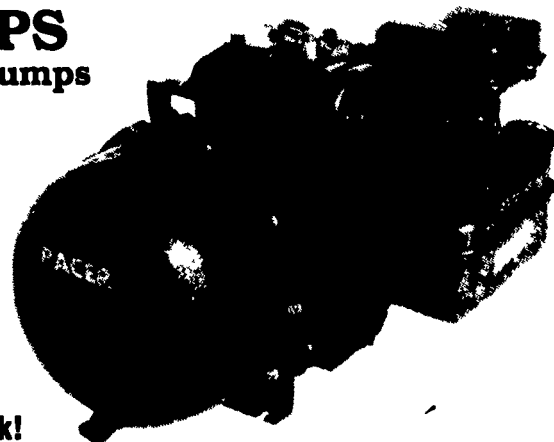
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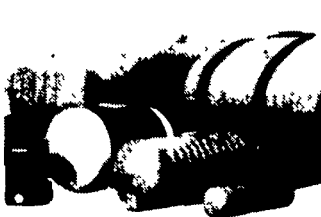
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