

Kids Korner

Helping Others And Acting Wraps Up The Season

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
KIRKWOOD (Lancaster Co.)

— Like many people during the holiday season, Loren Hershey is a busy fellow. But he still found some time to help others this season.

Loren, his siblings, and several friends spent an afternoon at the Water Street Rescue Mission wrapping presents for children whose parents can't afford to buy them presents.

Most of the time Loren helps on the family farm, does his school work and performs in a Christmas play.

While many other 11-year-olds participate in Christmas plays, Loren's involvement in playing a shepherd and Nathan the stable boy is a bit more time consuming than most.

He participates in a play called Miracle of Christmas, held at Sight and Sound Auditorium, the largest professional Christian Theatre Company in the nation. Showings are held five days a week, sometimes as often as four times daily.

Loren only participates in about eight shows a week because he and four other fellows take turns playing the same role in the show.

In the role of the stable boy, Loren has about 15 lines to say. A

mike is concealed beneath his headpiece.

He needs to change outfits three times during each performance. "The one outfit is wool and it gets really hot," Loren said.

According to Loren about 80 people participate in each show, which lasts about two hours and 10 minutes.

"I love it," Loren said of his part in the show that began in November 1 and plays through the second week in January.

His participation in the play happened as sort of a fluke. Because he is homeschooled, his mother thought it would be a good idea for him to learn first-hand what it's like to have a job interview. When they heard that children's roles were available in the upcoming show, Loren applied for a position and to his surprise was hired.

He likes acting so much that he'd like to try out for the next show produced by Sight and Sound. But his mother said, one time is enough because each day he participates in a show, she must drive him about 30 minutes each way between their farm and the Strasburg show.

On the Hershey farm, the family fattens beef cattle, about 400 annu-



The Neffs and the Hersheys wrap presents to be distributed to children in need at the Water Street Rescue Mission. Shown are Lois Hershey with her children Loren, 11; Linford, 9, and Lisa, 7. The children of Barry and Sandy Neff of Quarryville include Eric, 13; Heidi, 12; Tyler, 10; and Jared, 8.

ally on 150 acres. Loren and his two brothers and a sister also raise market lambs, hogs, and steers for 4-H projects.



Loren Hershey acts in a Christmas production for Sight and Sound Entertainment Centre, the largest professional Christian theater in the nation.

Their friends, the Neff family, Hersheys milk 55 cows and raise 75,000 broilers on their farm.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why is popcorn harder than sweet corn?
Because there's more starch and less water in popcorn kernels than in that soft, juicy, eat-it-off-the-cob sweet corn.

Starch is a chemical combination of sugar molecules joined together in long chains. There are two kinds of starches. One is a hard starch, and the other's soft.

Dent corn — that's the kind of corn often used to feed livestock — has a dent at the top of every kernel. The dip is caused by uneven drying of the hard and soft starches inside each little yellow nugget.

Flint corn, like the colorful Indian corn and popcorn, hardly have any soft starch at all. The hard starch dries evenly, so there's no depression in each kernel.

Other kinds of corn have mostly soft starch. Our scientist friends call them flour corn because the soft kernels are easy to grind up and use for all sorts of foods, like tortillas. And sweet corn? It stays soft because it's full of water, and the sugar inside each kernel doesn't make starch until after it's picked. (That's why fresh-picked sweet corn is sweeter than three-day-old sweet corn.)

People talk a lot about getting enough carbohydrates in your diet. Carbohydrates is a just fancy name for starch and sugar — and corn is a great source, no matter what kind you eat!

Scientifically yours,
Twig

Have a question?
Send it to:
Twig, c/o Ohio State U.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

'Why I Love Pizza'

Sonia Rozelle, the Broome County Dairy Princess in New York, writes that she has been busy promoting the dairy industry through a variety of events. Her latest project was a "Why I Love Pizza" essay contest for eight and nine year olds.

Top winners in the "I Love Pizza Contest" held in New York are Matt Hand and Jessica Kellicutt. Second-place winners are Sabrina Crissey of Binghamton, N.Y. and Christina Washburn of Johnson City, N.Y. Third-place winners are Vanessa Ralph of Castle Creek, N.Y., and Kare Humphry of Binghamton, N.Y. Runner-up was Robin Cooper of Glen Aubrey, N.Y.

Here are the top two winning entries.

WHY I LOVE PIZZA
Matt Hand
Lisle, N.Y.
9 Years Old

The reason I love pizza is that it tastes great. My favorite part of the pizza is the crust because it's crunchy and tasty. I like to add pepperoni to the top. I also like cheese on top that is very thick because it makes it very chewy. I also love pizza because we always have it at parties and for supper on Friday nights. My mom hates to cook on Friday nights, so this gives her a break. I LOVE PIZZA!!!

WHY I LOVE PIZZA
Jessica Kellicutt
Lisle, N.Y.
8 Years Old

I like the REAL CHEESE on pizza. I like the real crunchy crust. I like the cheese best. I really, really love pizza because I like sauce, crust, and best of all I like the CHEESE! Now that's PIZZA, so that's why I love pizza!