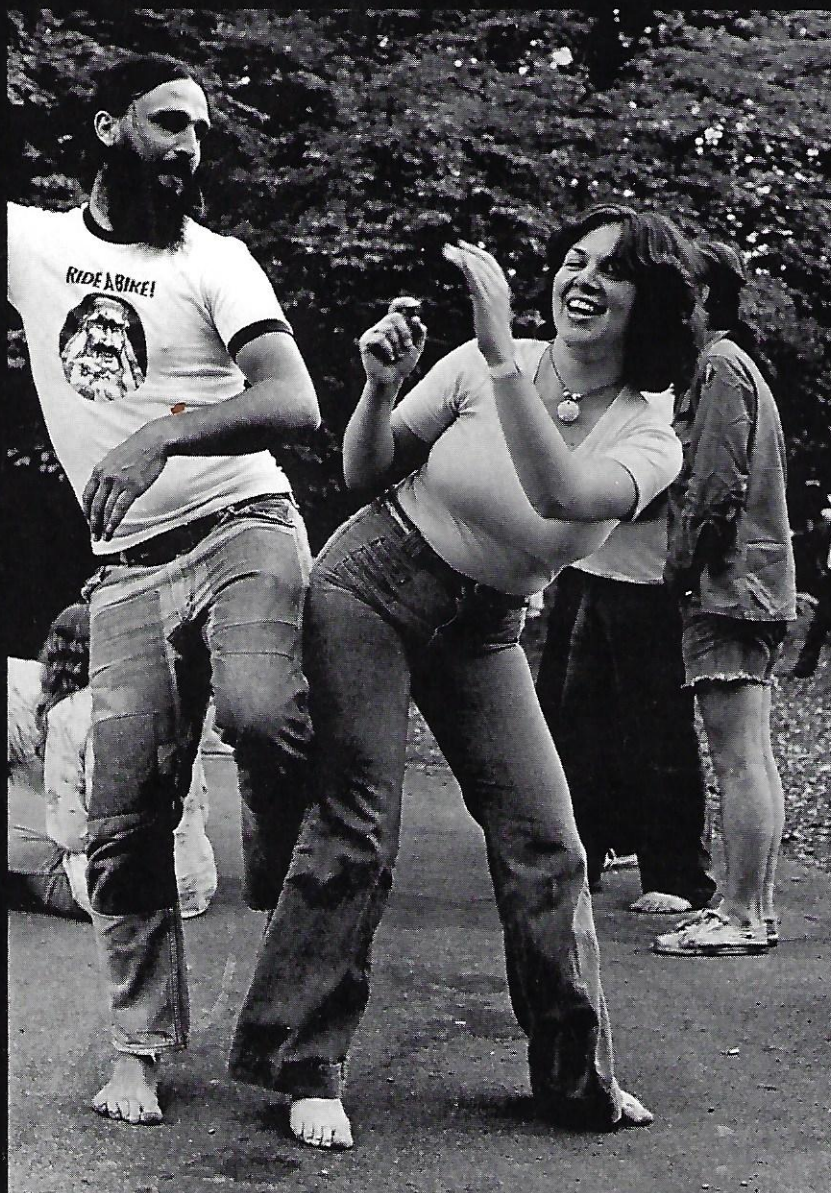


Issue Number Two

the SUSQUEHANNA magazine



read about

**Lancaster's
Riviera**

**Bash at
Spring Lake**

**The Sad Story
of Ann**

**Pennsylvania
Rifle Maker**

Betty Groff

Death Games

**The Cattle
Colonel**

Recipe for Success

Betty Groff is one of the most successful women in Lancaster County.

Groff's Farm Restaurant, which she and her husband Abe operate in their own home near Mount Joy, is world-reowned for serving the very best in Pennsylvania German cookery.

She is author of the best-selling cookbook, *Good Earth and Country Cooking*.

She is the first and only woman member of the board of directors of Nationwide Corporation, one of America's largest insurance companies.

In this day of Women's Liberation, Betty, only 40, has achieved all her success not by liberating herself from her traditional woman's role - but by being very much a traditional woman.

"*Kueche, Kirche und Kinder*," (German for *kitchen, church, and children*) summarize for many modern women the chains they want to strike off.

But Betty, instead of leaving her kitchen, has slaved in it and served its products to thousands of guests from far and wide. She has won accolades for working in her kitchen from gastronomes like Craig Claiborne, Food Editor of *The New York Times*, and James Beard, America's most respected judge of eating places.

She has remained in the fold of her church, in which she was reared, the Mennonites, and draws strength today from her religion.

And her life is centered around her family: her husband Abe and her two sons, Charlie and Johnnie, all of whom are involved in the family restaurant business.



Son Charlie and Betty testing the vegetable beef soup

Charlie, a student at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. is carrying on the family tradition.

Betty learned to cook so well from her mother, Bertha Herr, who is helping Betty now, in preparing her next book, *From Garden to Glass*, to be published next spring by Doubleday. It will be about preserving foods from the garden and will describe canning, freezing, drying, and pickling, with plenty of "good old-fashioned recipes".

Anyone who has eaten a meal at the Groffs' know what a treat it is to eat that good hearty food, including Betty's own delectable invention, "Chicken Stolzfluss."

But anyone who has eaten at the Groffs' also knows that the fun of dining there involves more than concentrating on one's sumptuous meal. Along with the good food comes an impromptu show, put on by Abe and Betty.

During the meal Betty and Abe circulate among their guests, chatting amiably. Ripples of laughter soon fill the dining room, for the Groffs, both of them, have well developed senses of humor. Betty is more self-contained than Abe; his humor is more apt to show itself in a subtle intonation of voice or a quizzical smile that carries a lot of comical meaning.

Betty Groff is not only a superb cook, she is a hostess of excellence. As she goes



Betty plays "Happy Birthday" on cornet for guest

among the tables of her guests she includes more and more people in her dialogue.

She never enters the dining room with anything like a prepared script in her head. She simply begins to engage in conversation with her guests and to respond to them. She has a profound sensitivity to people, understands them, and reacts accordingly.

Gifted with remarkable poise, she is also a master of repartee, gifts she has demonstrated not only in her dining room but also in nationally televised talk shows, where she is still, as always, very much herself, Betty Groff.

Among her guests have been the great and the near-great, but Betty is no name-dropper. When a guest curiously asks her who is the most famous person she has entertained, Betty unhesitatingly replies, "You are."

Guests' birthdays are occasions for celebration. Betty serenades guests with birthdays by playing "Happy Birthday" for them on her cornet, an instrument she mastered in high school. She or Abe then bestows a kiss on the honored man or woman.

After dinner, guests volunteer to accompany Betty's cornet on the piano and drums, to produce a swinging time joined in by all. Betty's final rendition, "When the Saints Come Marching In," leads a procession to her wine cellar, where everyone has a sip of her homemade wines.

There is almost a vaudevillian quality to her delightful chatter at dinner. In some ways she is a stand-up comic, always on her toes. Although Betty does not sing for her guests, her voice, which sometimes gets throaty, is reminiscent of Ethel Merman's. Betty conveys, as did Ethel, a tremendous feminine vitality.

Where did Betty get all her drive and personality?

Girlhood friend Shirley Groff Keener remembers Betty as a little schoolgirl, just as active and conversational as she is today. Although Betty was small for her



Betty keeps an eye on Abe saluting a birthday girl

age before adolescence, she was a dynamic softball player.

Another girlhood friend, Janet Clark High, recalls that Betty "was quick to make up to people. She could always find something interesting to say."

Janet High also said she "never saw Betty depressed or blue."

Something that really impressed Janet about Betty was that, unlike most other children, she never heard Betty criticize or complain about her family, father, mother, or big brother, Raymond, to other children. "She always talked highly of them."

Today Betty describes her mother and mentor in the kitchen, Bertha Herr, as a "saint".

Betty's father, Clarence, and his brother, Emory, ran a successful meat and melon business near Strasburg which was famous for its top quality products and also for the wit and geniality of its proprietors.

Betty got a lot of her keen sense of humor from her father.

Both Betty and her father mentioned a very early childhood illness from which Betty miraculously recovered. One gets the strong impression that life and good health have always meant a



Betty and her mother, Bertha Herr, checking recipes for Betty's new book

ROOT'S COUNTRY MARKET & AUCTION

EVERY TUESDAY
Market opens at 2:00 PM
Auction Starts at 6:00 PM

located between East
Petersburg and Manheim
just off Route 72
Plenty of Free and
Easy Parking

AMZOIL
Super Premium Synthetic
Engine Oil

A New R-76 Shenandoah
Wood & Coal Heater

Fire Grates For Fireplaces

DIALOCK
Keyless Security
For Homes

QUONAR 2000
A New Wireless Security
System For Businesses
& Homes

Fuelmiser Furnace Heat
Reclaimers

for information on the
Lancaster County Home
Owners Club see...

Hiestand Distributors

RD1 MARIETTA
426-3286

Dealerships Available

more to her than to most people.

Her father says Betty is the only person he ever knew who woke up every morning with a smile, a smile that seemed to say: "It's wonderful to be alive."

In high school Betty began to play the cornet, for which she seemed to have a natural gift. A music teacher hearing her play was amazed that such a tiny person could produce such a big sound. He said to Betty, "You must have a lot of wind."

Little Betty replied, "It's not how much wind you have, but how you use it." That reply may contain the basic secret of Betty's success.

Her father dates the beginning of Betty's adult life from the year when she was a sophomore in high school and had to decide whether to choose a commercial course that would lead to a job after high school, or the academic course that would have led to college. Betty was a member of the National Honor Society, made up mostly of academic students.



Nationwide Chairman of the Board, Mr. Dean Jeffers, and Betty, Nationwide Director

"Now, Daddy, what course should I take?"

Clarence Herr would not make this important decision for his daughter. He said, "You should make this a matter of prayer."

Pray Betty did; she decided to take the commercial course.

She still prays today about important decisions she has to make.

After high school she worked as a secretary at Sperry New Holland, never missing a day of work and earning successive promotions.

She left New Holland in 1955 to marry Abe.

"We miss that girl," executives at New Holland still say, even after twenty years.

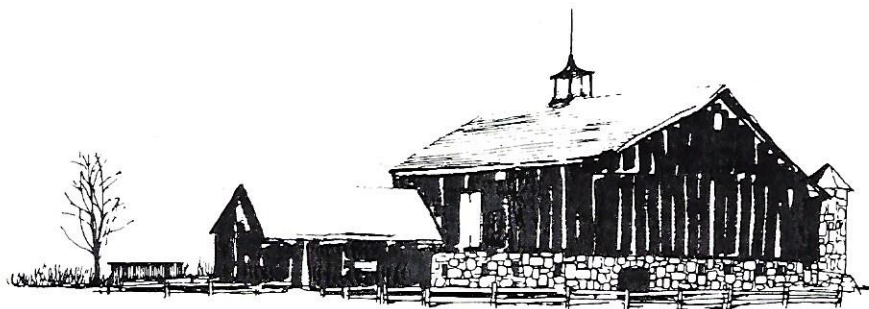
The People Bank

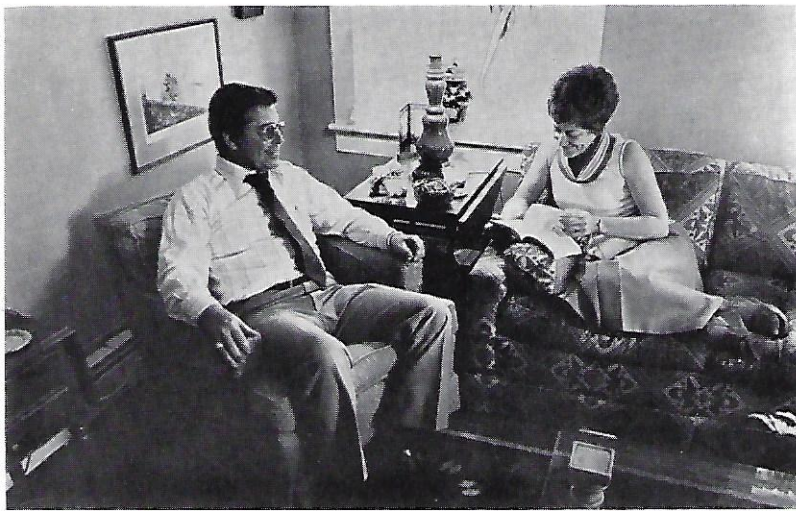
**FARMERS
FIRST BANK**

Member F D I C

Serving you is fun for us ...

with free checking, highest interest rates on deposits, 24-hour tellers, and everything else you have a right to expect from your bank.





Abe and Betty relax in their secret "Hideaway"

The rest of Betty's story is well-known, having been told and re-told in numerous magazine and newspaper articles. She and Abe settled down to raise a family on a dairy farm near Mount Joy. In 1960 she volunteered to serve occasional authentic Pennsylvania Dutch meals to busloads of tourists.

Her good food and personality became more widely known, but a drastic change occurred when a friend brought Craig Claiborne of *The New York Times* to eat at her Farm Restaurant; Claiborne wrote a glowing account of her cooking in his column.



Betty's father, Clarence Herr, and Abe inspect vineyard

Business started to boom after that. Betty consulted with Jim Bobb, Chairman of Hershey Estates, and Dr. John Brown, head of Wyeth Laboratories, for financial advice on her growing business. She attributes a lot of the success of her business to their suggestions.

Abe had been getting up every morning at 4:30 a.m., to milk the cows, but as he became increasingly involved in the growing restaurant and with civic responsibilities (he is a supervisor of East Donegal Township and a member of the Lancaster County Planning Commission), he sold his dairy herd.

Although the restaurant started as Betty's activity, it is now a business in which both she and Abe are indispensable.

Every evening after the guests have departed, Betty and Abe have their "quiet time" together. "So much stems from Abe's attitudes, from his *strength*," Betty says. "I have learned from him never to complain about things you can't change."

Friends of Betty's and Abe's used to wonder how they could put up with the constant intrusion of so many dinner guests into their home.

Although they thoroughly enjoy and welcome their guests, Betty and Abe finally decided they *did* need a place to get away by themselves.

They have a beautiful apart-

ment in a not-so-distant town, at an undisclosed address and without a telephone, where they have the utmost in privacy. They call it their "Hideaway."

Here they can hie for their "quiet times," or to entertain a few special friends, to be completely and absolutely their own relaxed selves.

And it is simply by being herself all her life that Betty Groff has become the successful woman she is today.



Naturalizer Shoes

THE FIRST AND
FOREMOST LINE OF
WOMEN'S SHOES IN
AMERICA
Sizes 3 to 12AAAA to D



PARK CITY
Sears Mall

Phone 299-2023

GIFT CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE