

1991 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Ruth Tweeten Holtan - IMFH Class of 1991

Winnebago County

Roots are important to Ruth and Stanford Holtan of Forest City, Iowa. They've lived on the same Winnebago County farm for 44 years, where pride in their Norwegian background is unmistakably evident.

The Holtans have turned their farmstead into a veritable museum, complete with many buildings, authentic antiques, and period-correct replicas. Upon arrival one steps back in time as the Holtans explain through a walking tour how the first settlers on the farm managed to survive a meager beginning. From the log cabin to the wood-frame home, Ruth and Stanford weave a story of hard work, sacrifice and determination, not unlike the qualities they possess in their own goals.

Ruth's first priority was, and is, her family. She looks forward with anticipation to the times her eight children can come home with their families. They include Jerry, a manager at Sauer Sundstrand Co.; Audrey Kirkpatrick, co-owner and accountant for Patrick Marketing Co.; Keith, owner of Holtan Cabinets and Remodeling; Philip, campus chaplain at Concordia College; Paul, design engineer for Oshkosh Truck Co.; Steven, a Goodyear Co. master technician and store manager; John, a family practice doctor; and Ron, senior chemist at BASF.

Raising eight children is a significant accomplishment in itself. Ruth Stanford went a step further, however, encouraging them to pursue college educations.

"Our parents and grandparents believed in the best education possible for their children," maintains Ruth. Obviously, an emphasis on education has continued through to the present generation.

All the children are college graduates, and most attended Waldorf College in Forest City. Ruth and Stanford are descendants of the college founders. She is still a staunch supporter, and serves on the board of Regents.

Through the years, Ruth has been involved with 4-H, extension, Farm Bureau, and school activities. Music is also an important part of their lives. Ruth has attended many musical functions and feels great pleasure when everyone sings together.

The Holtans' parenting philosophy consists of a disciplined environment, learning by doing, and appreciation for many interests. They taught their children to learn from the past so they could better set their own goals.

"We wanted our children and grandchildren to know about their ancestors," states Ruth.

She authored a permanent record of sixteen significant women in their family's heritage, called "Journeys -The Women Came Too." In addition, genealogy charts on computer printouts cover a large portion of a foyer wall in the Holtan home.

Many tasks performed out of necessity years ago are taught in classes by Ruth and Stanford. Her grandmother made "wheel rugs" out of leftover material, like those pictured on the cover.

"Nothing was thrown away," insists Ruth. Now she is teaching this skill to others. The Holtans truly enjoy adding to their museum. "It's a real labor of love," admits Ruth sincerely. It serves as a tribute to their ancestors and as a proud solid foundation for future generations.

Patricia King Moeller - IMFH Class of 1991

Scott County

Pat was a city girl when she met her future husband, Wilbur Moeller, at Iowa State University. "I had never been on a farm," she admits, having grown up in Burlington, Iowa. Pat thought she was marrying a career army officer, not a Blue Grass, Iowa farmer.

But this Scott County woman approached the farm like she does everything in life - with enthusiasm and optimism. In fact, she was very optimistic the first year when a neighbor called offering volunteer tomato plants. Pat took 60 of them, even though she had ne, gardened.

It was not a particularly good year when Wil returned to the family farm with his new wife. "Hogs were only a dime per pound that year," notes Wil, who had a farrow-to-finish operation. Now he buys feeder pigs but still raises com and soybeans.

"Wil's parents-especially his mom-helped me adjust to the different lifestyle," recalls Pat. "She was very active in a lot of different things."

As a result, Pat had a good role model. Wil's mother played violin and organ and was an unself volunteer. She once received the highly-regarded "Diana Award" for volunteer of the year in the Davenport area.

Pat's own mother was also a positive influence "I never heard a harsh word from my mother," she remembers. "Even in the face of adversity she is always lighthearted and pleasant."

Pat and Wil have instilled these admirable qualities in their offspring. "We raised our children to be independent," says Pat. "We encouraged them to do what they wanted to do, but emphasized the importance of having marketable skills."

Two of the Moellers' sons are farming. Michael farms near Stockton and is a fieldman for Detroit Diesel; David has a farm in Blue Grass; Steve is an industrial engineer at Remelee Corp.; and Sara is a financial analyst in Atlanta, Georgia.

Wil believes in letting the sons run their own business. "No one needs too much togetherness," he quips. However, they share many farming activities with their sons, and are always available to help as needed.

The Moellers are active in Farm Bureau and are presently co-chairmen of the legislative committee. Pat also serves on an Iowa State Extension Advisory Committee and is a volunteer at the Davenport Putnam Museum. In addition, she serves on the Scott County Mental Health Advisory Board. Pat was active in the Parents Speech Club at West High School in Davenport.

Their daughter was a state extemporaneous winner, so Pat chaperoned Sara and three other students to the national speech contest in San Francisco, California. "This was a great opportunity for the kids," she asserts.

Farm life definitely suits Pat, but she likes being close to an urban area to interact with others. "I like people and feel it is important to accept and respect others as they are." Another key to Pat's positive outlook is her ability to have fun and laugh easily. "Don't take yourself too seriously," she recommends. Her sunny personality attests to the fact that Pat Moeller practices what she believes.

Mabel Moore - IMFH Class of 1991

Appanoose County

Mable Moore, Melrose Iowa, flashes a radiant smile as she's coaxed into talking about her church and community work. The hundreds of hours of dedicated service she offers

to groups is also a pleasure for those she helps. Her enthusiasm and good will are enjoyed by all who know her.

Mabel donates at least 60 days per year to attend meetings, work on service projects, make presentations, or be a representative for one of the many organizations to which she belongs. Her untiring dedication to serving others extends beyond her community to the state and national level.

"Mabel exemplifies the qualities of community service, devotion to family, leadership, and commitment to agriculture that the Master Farm Homemaker award is designed to recognize," says Pat Swartlander, director of the Monroe County extension office.

Mabel's strong commitment to youth is evident through her years as a county 4-H leader, project leader, committee member, and as a family community leader.

Her work with community and family issues is evident by the organizations with which she has become involved. Mabel has served in the Iowa Mothers Association, and was selected a Merit Mother in 1979. She is a lifetime member of the Associated Country Women of the World. In 1992 she will serve as registrar when Iowa hosts the annual convention of the Country Women's Council.

Mabel has been a long-time member of the Iowa Farm Bureau. She has served as a voting delegate for 11 years, representing Iowa women at national Farm Bureau conventions. A county women's chairman for six years, Mabel has been district women's chairman for 11 years, and currently serves on the Farm Bureau State Women's Committee.

A special interest is her church work. She is active in her local church serving as church pianist or organist. Her service also extends far beyond the boundaries of Appanoose County.

She has served as an officer in Mid-American Baptist Women's organization, and is a member of the Region Policy Board. Mabel was re-elected for a second four-year term to the general board of the American Baptist Churches U.S.A., where she serves on the National Ministries Nominating Committee, and as a representative to the World Relief Committee.

Mabel's hard work and conscientious attention to detail is greatly admired by those who work with her. Nearly every evening is spent at the kitchen table writing reports for the 30 churches she represents, or preparing a talk for the next Farm Bureau meeting.

In spite of her full schedule, family and the farm are first for Mabel. She and her husband

DeWayne farm 700 acres and has a purebred Angus seedstock operation with DeWayne's brother, Bill, and their son, Chuck. Their 165-head cow herd of registered Angus, farrow-to-finish hogs, and row crops operation is a full-time task. Yet, both DeWayne and Mabel are involved in their grandchildren's sports activities, and sponsored a local Little League baseball team this summer.

The Moores have three children: Charles of Melrose, Iowa; Jan Carney of Centerville, Iowa; and Russell of Jeffersonville, Vermont.

Pauline Wipperman - IMFH Class of 1991

Polk County

Ceres, the mythical goddess of agriculture, would have been proud to claim a Polk County woman as her own. Pauline Wipperman and her husband, Keith, worked

side-by-side on their 270-acre farm near Grimes, Iowa before retiring last fall. She was involved with the day-to-day management, and operated machinery when needed.

This, in addition to raising three children, would keep anyone busy. But Pauline found time for many extracurricular activities. She is busy with church functions and was a 4-H leader when the children were members. They are Larry, a geophysicist for Mobil Oil Co. in Dallas, Tex.; Carol Calvert, administrative assistant for Calvert Realty & Appraisal; and Dean, who does the television traffic computer for television station KDSM-17, Des Moines.

Pauline presently serves as state secretary for the Iowa Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) chapter, and is a vital participant in the "Daughters of Ceres." This group was founded 96 years ago, and Pauline's grandmother, Annie Anderson, was a charter member. Her mother, Gladys Kochheiser, was a lifetime member. When Pauline and Keith moved to Maplewood Farm, where she was born and raised, she officially became a member of the group.

Pauline spearheaded the Daughters of Ceres 90th anniversary celebration, going back to the "Church of the Land" at Living History Farm, Des Moines. This was near the location where the club was organized in 1898. Pauline also compiled a club history for the event.

Although she doesn't have much time for hobbies, Pauline is very interested in genealogy, and has done extensive research on her ancestry, hoping to preserve the facts for her children.

Over and above the written history is Pauline's living example of perseverance and devotion for her family and friends, she worked full time away from the farm for many years to provide extra income for the children's education, but still helped a great deal with farm tasks.

"We grew up working as a team," notes daughter Carol of their family relationships. "We had responsibilities and chores, and could interchange jobs to help each other.

"We also learned the importance of having a goal and striving for it," she continues.

Their mother and father emphasized the values of goals, and set many for themselves. For example, Pauline wanted to learn to fly a plane. She became a pilot in the 1940s and was a charter member of the Iowa Flying Farmers. She and her father had a plane and they also had a runway on the farm.

When WIFE was getting off the ground, Pauline organized a very successful legislative breakfast, allowing members to share rural women's concerns with state legislators. She planned this activity not expecting recognition, but because she believed it was an important and worthy cause.

Despite several personal challenges, Pauline remains undaunted and optimistic. Her enthusiastic outlook makes her a positive role model for family, friends, and women in agriculture.