

“Down on the Farm”

Cathy Rosenberger
Laurel, Maryland

(About her Mother Dorothy Rice Schultz)

Newly married, her husband of six months off to war, and a desk job in Washington D.C., Dorothy Schultz was interested in helping local farmers.

On Sundays she would go with a group of women to pick apples.

Dorothy heard that there was a shortage of farm hands and The Women’s Land Army under the American Women’s Voluntary Services offered a three week training course at the University of Maryland to train city women how to work on farms. She joined a class of 23 women ranging in age from 18 to 63. The course consisted of lectures, demonstrations and actual practice in dairy farming.

On May 1, 1943, to the surprise of her family, Dorothy gave up her desk job paying \$120 per month to work for Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey and live on their 265 acre Dalton Farm in Ellicott City, Maryland for one dollar a day. The main drawback for girls willing to do farm work was the prejudice of some farmers who did not want women looking for “a summer vacation with pay.” On the contrary, it was hard, physical labor, difficult for a city-bred woman. The Pumphreys were apprehensive about taking on a girl, but decided to try it. They soon found out that Dorothy was a very willing, hard