Pair Finds People Nice Here

By JAN METCALF
Family Living Editor

SCOTTSBLUFF — "We've found that nice people live everywhere." Mary Ann and Dale Kurtz moved to Scottsbluff in September from Chester, Conn., a town of about 2,000 population. "We felt that perhaps there would be a big change in our lifestyle moving from the east back here but we are fitting in all right. We've found nice people exist everywhere," Mary Ann said.

"It was a fabulous sight when we drove into the valley on our way here. We both have missed the wide open spaces and the agricultural industry," she related.

The couple met while attending Colorado State College at Fort Collins. She grew up in Lincoln, Neb., and he is from Dillon, Mont. They both graduated — Dale has a degree in veterinary medicine with special interest in an equine practitioner. He is practicing with Dr. Jim Berry at the Pioneer Animal Clinic. "Dale had a lot of job opportunities available to him upon graduation because of the shortage of veterinarians. We selected Scottsbluff because of the type of veterinary medicine Dr. Berry is involved with and because Scottsbluff is the type of town we want to call home," Mary Ann said. Her B.S. degree is in animal science and is employed in the water pollution lab at Great Western Sugar Co. in Scottsbluff.

THE COST OF living is much the same as in Connecticut, according to Mary Ann, but they pay more for housing here. Food and gasoline are about the same. "We thought it would be more expensive back east," she said.

"It is nice to be in a place were it isn't franchised to death. Too many cities are becoming very standardized. An example of this is Howard Johnson's. It seems we saw one in every large town we traveled through until we entered Nebraska. I think the longer they can keep any more of the large companies from entering Nebraska the better it will be," Mary Ann said. "Another thing I think is terrific is the small individual markets here. They are so much nicer than the chain stores and large supermarkets because you can relate to one another as individuals."

NEWCOMERS DALE AND Mary Ann Kurtz and their horse Cappy have lived in Scottsbluff since September.

THE OTHER MEMBER of the Kurtz family is Cappy, an almost 22-year-old chestnut horse (former race horse). "We've had him a year now and I work him every day. We couldn't part with him when we left Connecticut so had to make special arrangements to have him brought out here. He arrived in a van full of race horses with pipped in music and running water. He was really living in style for awhile," she said.

The couple's activities also include collecting antiques, backgammon (they are looking for people to play with) and are interested in all summer sports especially sailing. They hope to buy a boat next summer.

One of the newcomers' favorite recipes is below. They both hope you'll enjoy it as much as they do.

Ground Beef-Baked Bean Casserole

Brown one pound ground beef, one-fourth cup chopped green pepper, one half cup chopped onion, one-half cup chopped celery. Add and simmer five minutes one (eight ounce) can tomato sauce, one-half cup water, two tablespoons vinegar, one clove garlic (crushed and chopped), one teaspoon dry mustard, one-half teaspoon thyme, one tablespoon brown sugar, salt and pepper.

Place one can (one No. 303 can) pork and beans in bottom of casserole dish. Top with meat mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for one hour.

Serve with tortilla chips and a salad.