

VP Rook to leave this fall; will retire to 65 acre farm

Molly Gerchak

Does a hard-working, well-organized man see his retirement as nothing but a steady succession of golf courses, beaches and social gatherings?

Not Joseph S. Rook, vice president of financial affairs, who will be retiring this fall to a 65-acre cattle farm in Columbiana. He said his retirement is due to the fact that, "I want to enjoy life before I become infirm."

His farm is located on Garfield Road near Arrowhead Lake and next to the Franciscan Friars Monastery.

His stock consists of over 100 purebred Suffolk sheep, ewes and lambs combined, and three rams. He has 18 polled Hereford cows and one purebred Hereford bull. He also has some steers and heifers, a riding horse, a Scottie

(Cont. on page 3)

Rook

(Cont. from page 1)

shepherd dog and a beagle dog.

His crops are mainly wheat, hay, oats, corn and barley. These are used as pasture for the cattle and sheep. He farms between five and 10 acres for his own use.

Rook said that he manages the farm with the help of neighbor children and hires other persons to fill in during busy times or if he has to be out of town. He said that he is very well organized and tries to plan things so that they can be done with a minimum of effort.

He said, "I enjoy looking at and talking to my animals."

The Eureka R.R. runs through his property at least once a day and Rook said that he can stand at his window and count the number of cars on the train. He said the number ranges anywhere from six to 35 cars and is a "good gauge on the economy of America."

Rook related one incident of personal involvement with the train's crew when some of his calves wandered through a broken

(Cont. on page 5)

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(Cont. from page 3)

fence near the railroad tracks. The train stopped, the fireman and engineer got off, chained the calves back into the field and then let Rook know where the break was.

Rook said that his wife is very active in music and directs the Lutheran choir in Columbiana. She also has done some teaching at Dana. He said that he enjoys hunting, fishing and golfing when time permits. "I expect to do a lot more after I retire," he stated.

Rook came to YSU in February, 1956 from Baltimore, Md. where he was president of Baltimore College of Commerce. He has been director of education for the Metropolitan YMCA and headmaster of Woodward Preparatory School, both of Washington, D.C.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1943 as a private and is now a Lt. Col. in the Army reserve with 24 1/2 years of active and reserve service. He also worked for

Army and Navy Intelligence

Rook's educational background includes a B.S. degree from Pennsylvania State College, a master of arts in education administration and supervision from George Washington University doctoral work at that university and accounting and business administration courses at South eastern University, Washington D.C.

Rook said that he believes in education and wants to make things better for YSU. He said that in his work, at YSU or on the farm, "I would not expect from others what I would not expect from myself."