



FOR THE
FARM
WIFE
AND
FAMILY

**Mrs. Hess Assumes New Role
As County Farm Women President**

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The new president of the Society of Farm Women of Lancaster County, Mrs. John N. Hess (Helen) of Columbia R 2, is a very busy person. Assuming her role as county president November 1, she has attended Dauphin, York and Cumberland county banquets and December 2 held her first county board meeting. In February they will decide on county projects for this year. Her husband and son are proud of her and happy to have her fill this position and will gladly assist with some home duties such as meal preparation when she has to be away.

Mrs. Hess is particularly busy at this season of the year as she has a fascinating hobby of making Christmas decorations and decorating eggs. She shares the know-how with many people as she takes her exhibit to Farm Women's meeting, church women's groups, senior citizens groups, fire company auxiliaries and Scout meetings and shows them how to make them. When she puts on a demonstration she often gives a door prize of one of her creations. If you could see all the little bottle caps, curtain rings, tin cans, partly burned candles, weed seeds, leaves, broken jewelry and the like she uses and comes up with beautiful and new ideas in decorations I'm sure you'd agree she is a genius in this field.

Her basement is all aglow with a Christmas tree decorated with ornaments she has made. There's satin balls of various colors decorated with sequins, beads and gold foil medallions; a little green bird made from pieces of an egg carton and covered with glitter; a little red drum, the

base of which is a little tin can cheese came in for a pizza mix. It is decorated with gold trim and the drumsticks are made from toothpicks and beads, then gilted; there's styrofoam balls concealed under velvet, satin and flowered ribbons, metallic braids, beads and jewels; there's real sparkling ornaments made from egg cartons, elongated with corsage pins and long crystal beads and cut in shapes like flowers with different colors of glitter; and a deviled ham can decorated with a couple little deer inside. Atop the tree is a little white angel with a skirt of white turkey feathers. Beneath the tree is a white felt skirt with red fringe and a jolly red Santa face and red and green balls decorated with varicolored sequins. This tree has a string of red candles with electric flames and beneath each one is a red and green velvet bow.

One very unusual piece is a della Robbia wreath made from a garland of colored plastic fruits and green leaves mounted on a styrofoam wreath which has been covered with green satin ribbon. Small white electric fireproof Christmas tree bulbs are inserted in several of the pieces of fruit which gives so much extra color. In the center of the wreath is the traditional Madonna and child cut from an Ideals magazine cover and mounted on a red velvet covered disk.

Mrs. Hess makes a very simple inexpensive hurricane-style candle holder from a 46 oz juice can and a dime store snerbet. She removes one end of the can, perforates the can in some design, then glues the bottom of the sherbet to the bottom of the can, thus having the large end of the sherbet as a base. She sprays



THE NEW PRESIDENT of the Lancaster County Society of Farm Women, Mrs. John N. Hess, shows a kissing ball

and a Christmas tree full of ornaments she made. L. F. Photo

the whole thing with a dull finish black paint and applies either gold or silver metallic braid to the top and bottom of the can and to the bottom of the base (the sherbet top edge). She then places a shorter candle than the can on a jar lid, which serves to collect the melted wax. This is placed in the can. This makes a very romantic type of light which can be used anytime of year, can even be used outdoors for lighting in summertime. For patio lights or emergency lights when the electric goes off, she removes the wick and globe holder from a kerosine lamp and inserts a candle, replaces the globe and puts some colored marbles in the lamp base in place of kerosine to give it some color.

Helen made the three wise men from light weight cardboard, rolling it into a cone shape for the cloak and smaller cones for sleeves. A styrofoam ball serves as a head. Then covering them with satin, velvet and

brocade material and making turbans to match. Pearls, gems and sequins give them a very rich look. She also makes a kissing ball by using a large styrofoam ball and decorating it with satin, flowered and velvet ribbons. A cluster of grapes on top and a hanger loop and on the bottom a twig of mistletoe.

Mrs. Hess makes beautiful ceramic pieces. She made a white colonial dressed man and woman which she surrounds with a semicircle of styrofoam with old plastic, satin or dried flowers on top. These were sprayed with about three coats of dull finish white paint then a coat of pearl-looking paint. You'd think this was a ceramic piece also. She has made Madonnas, pitchers, ballerina dolls, bowls etc. She made artificial grapes out of paraffin wax and colored them with purple and green crayons, then attached grape leaves to fill her ceramic bowl.

She takes a peanut or coffee can and sprays it with a dull black paint and covers it with two inch perforated metallic ribbon. She puts metallic braid around top and bottom. Artificial or real flowers, fruit or nuts can be put in this contained and used throughout the year.

Mrs. Hess makes pictures, using dried flowers on a background of burlap. She made one picture with an antique white frame. She painted the background cardboard yellow, inserted half of a papier-mache flower pot in it, touched the flower pot and frame high spots with gold paint. She puts artificial flowers in the flower pot and changes them with the seasons. She also made three pictures from different parts of the scenery of drapery material and used white frames then hung them over her bed. She used the same material to make drapes and bedspread.

She dries flowers, leaves and weeds to make arrangements. She uses dock seed clusters, the yarrow, cockscomb, okra pods, desert flowers, wheat, etc. Most of the flowers and weeds are dried by hanging them upside down until dried. A glycerin and water mixture is used to dry

colored leaves. It preserves the color and makes them pliable. Helen has made gorgeous pine cone wreaths and other arrangements in the shape of a tree. She uses all kinds of cones, nuts, acorns and slices of dried hedge apples and decorates with a velvet bow.

Decorating eggs of all kinds and sizes is probably her greatest talent. She makes hinged jewel cases, some lined and some painted inside. She decorates the eggs with beads, gems, sequins, metallic medallions and braids, ribbons, curtain rings, plastic and metal bottle caps, little artificial flowers, little plastic or china figures such as deer, angels, bride, groom and bridesmaid, flowers and scenes from greeting cards. One unusual one so many people want to buy is one that looks like a Shriner. Another unusual one is made into a vase with dried flowers in it. Some are decorated with little flowers, painted white, and look like china. It is delicate work to blow out the egg yolk and white from the shell, then saw out the desired shape. Last Mother's Day her husband gave her an electric saw. She says "I bet I'm the only mother that ever got a saw for Mother's Day." He gave her eight geese last Easter so she could produce her own goose eggs.

The Hesses live on a 30 acre farm at 288 College Ave., Mountville. The buildings are in Mountville borough and the ground in West Hempfield Township. It was much larger before the Bypass and the Mountville Elementary School took a lot of the ground. Prior to that their farm was principally a dairy farm. Now they fatten 15 to 20 Black Angus steers a year. They formerly raised some chickens and sold the eggs locally. They raise about six acres of tobacco, also corn and wheat and have a small garden. They use the corn and straw for the steers. Helen helped to drive the tractor, plant the tobacco, string it up and strip it until this year. Now their 16 year old son John C. takes her place. It gets a little confusing when the telephone rings and

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MRS. HESS has an electrically lighted, glass shelved display cabinet (upper left) for some of her decorated eggs. In the lower Lancaster Farming Photo, she is hold-

ing a decorated black enameled, red lined jewel box she made. Also shown are an antique coffee grinder, a set of scales and a hand-made Madonna.