



FOR THE
FARM
WIFE
AND
FAMILY

**Making Ceramics Is A Hobby
With Mrs. Raymond Hess**

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Mrs. Raymond S Hess of Clear Springs Road, near Landisville is a very fascinating and talented person who has a most exciting hobby. Since 1955 she has devoted most of her spare time to making ceramics. At that time she had a studio in Lititz where she gave lessons and sold many beautiful pieces. Fortunately indeed are the people who are her close friends or who can claim her as a relative because she gives away practically all her products. She will not sell any as too many people request her to make pieces and she says "It puts too much pressure on me to get things done by a certain time." However, she loves to make them as much as ever.

It certainly is no exaggeration of facts to say that Mrs. Hess has hundreds of ceramic pieces. She has one room where she paints the pieces. It has shelves around most of the wall space where she has mostly finished pieces. In an alcove just outside this room she has two electric kilns. One heats to 1800 degrees for baking ceramic pieces and the other to 2300 degrees for porcelain pieces. Then in the basement she has a large room with shelves all around the walls. Practically all the pieces stored on those shelves are greenware. She also keeps her numerous molds on some of the shelves. She buys some of her molds here in the county from Weavers at Akron, some from California and some from New Jersey. In their basement recreation room she has a large glass show case of finished products and throughout her spacious home are many and beautiful pieces.

To give you a little idea of how a piece of pottery or china-ware is made — Mrs. Hess buys

slip (liquid clay) in plastic bottles. She pours it into a mold and it is left in twenty to thirty minutes or until the object has taken form, or in other words until it is the right consistency. The mold is then turned upside down and the remaining liquid clay poured out. At this stage the molded object is called greenware. She puts the greenware on the shelf to dry slowly for about a week. If there's to be flowers on it she then paints them on with ceramic paint. The piece is then put in the kiln and fired. If it's a ceramic piece it is fired at 1800 degrees for three to four hours. If it's a porcelain piece it is fired at 2300 degrees for six



Mrs. Hess holds a horse figurine. All the ceramics on these shelves are in the

greenware stage and ready to be fired in the kiln. L. F. Photo



Mrs. Raymond S. Hess holding a figurine of a boy and his lamb which is par-

tially finished. Ceramics on shelves are completed. L. F. Photo



Mrs. Hess proudly holds a rose flowered serving plate. She also made the china compote and tea pot. The flowered con-

tainer which holds the greens will be the base of a table light when completed. L. F. Photo

to eight hours. The kilns she uses are almost as large as a washing machine. The walls inside have thick firebrick and it depends on the size of the objects how many can be baked at one time. After the piece has been fired a glaze (liquid glass) is put on it, then it is fired again. If gold is used on the piece it is fired a third time and if lustre is applied a fourth firing is required.

Some types of pottery is shaped by hand rather than molded. Some pieces are fired and painted to give a different effect. Mrs. Hess is very clever at doing free-hand painting and writing on pieces such as plates for wedding gifts that have the invitation printed on them. She makes all

displayed in a china closet in their recreation room. Mrs. Hess is a good cook and a very charming hostess. She does typing for her husband also.

Alverta was born and raised in Akron, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Brubaker. Mr. Brubaker helped organize the Miller-Hess Shoe Factory around 1900. She graduated from Akron High School and went to Lancaster Business College where she took bookkeeping, shorthand and typing. Before marriage she worked in the Miller-Hess office.

Her husband, for many years, was a salesman in a feed business. He now sells Rest-o-matic units for mattresses. Their headquarters is in the central part of the state and they sell their mechanism to large mattress firms. The Hesses lived in Lititz 34 years then moved 8 years ago to their newly built home which is built on their 17 acre farm. They raise corn, hogs, goats and steers, although they do not do the farm work themselves.

Mr. and Mrs. Hess have one daughter, Lorraine, who graduated from Lititz High School where she took a commercial course. She is married to John Neff and they live nearby. They have two children: Darlene will graduate from Hempfield High School this spring. She wants to continue her education and major in mathematics. Gary is 16. Mr. Neff is a real-estate agent for Garden Spot and has just gotten his broker's license. Lorraine works at Georgia-Pacific Corporation at Industrial Park on Hempland Road. They make decorated cartons for food products. Mrs. Hess's ceramic talent and hobby has rubbed off on her husband, daughter and granddaughter. Each of them has made a number of things.

The Hesses belong to East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster. Mrs. Hess formerly taught a class in the Sunday School. Mrs. Hess belonged to Farm Women Society #1 until about six years ago when she transferred her membership to Society #5 and has been corresponding secretary for the past five years. She was a delegate this week to the state convention of Farm Women at Harrisburg.

Mrs. Hess gives us some of her favorite recipes. The first one is quite simple to make but none the less very delicious.

GROUND BEEF SUPREME

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 can tomato soup, undiluted
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire

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kinds of china and pottery pieces such as bowls, tea pots, vases, candlesticks, dishes, china copias, statues, ornaments, figurines, jewelry, Christmas trees wired with twinkle lights, electric table and television lights, etc.

Mrs. Hess (Alverta) does beautiful work on toile (painting of flowers, fruit etc on metal trays and the like). She used to paint a lot of motifs in oil paint. Right now she says "I am crocheting an afghan, knitting a sweater and doing needlepoint on a bag." She has embroidered several tablecloths. She used to make candles etc and sometimes gifts them very effectually. Now when these hobbies get her down, she can relax playing her electric organ. She says she just plays for her own amusement. She and her husband also do considerable travelling.

This might sound as though all she does is for fun. But on the contrary, Mrs. Hess is the perfect housekeeper and does all her own housework. With all her beautiful arrangements she can make her home most attractive. She has some lovely antique dishes, which have been handed down in her husband's family,