



FOR THE
FARM
WIFE
AND
FAMILY

Mrs. Wagner's Favorite Pastime Is Making Stuffed Animals

By Mrs. Charles McSparran
Lancaster Farming Staff Writer

Mrs. Esther W. Wagner of the Oak Shade-Oak Hill area, in the southern end of the county, is a very industrious lady. She lived on a farm until six years ago when they built their present home. She loves to see things grow. She works in their large vegetable garden and freezes many vegetables from it and grows a lot of flowers such as iris, petunias, gladioli and chrysanthemums. She has such lovely gladioli that many people buy them.

Mrs. Wagner has several large house plants such as dieffenbachia and palms and smaller ones like Christmas cactus, begonias and at least one hundred African violets of thirty six different varieties. She starts most of the violets herself in a mixture of vermiculite and peat moss and has sold some of them.

Probably her favorite pastime is making stuffed animals and dolls which she had done for 18 years. She has about 100 of all kinds and sizes on hand, made of many kinds of materials to resemble real animals. You might say she is an expert in making these stuffed toys. She uses pieces of aluminum and copper wire, that her son disposes of in his business, to give them support so they never lose their rigidity. Little girls just can't resist them and even college-age girls go for them. Last year she sold 135 and 200 the year before. She makes and dresses storybook dolls like Raggedy Ann, Raggedy Andy, Little Bo Peep, The Three Little Kittens, Little Miss Muffet and even the spider beside her, also pajama-bag dolls. In her animal kingdom she has rabbits, foxes,

tigers, squirrels, giraffes, camels, reindeer, turtles, bears, ducklings, dogs of various kinds, cats, kittens, monkeys, elephants, frogs, toads, horses, teddy bears, crocodiles, lions, kangaroos, donkeys, centipedes, caterpillars, etc. Friends supply remnants and scraps of material and she buys some from garment factories.

Esther makes beautiful patched and appliqued quilts, and knots comforts for church relief work. She made six full size comfort tops and ten crib size tops and also knotted the crib size this year. She has patched and quilted a quilt for each of her children, and stated "I like to quilt but I don't get time to do it anymore. Years ago I quilted a lot for the church." Just in case any of you quilt lovers are interested she has a book entitled "101 Patchwork Patterns", and a book "The Romance Of The Patchwork Quilt In America", published by Bonanza Books, New York — a Division of Crown Publishers. It has 100 pictures of different star patterns.

Mrs. Wagner does embroidery work and is in the process of making a crewel embroidered picture for each of her grandchildren. She also crochets and has done an afghan and several wool pillow tops. She makes hooked and braided rugs, and says, "I do my own sewing, I make my own dresses." She makes many garments for church relief work, and has been one of the helpers of the Kirkwood 4-H Sewing Club for the past three years. Mrs. Donald Hastings is the leader of this club. Mrs. Wagner transports the girls in her area to 4-H club meetings.

Mrs. Wagner has been on the Handiwork Committee of the



Mrs. Wagner displays one of her favorite quilt designs. She wondered if anyone can tell her the name of this pat-

tern? Notice the hexagon is made up of star patches and the white triangles form a large star. L. F. Photo

Southern Lancaster County Fair since it organized twenty years ago. She has received many blue ribbons at this fair for her individual pieces. In 1967 she took fourth prize for her display of handiwork and in 1968 won first prize. A display had to have at least 15 different articles in fancy work, toys and art, and first prize paid \$25.00. This was discontinued last year for lack of interest.

Mrs. Wagner was a member of the Little Britain Friendly Farmers Club for about seven years. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Graybill Wenger. She was born at Ephrata and attended a one-room school that was located across from the Green Dragon Market. Her family moved to a farm in East Drumore Township where she attended the Conowingo School and graduated from East Drumore High School. She married Howard Wagner, a farmer, who was very active in church and community activities. He died three and a half years ago.

The Wagner's had six children, one having died about twenty years ago. Grace is married to William Evans, they live in Manheim Township and she is Secretary for Dr. Kent at Milledale State College. They have a daughter attending Mary Washington College, the ladies division of the University of Va at

Fredericksburg, Va. A son is a senior at Manheim Township High School.

Anna is married to James Leffever and they live in Colerain Township. They were formerly on a farm but now have a laundry and dry cleaning business in Oxford, Pa. They have four children. The oldest son attends Bridgewater College in Va, another son is a junior at Solanco High School and two girls attend Swift Junior High School.

Charles is married to the former Edna Arehart of Manheim. They live on an adjoining farm. He constructs metal building and feeder equipment for his uncle, Caleb Wenger. They have three girls, one in Solanco Sr. High School, one in Swift Jr. High School and one at Little Britain Elementary School.

John lives at home and has his own electrical contracting business. Robert married Joyce Dunkelberger of Mount Joy. They live on another adjoining farm and Joyce is a teller at the Farmers National Bank at Quarryville.

Mrs. Wagner has been a member of Mechanic Grove Church Of The Brethren for fifty two years and all the children, except Grace, are members of this church. She formerly was chairman of relief work of her church Women's Fellowship group. This clothing is sent to New Windsor, Md. Besides knotting comforts, they make hospital gowns and other garments. Esther used to help make doughnuts at the church. The church is famous for their raised doughnuts which they sell in large quantities each year for Shrove Tuesday.

Mrs. Wagner says she doesn't enjoy reading books but likes to read stories in magazines. She is very interested in her community and tries to do her bit to improve living conditions.

When asked if she likes to cook, she replied, "Yes I like to cook and I like to bake." Since cherry desserts are popular for February, especially around Washington's birthday, here's a delicious one to try.

CHERRY DUMPLINGS

1 qt. frozen cherries plus 1 cup water and sweetened to taste OR

1 qt. canned cherries sweetened to taste OR
4 cups fresh cherries in season, 1 cup sugar and 3 cups water

DUMPLINGS:

1 1/2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 cup sugar
1 egg
1/4 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
Wash and seed fresh cherries.

Add water and sugar and cook until soft. Drain cherries from juice. Bring juice and water to boiling point and add dumplings.

To make dumplings — Sift flour, salt, sugar and baking powder together. Beat egg slightly and add milk. Combine with flour mixture and beat until smooth, stiff dough. Drop by tablespoonfuls into boiling cherry juice. Cover and cook 12 minutes. Add cherries and serve hot. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

A dish which can be prepared the day before and baked when you want to serve it and is also a good way to use left-over mashed potatoes is

OLD FASHIONED POTATO FILLING

2 cups mashed potatoes
4 slices bread (toasted)
1 egg (optional)
Onion if desired

Enough warm milk to soak up bread

If onion is used, slice and saute before adding to other ingredients.

Put everything in mixer bowl and beat till fluffy, till well mixed. Put in greased one quart casserole dish and bake in moderate oven 30 minutes.

CREAMED BROCCOLI

1 cup chopped frozen broccoli. Bring to boil and cook slowly for 15 minutes, until tender (has better flavor if not cooked too long)

1 tablespoon butter (browned)
1 cup milk
1 tablespoon flour
3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Add to cooked broccoli and cook till it thickens. This amount makes two servings.

SPINACH OR DANDELION

GREENS SALAD (Six Servings)

4 cups chopped raw spinach or dandelion greens
3 hard boiled eggs
3 slices of bacon (cut in small pieces and fry crisp)

DRESSING:

Remove bacon from drippings and to the drippings add:

1 1/2 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 egg
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1/4 cup vinegar
2 cups milk or water

Cook until thickened and cool slightly. Pour dressing over greens and mix. Garnish with chopped eggs and crisp bacon.

CORN PONE

2 cups corn meal (roasted preferred)
1 cup flour
1/2 cup shortening
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 egg
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Mrs. Esther Wagner of the Wakefield area, displays a few of her stuffed toys.

Making the toys has been her favorite pastime for 18 years. L. F. Photo