Mrs. Miller Loves Strawberries

(Continued from Page 17)

too early to tell how successful it will be Penn State University came in with a machine that laid down a nine foot wide strip of plastic and spread glue on the one edge As it came back and laid down another strip the wheel ran over the glued edge, cementing the two strips together so that when finished the acre of ground was covered with a solid piece of plastic The edges were covered with soil to hold it down and make it airtight

This airtight cover killed all plant and insect life, which had the same effect as fumigation which farmers also use to sterilize seed beds for tobacco plants

Millers plant 30,000 strawberry plants a year They have two varieties — Robinson and Red Glow and next year will have some Red Chief They do try new varieties from time to time They plant the strawberry plants 35 inches apart in the rows and 44 inches between the rows They get their plants on the Eastern Shore

Mr Miller grows wheat to get straw to mulch his berries It takes 175 bales per acre He has a machine which chops the straw and deposits it around the plants This is done in the fall to keep down weeds and to keep moisture in the ground He also rents this machine to other farmers

Mr Miller has been farming all his life They bought this 44 acre farm 23 years ago A neighbor rents their meadow—for pasturing his cows Another man rents three acres of ground to grow celery and Millers have a large garden

Mrs Miller cans and freezes a lot of vegetables

She normally grows 200 feet or more of sugar peas to sell to friends This year their daughter and husband will grow a lot of cantaloupes on their ground

Mrs Miller, Alta, is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Jacob Miller whose fifty fifth wedding anniversary will be next Wednesday Mr and Mrs Miller's wedding anniversary is the next day

Alta grew up on her father's 100 acre farm near Millersville She graduated from Penn Manor High School and the Millersville State Normal School Years later she took some credits at Penn State University She started teaching at "Franklin" which was a one room school, later taught at Central Manor and for the past 18 years has taught second grade at Hambright Elementary School all in Manor Township

Millers are members of Rohrerstown Mennonite Church where Mrs Miller was church librarian for 10 years She has taught the adult class at Sunday School and taught at the Daily Vacation Bible School for many years She helps in their sewing circle, making clothes for mission work

She is Contact Sister for Salunga district This year the young people of the area Mennonite churches are asking the families to donate excess food they produce in their gardens and on their farms from June 5 through September. This food is collected in each district Millers are using their tobacco house cellar to keep food over night

It will then be taken to a central location in Lancaster and a route man will huckster it through the lower income areas of the city on Fridays and Saturdays and it will be sold at a very, very reasonable price

Mr and Mrs Miller's house is around 150 years old and they have many beautiful pieces of antique furniture to correspond Mrs Miller took up refinishing furniture last winter at evening classes at Hempfield School She has refinished one antique end table

They have an unusual antique high chair on wheels, which adjusts to three heights On the low position it will wheel like a stroller but on higher positions is very rigid and safe for a child to sit in They both like old pieces that have been handed down in the family.

Mr Miller collects lamps He has four courting lamps They are rare in design and quite small The idea behind these lamps was that they were lit when the girl of the family entertained her boy friend and when the oil ran out it was time for her boy friend to go home He also has two beautiful pigeon blood vases

Mrs Miller has many interesting hobbies She has a number of African violets and enjoys her flowers outside in the summer She likes to do crewel She knits sweaters, having taken a knitting course this past winter at Hempfield School

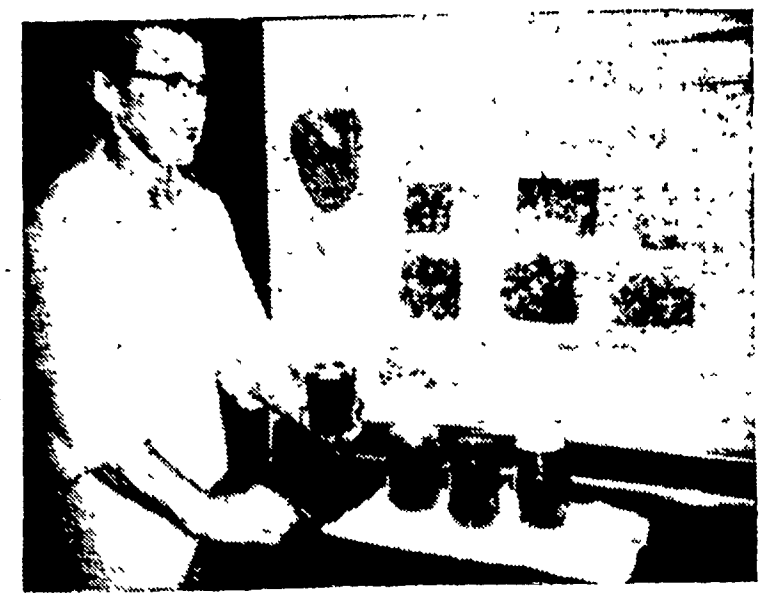
The Millers enjoy travelling They have been to California, Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Switzerland, France, Germany, England and Holland

Mrs. Miller collects bells, so wherever they visit she usually buys some bells Being a school teacher, one of her prized ones is an old school bell which was used to call the children back in school. She also has a Bohemian glass bell bought at an antique shop. She has a nice set of seven brass bells from Switzerland, a decorated china bell and all kinds of metal bells

Photography is another hobby of Mrs Miller She takes 16mm movies and colored slides. She has many fine pictures taken on their trips and they are very educational to show to her students at Hambright

Millers have one daughter, Arlene, who is married to James Snavely and they live on Pine

(Continued on Page 27)



Mrs. Isaac N. Miller used her teacher-training talents to make this poster for strawberry prices which is posted outside where buyers can see it. She is ready to sample her strawberry preserves and ice cream topping fresh from her freezer.

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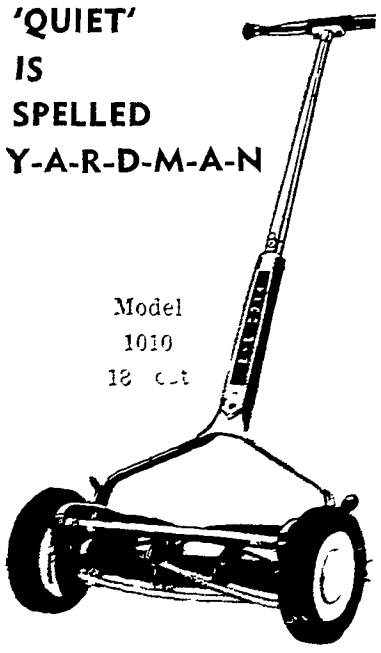

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