

Thomases Have Pumpkin Fun

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stand at Meadow Brook Market, Leola. This market is open Fridays 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. They have a girl tending the stand Friday and another girl Saturday. All they sell there is celery. If they use all their celery by late in the season they buy some and bleach it. Miriam makes a couple trips a day to the market with celery. Last year they sold to wholesale stores and still sell to half a dozen stores.

Glenn has lived on this 14 acre farm of his mother's all his life. He grew his first pumpkins in the corn field when he was 13 years old. He increased the production until now he grows 6 acres. He has improved and developed his own strain, known as Thomas Halloween Pumpkin. Next year Agway will handle it. They are dark yellow, deeper yellow than some varieties. They have a hard rind which gives it a good keeping quality. They do raise different varieties. Miriam uses butternut squash instead of pumpkin for pies.

Thomases farm 200 acres. Glenn owns Colebrook farm at Mount Joy, which has 72 acres, and has it all planted in corn and rents the house. He farms a total of 160 acres of corn. He farms some ground on neighboring farms. The only help he has are some school boys and Sam Fisher who lives at Spruce Villa Dairy and works part time there and part time for Thomases.

Glenn finishes 100 Hereford and Angus steers a year and sells them to butchers in Philadelphia. He also finishes 40 or more pigs a year. Some are sold to Armour in Reading and some to Union Stock Yards, Lancaster.

Glenn not only raises a large number acres of corn but has had some real fine yields. In 1965 he was in the 150-175 bushel per acre class, in 1967 in the 175-200 bushel class and in 1968 was champion in the state in a five acre contest through Penn State and Lancaster County Extension Service at the State Fair Show. He had 203 bushel per acre with Pioneer 3369A variety. He also received the Pioneer award in 1968. He has two large trophies for souvenirs.

He was in Litz-Mannheim 4-H Club as a boy. He had caban, strawberries, corn, tobacco and vegetables. He belonged to Mannheim Young Farmers winter before last.

Miriam is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Graybill, now in New Providence. Graybills have 30 to 35 head of Guernseys. She has a sister married to Robert Gerlach who is a builder in Mountville. A brother, John Wilbur, works for Caleb Wenger feed equipment business at Danmore Center. She has a ten year old brother in Providence Township School. Miriam attended Solanco High School for eighth and tenth grades then transferred to Lancaster Mennonite School and graduated from there.

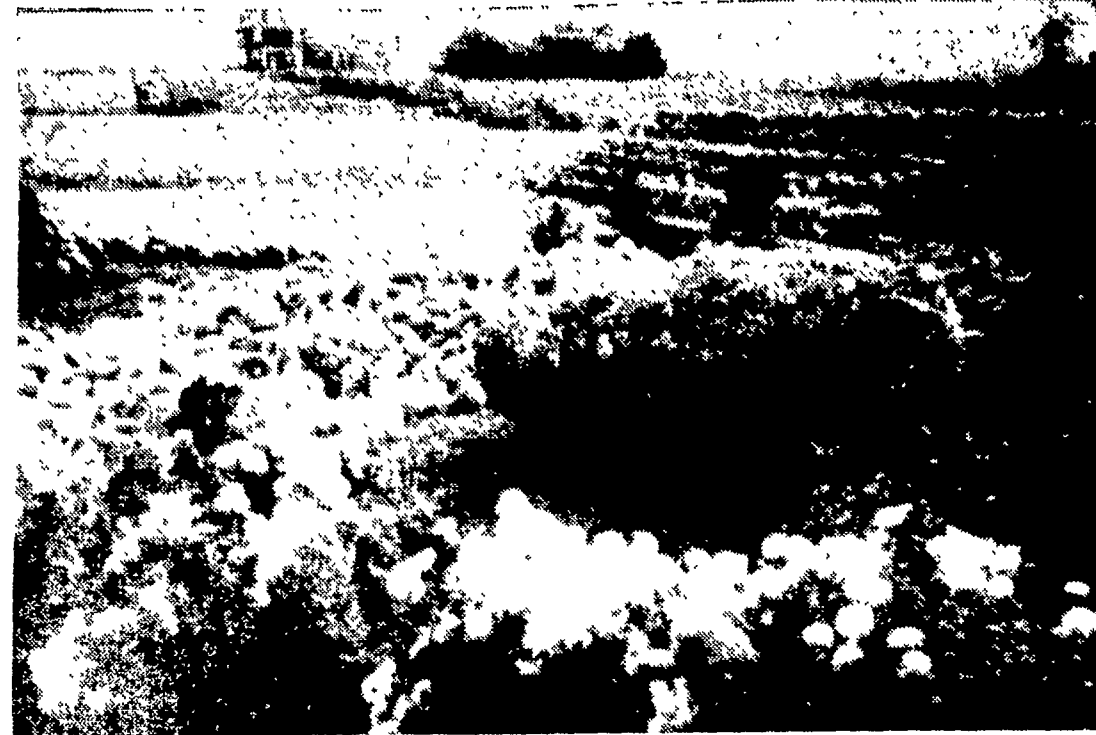
She graduated from the Lancaster General Hospital Nursing School in 1966. Then for a year worked part time at the hospital and attended Millsville College for two semesters. Then they were not offering a B.S. in nursing so she worked nursing at the Osteopathic Hospital in Lancaster. She worked there full time one year and part time the next year.

Miriam is a member of the Lancaster Mennonite Nurses Association and secretary of it. They meet monthly at Rose Mennonite Church. They are mostly Mennonite girls who are registered

ed nurses, practical nurses or at least in the medical field. Sometimes their program includes pictures from mission field, sometimes on a medical theme. They have carried out projects. They collect sheets and from them roll bandages. They made health kits for Haiti and other missions. They have a new project now — volunteer nursing wherein they care for invalids in their private homes, to let a family member free to go shopping or do something else. They raised money for different places like in Tanzania, Africa. They give a days wages to Mary Harhish who is in a leper colony in India. She is Miriam's aunt and a registered nurse. She works with patients to make them self-sufficient. She teaches them to raise chickens and rabbits. Dr. Brubaker, from Lancaster County, is also there in Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have a daughter, Charlynn Joy, who is thirteen months old.

They belong to the Litz Mennonite Church where Glenn is a trustee and teaches Junior boys (9 to 12 year olds) in Sunday School. Miriam works with Junior girls activity group. They are daughters of the Junior Circle of mothers who meet the



Potted mums and colorful pumpkins of every description are a sight to behold.

some time, the last Thursday of each month to sew. She teaches the girls to sew, knot and they make favors for State Hospitals and Homes. The Senior Circle meets another time.

Miriam and Glenn like to go

camping and hiking and have a number of bird books and watch for different kinds of birds. Three years ago they took a tent, camp stove and sleeping bags and went to Michigan through Canada to the west coast, down to San Francisco, Yosemite, Grand Canyon and Yellowstone Parks. They hiked things. She has done some knitting and painted a couple oil paintings. She makes most of her clothes and hopes to make a lot of clothes for her daughter. She likes to make something from things that would be discarded. She and Glenn try their hands at just about any tasks. She and her mother papered their kitchen and Glenn

Miriam likes to do a lot of (Continued on Page 26)



Mrs. Glenn B. Thomas skillfully decorates their roadside market sign.

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