

# Mrs. Brinton Loves to Entertain Fresh Air Children

By Mrs. Charles G. McSparran  
Farm Feature Writer

Mrs. Loran W. (Alice) Brinton, Nottingham RD1, in Little Britain Township, loves to entertain Fresh Air children from New York and children from Lancaster.

She says, "Keeping these children is a lesson in human relations. You learn from them and they learn from you."

Mrs. Brinton has entertained children from New York for eight years. She usually has two boys and two girls and the same ones come year after year. The first one she entertained was a Chinese girl.

Beverly Jackson, 13 years old, from Queens, N.Y., has been coming to Brintons all eight years.

Neil DeGraca, 14 years old, has been there five years and Kenneth Ortiz, four years Neil could not come as planned this year because he had to go to summer school. This was quite a disappointment for Mrs. Brinton and for him, too.

However, Beverly, Kenny and a first-timer Greer Long, 9, of Brooklyn, were there this summer. These children all call her "Aunt Alice" and they say they are going to "Friendly Town." This is the term they use for this program. Porches and green grass to play on are a thrill for these children. It's hard for Lancaster Countians to imagine this.

"Aunt Alice" goes all out to entertain these boys and girls. For her it is a year long project of planning things for them to do and then to enjoy them while they visit her. She gets all kinds of craft books and makes samples of things in winter that they would enjoy making. She makes things from cost-free, discarded



Left to right are: Beverly Jackson, Fresh Air child, Mrs. Loran Brinton, and Mary Jane Albright, Mrs. Brinton's niece. On either side are hand-made hanging flower baskets.

household and farm items such as wind chimes cut from tin cans and suspended from metal jar rings of various sizes, greeting card Christmas bells, greeting card hanging ornaments and hanging flower baskets.

The flower baskets are made by using a flower pot and 16 baler twines to form a hanger. The twines are used double (in some cases she dyes them) and knotted to form a net arrangement to hold the flower pot. She plants flowers such as petunias, morning-glories and geraniums in them. They can be hung indoors in winter to brighten your house or hung outside in summer. When the children make

these, they can take them home with them.

She has a sizeable above-ground swimming pool where she joins in the fun with the boys and girls. She has a sunken bathtub in her lawn where she puts goldfish in the summer.

She has quite a few blooming flowers around her house for the children to enjoy. She also has a couple of tents which they use to camp out some nights. The boys enjoy the farm animals and equipment more than crafts.

Brintons also entertain some grand-nieces and nephews from Lancaster. They have five whom they entertain, each for a week and one at a time.

Friendly Town is financed by many wealthy individuals. The children were formerly transported to Lancaster by train but now they come by chartered buses. Every two weeks, over a six week period in the summer, bus loads arrive and all of the children stay at least two weeks, some stay longer. This year they came here July 8 through August 18.

They are underprivileged children. A lot of their families are on welfare. All must have physical exams before they come. No cripples nor unruly children are permitted to come. A lot more of them would like to come. Their hosts are not paid for entertaining them. The program is administered by welfare workers.

Mrs. Brinton has served on the Solanco-Strasburg area committee for Fresh Air Children. This committee places the children in homes and does their best to locate them according to requests made.

Alice is a nature lover. She says, "I'd like to have a tree house, to watch birds and different animals." To this her husband says, "Act your age!"

She says, "I laid under bushes studying birds and nests. I have lot of books on nature. I do a lot of reading and in a way have educated myself."

Mrs. Briton collects just about anything in the nature line. She says, "I have a room full of such things." To mention some: rocks, shells, seeds, bird nests some from India, snake skins, sand from different states, feathers from different kinds of birds, teeth from animals, even a whale tooth, pressed wild flowers and leaves, dried grass, pine cones from the west coast and from Australia, fossilized rocks, they have fern designs in them. She collected cobwebs for awhile, but says she didn't get anywhere with the. She also collected animals' tails, butterflies, moths and insects, but moths got in them. She has sev-

eral kinds of cacti growing in a window box.

Not only does she collect things of nature but she has a lot of antique furniture that came from her family and her husband's family, antique dishes, vinegar cruets, old wooden butter paddles, potato mashers and rolling pin, antique lamps, old bottles and jars and hand-made pot holders.

Mrs. Brinton is a member of Rising Sun Seventh-Day Adventists Church. She teaches a nature study group at Daily Vacation Bible School one week in July. She taught a Sunday School class of small children for several years. She was a Pathfinder Leader, which met twice a month in her church, and she took the children camping. She was a leader several years for a youth group which met every Friday night. She said, "It kept me young." She still serves on several committee for her church.

Mrs. Brinton, formerly a member of Little Britain Woman's Christian Temperance Union, is now a member of the Quarryville W.C.T.U. and serving as Social Service secretary. She had the other members to a breakfast at her home in June and will have them again in the fall. They spent the day making lap robes, scuffles, calendars, Christmas cards, handkerchief cases and crossword puzzle books for Veterans at Coatesville, Lebanon and Perry Point Hospitals.

Brintons own and operate a 130 acre dairy farm where they raise corn, wheat, hay and four acres of tobacco. They feed all the crops they raise and buy some sometimes. They keep 51 Holstein cows and about 30 heifers. Mr. Brinton has been a farmer all his life. They have owned this farm 16 years and before that owned a farm between Kirkwood and Bartville 13 years.

Loran's father, the late Wayne Brinton, farmed below Kirkwood, had a dairy but more of a general farm. He was a deep thinker, yes, a man ahead of his time. He was the first one in that area to have a silo and a tractor. He was a very active member of the Grange.

Mrs. Brinton, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Morris Sprout, also grew up on the farm, having lived in the southern end of Lancaster County and

in Maryland. She can still lend a hand on their farm when necessary.

Loran graduated from Colerain High School and Quarryville High School. He and his wife joined Colerain Grange in 1948 and both have been very active in it, holding various offices. He is Treasurer and Mrs. Brinton is Lady Assistant Steward at the present time. He not only served as Master of Colerain Grange, but also of Lancaster County, Pomona Grange. He is a seventh degree member of the Grange and Mrs. Brinton is a sixth degree member.

Loran also joined Kirkwood Odd Fellows in 1948. He has been a member of Solanco Young Farmers for four years. He is a member of the Southern Lancaster County Farmers for four years. He is a member of the Southern Lancaster County Farmers' Sportmen's Association. He is an A.S.C. committeeman of this area, judge of Little Britain Township election board and a member of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.

He is a member of a hunting club and loves to go deer hunting. He has bagged eight buck and 6 doe in his time. He also has a 15 foot motor boat which the whole family enjoys.

Brintons have two children. Debra is married to Charles Burns and they have two daughters, Tynia and Carol. They lived in Germany one year and now live in Tennessee.

They have a son David living at home and helping on the farm. David graduated from Solanco High School, took the academic course. He also attended Stevens Trade School three years and graduated from there. He was drafted and served two years in the Army. He served six months in Viet Nam and after his term in Viet Nam spent one year in Active Reserves, finishing with Specialist 4th Class rank.

He is a fifth degree member of the Grange and is serving as Gatekeeper of Colerain Grange and on the Finance committee of Lancaster County, Pomona Grange. He is also serving on a committee from the Pomona Grange to plan with Chester-Delaware Pomona and Montgomery Pomona to entertain State Grange in 1975. Davis is a



Mrs. Alice Brinton holds a Baltimore Oriole nest with an artificial bird atop. On the wall is a picture she padded with nylon.



Mrs. Brinton shows her nylon stocking quilt. The hand-carved teakwood table was brought from India by Mr. Brinton's aunt, who was a missionary there for 30 years.