

Her Many Talents Put to Use at Holiday Season

By Mrs. Charles McSparran
Farm Feature Writer

Christmas is celebrated many ways even among Christian churches and Christian people. In most cases tradition plays a great part in making Christmas more meaningful.

December 3rd is the first Sunday of Advent. Among Moravians the Moravian-designed star is hung in the church and doorways and windows of homes from the first Sunday in Advent until the first Sunday in Epiphany. It precedes all other decorations. A multipointed star with internal illumination, it was first made by some boys in the Niesky School in Germany around 1850.

The Christmas Eve Candle is a rich Christian symbol used in the Christmas Eve vigils of the Moravian Church. In that service, burning candles are distributed to the worshippers as they sing praise to their Savior who came to be the Light of the World. The origin dates back to 1747 in Germany when Bishop John deWatterville introduced it during a service for children. He gave each child a burning candle wrapped with a red band to help



Mrs. Bucher, in front of her cup and saucer collection, admires the bluebird cup and saucer she used as a child.

them remember Christ's birth, passion and wounds. This custom is still practiced today in the Moravian Churches. The candles are made of beeswax as it represents the sinless purity of Christ's flesh. The paper frill has been added to catch any drippings.

The Lititz Moravian Church observes the love feast the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve. So many people

attend that it is necessary to secure tickets beforehand in order to get a seat. Women and men who serve the love feast are known as Deaneers. The women dress in white and wear a haube on their head. A blue ribbon on the haube indicates a married woman, a pink ribbon a single woman and a white ribbon a widowed woman.

At the love feast each of the women Deaneers come into the

church with a basket of buns which they pass into the pews so that each person gets one. The men servers bring trays of coffee and cups of coffee are passed to each one in the pews. The minister conducts the service. The men servers bring in trays of lit beeswax candles which are passed to each person in the

pews. The electric lights are turned off and individual candles truly remind the worshippers of Christ, the Light of the World.

The Moravian Church Square in Lititz was laid out in 1757 and the church was built in 1787. Besides the church in the square there is Linden Hall, and the Brethren's House where George



Mrs. Willis H. Bucher, Lime Rock Mill Rd., Lititz RD2, demonstrates making a ruffle to catch the dripping wax from the Moravian beeswax candle used for their love feast. The multi-pointed star used in Moravian parishioner homes, one of Mrs. Bucher's home-made dolls and an arrangement can be seen on the table.

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Washington had some of his soldiers during the Revolutionary War. The Brethren's House is now used for a Sunday School Building. There is also some other houses, not owned by the church. This is truly a beautiful spot and the buildings are well preserved.

The church makes the many pointed illuminated stars available to the people so they can put them in their homes for the Christmas season.

Mrs. Willis H. (Margaret) Bucher, Lititz RD2, is a Deaneer of the Lititz Moravian Church. She also helps make the paper frills for the candles. She is president of the Women's Missionary Society and was president of her Sunday School class. She taught a Sunday School class in the primary department for 20 years. She is a member of the church Women's Fellowship.

Mrs. Bucher says "Cooking is (Continued On Page 24)"

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