

## Ready To Greet Easter with Floral Tributes

Easter being an annual festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives Christians hope for their resurrection and eternal life. It was also a spring pagan festival and it usually coincides with the Jewish Passover. Thus, it means very much to most people and is expressed in many ways.

With the bursting forth of new life as we see plant life greening and flowers budding and blooming, what better way to express it than with flowers. No one lives closer to nature and can see new life unfolding than the farm family.

One farm girl who says "I really love working with flowers" is Mrs. Dennis (Deborah) Kolb of 1923 Creek Hill Road, Lancaster. Debbie has been working for Wengers Flowers, Inc. of 56 Quarry Road, Leola for six months. She works in the retail section.

Among her duties are answering the phone and taking orders, waiting on customers, helping customers select arrangements, wrapping plants, matting and decorating plants, filling orders that are sent out and decorating the sales and show rooms. She is busy now getting ready for Easter. This means decorating for and handling extra sales during their spring Open House or Easter Show. It also meant making herself a special outfit to wear during Open House. She made a long full skirt of printed material and a purple vest to match.

Wengers supply the same material for about 12 girls and each girl makes her own outfit to wear during Open House. The dresses are not made exactly alike but most of them are full length. The material this year is a very colorful print of early spring shades of deep pink, yellow, purple, blue and lime

Farm  
Feature  
Writer  
By  
Mrs. Charles  
McSparran



green.

Wengers' spring Open House is currently running for six days, April 14 through the 19th and from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wengers have four large display areas for the show. One room depicts an Easter setting and one room has a high stone wall and waterfall. Both resemble natural garden settings with all kinds of flowers. The one in front of the waterfall features a lady standing in the garden displaying several kinds of corsages. A rustic room features a water wheel with green plants and the fourth room has a large section of shelves displaying all kinds of candles, candlesticks,

candle rings, glass and pottery containers, figurines, potted green plants, artificial and dried arrangements.

Wengers have been having Christmas and Easter Shows for 25 years. The Christmas Show runs for two weeks. Hundreds of people attend them and most of the people return year after year.

Wengers flower business started in 1920. Prior to that the late Samuel Wenger was a butcher and painter. His son Paul, who graduated from Elizabethtown College, was a schoolteacher. The two constructed several greenhouses where they grew flowering plants, cut flowers and tomato plants and sold them at two markets in Reading. Paul married Miriam Stauffer, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Stauffer of Drumore Township. She grew up on their family farm. Miriam too graduated from Elizabethtown College and was a schoolteacher before marriage.

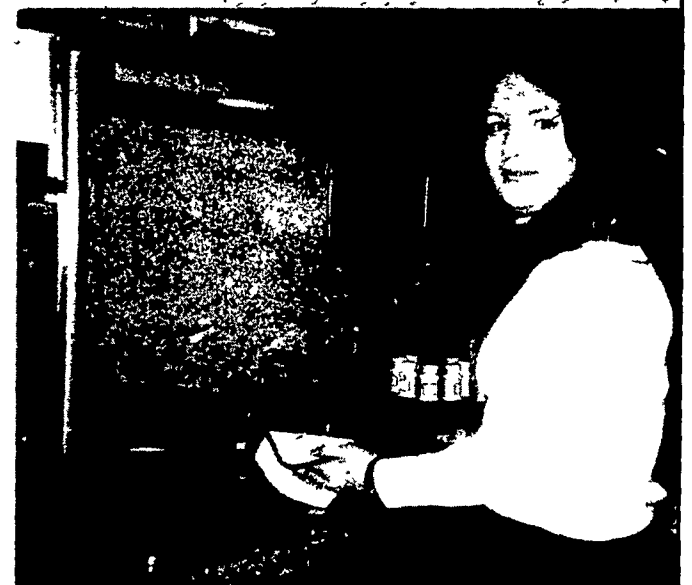
About 25 years ago Wengers started a retail flower business and stopped tending market. Mr.



Debbie Kolb helps arrange the display window at Wengers Flowers, Leola.



Mrs. Dennis Kolb, East Lampeter Township is wearing her handmade Wenger Flower Show outfit. Holding an Easter arrangement, she is standing in the garden before the waterfall background.



Debbie Kolb is right at home in her kitchen preparing meals for her farmer husband.



(Left to right) Mrs. Mildred Bomberger and Debbie Kolb making Easter sales.

and Mrs. Paul Wenger both worked in the business and their children grew up in it. Betty has worked full time in the business for 28 years and Mildred full time for 23 years. It is still a family business. Rev. Paul Wenger and Mrs. Wenger are taking less part in it although he makes distant deliveries and Mrs. Wenger helps by making boxes for plants and lace for corsages at home.

Mildred, now president of Wengers Flowers, married Carl Bomberger who serves as the treasurer. Carl grew up on a farm in East Lampeter Township but attended West Lampeter High School in order to take the agriculture course there.

The Bombergers have a son Kenneth who is attending Bethany Seminary in Chicago. Their daughter Carlene is attending Messiah College where she is taking Home Economics. She is very good at designing flower arrangements and plans to take a one year leave of absence from college to work in the business. Julie Ann and Lawrence are attending Conestoga Valley High School.

They help in the weekends and whenever not in school.

Betty, vice-president of Wengers Flowers, is married to Allan Bewley who is secretary of the business. They have three children. Cathy is attending Elizabethtown College and attends Brownstown Township where he is taking field work. He also attends Conestoga Valley High School. Bradson attends Leola Elementary School.

Wengers' regular hours are from 8 to 10 Monday through Saturday. They employ 14 people regularly during their shows and employ help. From three to seven people help. Rev. Wenger makes deliveries largely over a 25-mile radius. Their employees work a week except during school weeks when they work overtime. However, for the family seven day a week take care of ventilating, checking heat, doing funeral work and necessary deliveries. The business is not open

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