



Sara S. Stauffer

A Master of Arts and Crafts

Mrs. J. Stanley (Sara) Stauffer Sr., Drumore Township, who is interested in all kinds of creative crafts, will show several of her paintings at the Chester County Savings & Loan Association, 124 S. Third St., Oxford, Pa. for the month of March.

She has been a member of the Octoraro Art Association for three years and each member takes a month to display a half dozen or more of their pictures. She will show still life, landscapes and collages in oil, watercolor, pastels, acrylics and mixed media.

Mrs. Stauffer has attended some adult education classes at Solanco High School where she took oil and water-color painting. She also took some lessons from Mrs. Novelda Ferguson of Quarryville.

Mrs. Stauffer has renewed recently her oldest craft, quilting. Forty years ago her husband gave her a quilt to applique, embroidery, then quilt. To her then, it wasn't especially exciting but, encouraged by her mother-in-law, she made the quilt in a short time. She has used a beautiful rose designed quilt until it is beginning to show wear. She hasn't made any quilts for years, but in the last year or so she has taken quilting up again. She made a quilt last year that went to Baltimore and one that went to Mount Joy. She has patched a star design quilt and is ready to quilt it for someone in Connecticut. She is also ready to quilt a cross stitch quilt that will go to Georgia.

Mrs. Stauffer has always done a lot of sewing. She did all the sewing for her two daughters when they were small. She recently made a housecoat and sleepwear.

Mrs. Stauffer's second craft learned was crocheting. She made doilies, pillow case edges, collars, baby sets, children's dresses and doll clothing. She made and sold over 100 crocheted dressed dolls.

Mrs. Stauffer also knits. She has a knitted wool cape which is nearly finished. One of her newest adventures in yarn or cord is macrame'. She made a metallic lame' necklace, one of all cord and one of cord and beads.

Another craft Mrs. Stauffer has done, and is still doing a lot of, is painting tinware, tole. She is painting a set of 12 trays, each with a different flower, and has many pieces around their home.

A craft of similar nature is rosemaling, an inspired Norwegian folk art. The designs are of an unfolding nature. The peasants copied this mode of painting from scroll work on theater ceilings and similar places. Sara learned of this art and later heard of a craft workshop week to be held at Marquette, Michigan, four years ago. She immediately phoned and enrolled and in no time flat she and her husband were on a tenting trip there where she learned the craft. She

studied this art and painted five pieces while there. Since then she has painted many wooden pieces and other articles with these designs.

Another almost extinct art is making sugar boxes and tina boxes. She is making one of each now. She made a sugar box from veneer and is painting a design on a tina box that will soon be completed with several coats of lacquer to protect it. She also molds articles from wet newspapers, paints and shellacs them. She has a very lovely fruit bowl that she made in this manner.

Mrs. Stauffer took up making pottery in adult education courses within the past ten years. She made some molded, slab and free form pieces such as candle holders, eggs, vases and an eagle. She also took a shop course in adult education. She makes use of that by making cutting boards and of course, paints a design on them.

Sara has done a number of crewel embroidery pieces such as pillows, pictures and chair covers. She did a clock and a mirror which she sold, and has also done some needlepoint.

She enjoys buying solid old pieces of furniture at sales and refinishing them. She persuaded her husband to put shelves in a couple old wardrobes and to make her a cabinet. She refinished them and uses them to store her crafts materials.

Mrs. Stauffer says "I take up little things that come along—egg decorating, lamp shade making, made artificial flowers, shellcraft and made and sold decorated cream mints." She used to give demonstrations on making Christmas decorations, lamp shade making and antiquing flowers but they were difficult to transport so she gave that up. She has used turkish towels to make pillows and handbags.

She says "I buy a lot of craft books and am interested only in craft magazines.

She was on the Council for "Holiday For Wives" at the Lancaster YWCA for two years. That's where she learned to paint tinware, took Creative Writing and Poise Through Speech.

In line with her interest in arts and crafts, Mrs. Stauffer was on the sewing committee of the Solanco Fair for a few



Sara S. Stauffer made this heirloom type quilt with appliqued pink roses and blue stripes and binding. She also made the crewel pillows.

years then was on the handiwork committee about 20 years, having been chairman about 10 years. She worked with the fair ever since it started in 1950. Her Farm Women group had a food stand at the fair until two years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer belong to Schaefferstown Historical Society in Lebanon County. This group has two weekend shows a year. They have crafts at them such as quilting; they have people there interested in herbs; quilt shows; decorated eggs and a tinsmith. They have Pa. Dutch programs, a German band and a Lebanon County cooking demonstration. The society is having old buildings restored.

Mrs. Stauffer was born in Reistville, Lebanon County, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John B. Southern, and attended schools in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties. She graduated from East Drumore and Quarryville High Schools. Her father was a farmer and managed Ideal Dairy in Lancaster before it and Sanitary Dairy merged into Pensupreme. Ideal Dairy was privately owned at Cleona, Lebanon County. Later her father farmed for himself.

Stanley (Stiff) was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Stauffer and was born and raised on the farm where they live. The farm, located on route 272 at Drumore Center consists of 82 acres. He farmed it until four years ago when they sold it to their son, Stanley Jr. (Butch). They always had a dairy. When Stanley Sr. farmed it they kept about 30 cows and Sara helped to milk four years. She used to help with horses in the fields, later with tractors. She and Stiff used to do custom baling, she drove the tractor. They kept about 100 Barred Rock laying hens. They always had a garden and still do. Sara freezes most of the vegetables, and cans tomatoes and peaches. Her daughter, Libby at home, makes preserves.

Stanley Sr. drives a school bus for Lester Warfel. His run is from Drumore and East Drumore Townships to the Solanco Senior and Junior High Schools and Quarryville Elementary School, also the activity bus. He takes care of the Chestnut Level Church lawn and cemetery, and also helps Butch with field work in the summer.

Stauffers have three children. They all attended Drumore schools and graduated from Solanco High School. Frances graduated from Albright College and received a Masters degree from Penn State University. She also attended Drexel Institute and Syracuse University. She taught school four years in Lower Camden County, N. J. and then at George Reed Jr. High School and William Penn High School in New Castle, Del. She is married to Samuel H. Reyburn and has a two month old son. They live at Russellville in Chester County. He is self employed, doing general repair work, paints, tuning pianos, and is assistant mail carrier and helps on farms.

Elizabeth Ann (Libby) Miller is employed by Commonwealth Telephone Co. and does office work at Quarryville. She has three sons and lives at home. She is a Scout leader.

Stanley Jr. has always lived and worked on the home farm. He worked first for his parents, then on the halves and has owned the farm four years. He has increased the herd,

(Continued On Page 21)

Farm Feature Writer

Mrs. Charles McSparran



Mrs. Stauffer painted the tina box she is holding, the rosemaling designs on the wooden plates and the water-color painting on the wall. She made the

slab pottery eagle. She also displays her bowling trophies and her mother's engraved silver tea set. She refinshed the jelly cupboard.