

# Farm Women

(Continued from Page 42)

in about 1880. The Wengers have no children of their own but Mrs. Wenger became acquainted with four young men through their interests in spinning and weaving and now they call them their boys. They are William Leinbach who does custom weaving at his home near Quentin, Tom Martin who is a manager at Mill Bridge Craft Village, David Zimmerman who is a librarian at the Lancaster Public Library, and Gary Gainer who does a scissor cutting craft known as Scheren Shnitte. He worked at Mill Bridge Craft Village. He bought his own loom and does weaving. These boys occasionally have a buffet supper at Wengers on Sunday night. They show slides, talk about their crafts and put jigsaw puzzles together.

William Leinbach had a spinning and weaving booth in the Hershey Craft Barn and he had Mrs. Wenger to take over his booth while he had his college graduation in 1972. From then on she demonstrated two days a week in the summer there for him in 1972 and 1973. She also demonstrated Pa. Dutch tufted needle-point at the Pennsylvania Dutch Days at Hershey one year.

Susan says "I like to demonstrate - that's my main hobby. I like to meet the people. I meet people from all over the world." For the past three years she has been a

part time worker at the Ephrata, Cloisters and Mill Bridge Craft Center also. She works four or five days a week in the summer. At the Cloisters she wears a habit and demonstrates spinning but does weaving when the weaver isn't there. At Mill Bridge they have a big round stone run by water power to mill corn meal. She shells the corn, mills corn meal and tells how the water wheel works. She also demonstrates candle dipping with beeswax and paraffin wax with steric acid and makes brooms. She worked there Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is open from Good Friday until Thanksgiving weekend. The Mill Bridge Craft Center is located on Paradise Lane, just off route 741 east of Strasburg. Besides working at these places she has taught different people to spin.

Mrs. Wenger is a very good seamstress. She is self-taught except taking a tailoring class at McCaskey High School in 1972. She makes a lot of her own clothes such as dresses, slacks, a pant suit, a cape, a coat and made slip covers. She also made a silk pillbox hat. She says her goal is to grow flax, cure it and prepare it for spinning then spin and weave it into cloth and make it into a dress. It takes 16 months to complete this whole process.

Mrs. Wenger's other crafts include crocheting, knitting and making wool yarn pillows on needlepoint canvas. She crocheted dollies, a blue wool hat and a brown angora hat. She knit socks and gloves. She is crocheting a dog hair scarf now for a friend.

She has about 25 African violets and some other house plants. Wengers have a Beagle and a Shepherd dog which they are very fond of. Mrs. Wenger befriended Laddie, the old Shepherd dog who had become very attached to her while working at Mill Bridge Craft Center.

Wengers are members of St. Paul's United Church of the Apostles in Lancaster. Mrs. Wenger belongs to Strasburg Heritage Society which meets once a month in Fellowship Hall at the First Presbyterian Church in Strasburg. Its purpose is to keep the center of town as it was originally. She spins at their flea market. She also belongs to Pa. Guild of Handweavers. It meets monthly at Mannings Craft & Supply Center and Weaving School in East Berlin.

When asked if she likes to cook she replied "Oh yes, I

like to cook." Here are some of her recipes:

## BREAD

### PART I:

- 2 packs of yeast
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup warm water
- Mix and set aside.

PART II - Put together in a large bowl or dishpan:

- ½ cup sugar
- 3 cups warm water
- 4 tablespoons melted butter or vegetable shortening
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 10½ cups of occident flour (an unbleached western flour)

Add rest of flour, about 1½ cups more, as needed to form a light sponge. Knead until it does not stick to the fingers and looks satiny. Put in a greased bowl and cover and let rise till double in bulk, about 1½ to 2 hrs.

Punch down and knead a few minutes and put into bread pans. Set in a warm place, about 82 degrees and let rise till double in bulk, about 1½ hours. Put in a 400 degree oven for 10 minutes, then turn oven to 350 degrees for 20 minutes more.

## RICE PUDDING

- 1-3 cup rice (brown or white, not quick cooking)
- 1 cup water

Bring to a boil and turn to simmer. Cover and simmer until all water is absorbed or cook until rice is soft. If necessary add little more water and 1½ cups milk and let it come to the boiling point.

In the meantime mix 2½ tablespoons of cornstarch with 4 tablespoons of sugar in a bowl. Break 1 egg yolk into it and mix in ½ cup of milk gradually - stirring constantly until soft. Add to rice and milk mixture and cook until it thickens. Add 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Beat white of egg until stiff but not dry and add to pudding, blending well. Pour in sherbets or serving dish and sprinkle with cinnamon or nutmeg.

## CHOCOLATE CAKE Serves 16

- 2 cups brown sugar
- ½ cup shortening
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup sour milk
- 2 cups flour
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ½ cup cocoa
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream sugar and shortening. Add eggs, then the sour milk and then the flour sifted with the baking soda and cream of tartar. Mix cocoa and boiling water and add last.

## SALAD DRESSING

- ½ cup vinegar
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup salad oil
- 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
- dash of salt

Put in a bottle and shake well. Serve on salad greens. For variation snip chives, celery leaves in mix.

## TOILET SOAP

- 44 oz. olive oil
- 17 oz. coconut oil
- 24 oz. hydrogenated vegetable shortening
- 10¼ oz. lye
- 32 oz. water

Note: For scented soap, add 1 oz. lemon oil which can be purchased at a drug store or scent from where they make candles. Use wooden spoon to stir. Container must be stainless steel or plastic. Measurements have to be exact and the fat or oil has to be between 95 and 98 degrees and the lye the same temperature.

DIRECTIONS: Melt all oils and solid fats together and bring to 95 to 98 degrees temperature. Dissolve lye in the amount of water and stir until all the lye is dissolved, in a glass jar or crock. Cool till 95 to 98 degrees, about an hour, then slowly pour the lye solution into the melted fat solution and stir (not beat) real vigorously until it is consistency of pudding. Pour into molds or plastic dish pan and set at room temperature until solid. If it is in a big mold, cut it into desired sized pieces and let set until it is hard. It can be carved or used as is.

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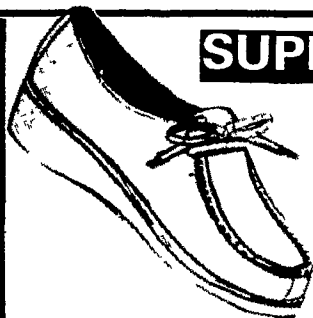
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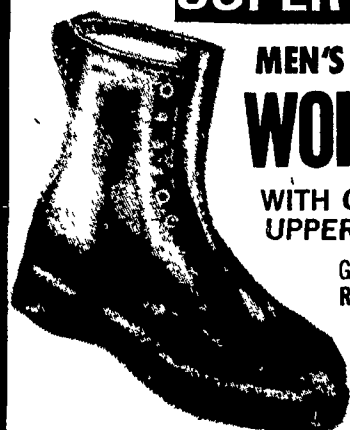
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