

He creates

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be a part of the revolutionary spirit by playing a drum. Accompanying this trio of figures are separate items such as the liberty bell, Ben Franklin, Paul Revere, and a Minuteman. All are the result of research and hours of painstakingly piecing bits of gourds together.

Characteristic of Schneider's sense of humor, a "Spirit of 1976" display which he created consists of an elephant and a donkey with a marvelous set of gleaming white teeth.

Schneider says creating gourd crafts is easy because the materials used are very simple to work with. Dry gourds can be obtained by allowing the gourds to mature on the vine past the peak of color and before the frost kills the vine. Wash the gourd in a strong detergent solution and dry. Store in a dry, airy place. After some time, mold will form on the gourd. This can be brushed or wiped off to reveal patterns of light and dark coloration.

You will also need Elmer's glue to cement the pieces together, and plastic wood to fill in cracks and holes. A fruitwood stain to cover the surface and blend in the plastic wood, and paints to color the dish rag gourd fibers for clothing and hair, complete the list of materials. A good saw, preferably a power saw because of the hardness of the gourd shells, and a lot of imagination round out all you need for most gourd crafts. If you wish to make lamps you can purchase a white fireproofing chemical which coats the inside of the gourd closest to the bulb.

Waterproofing for vases or hanging planters can be done by dissolving small pieces of styrofoam, such as the trays grocery items are packaged on, in a lacquer thinner. Use only the color of tray you want for your gourd. Schneider says as many as 70 trays can be dissolved in one pint of thinner.

Schneider's display and humorously presented knowledge of gourds certainly testifies to the truth to an old legend about gourds - "If you give or receive a gourd . . . with it goes all the best things in life . . . health, happiness and other good things."

Solar Energy

Some consumers are turning to solar energy to heat homes and other facilities. In the first six months of 1975, production and sales of medium-temperature solar collectors increased



four times over the rate of 1974. The number of companies manufacturing these collectors jumped from 39 in 1974 to 69 in the first half of 1975. The solar heating units absorb the sun's energy and use that energy to heat the air or water within the system.

Copernicus

Copernicus, a 15th century mathematician, first concluded that "In the center of all rests the sun." His thesis contradicted the accepted doctrine of more than a thousand years - that the universe centered on the earth.

Berks Co. Group

Nineteen members met at the home of Mrs. John Birkaler, Bernville R1 for the September meeting of Berks Co. Society of Farm Women Group 5.

President Rhea Schoener conducted the business meeting. Preparations are being made to have a men's night for the month of November.

Jane Sattazahn volunteered to write an essay on "How a Farm Women Ticks in '76" for the Farm Women essay contest.

The County farm women hoe-down will be held April 23 at the Hamburg Field House from 8 to 11 P.M.

State convention will be January 10-11.

An invitation was received from Group 7 to attend their 10th anniversary to be held October 19 at 8 P.M. at the Conrad Weiser High School. Election of officers was held. New officers for 1977-78 are: president-Betty

Wessner, vice president-Anna Moyer, recording secretary-Sandy Rauen-zahn, corresponding secretary-Carolyn Feeg, treasurer-Julia Grimes.

Next month's meeting will be held October 25 to tour LaConca D'oro Inc. Bethel R1, at 7:30 p.m.



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21 - LARGE CONTOUR LOUNGES — REG. \$269.95 OUR PRICE \$85.00

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