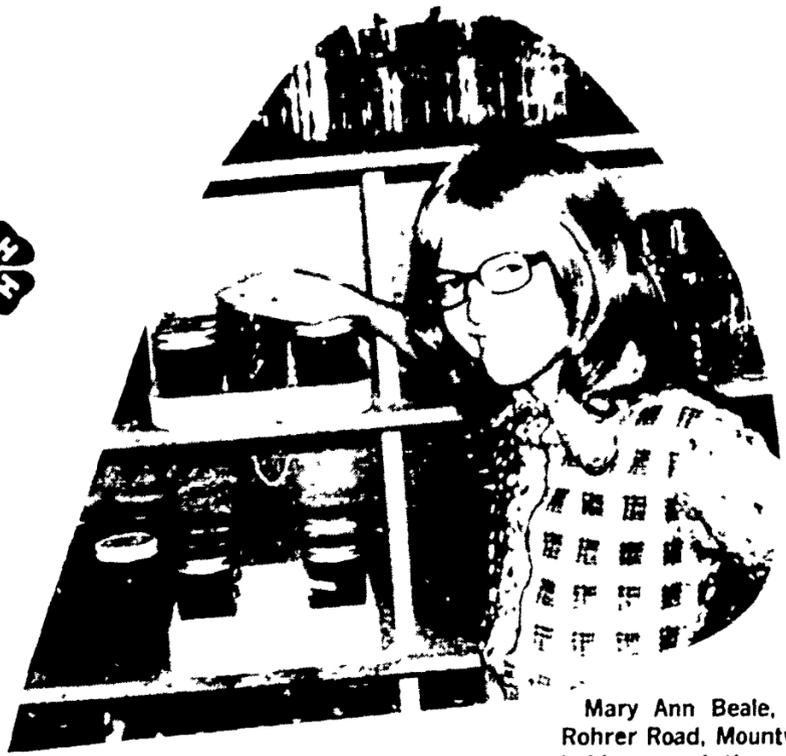


Jay Robert Musser, 200 Donerville Road, Lancaster, works in the vegetable garden.



Mary Ann Beale, 441 Rohrer Road, Mountville, holds one of the many jams and jellies she made during her project.



Jim Stauffer, 345 Weaver Road, Lancaster, holds the blue-ribbon scrapbook which he compiled as news reporter for the club and displayed on Achievement Day.



Jay Stauffer, 345 Weaver Road, Lancaster, shows some of his expertise with his beekeeping project. Jay is vice president of the Penn Manor 4-H Club.

Penn Manor club is a symbol of 'new 4-H'



By SALLY BAIR
Feature Writer

4-H Club Week offers an opportunity to applaud 4-H'ers and 4-H volunteer leaders for the work they do throughout the year. While projects are completed for this year, club activities continue and the 4-H beat goes on.

An active, progressive 4-H club does not just happen. A lot of hard work is involved in getting a 4-H club organized and making sure projects are carried through from start to finish.

The Penn Manor Community 4-H Club is a club which symbolizes the "new 4-H" and meets members' needs through a good organizational structure.

Two years ago the club had 40 members; in 1976 it had over 90 members. Its projects this year ranged from the traditional sewing and cooking to beekeeping and electronics.

The dynamic leader most responsible for the Penn Manor Club's outstanding growth is Mrs. J. Clayton Charles, Lancaster R 2. While Mrs. Charles is modest in taking credit for successes, she recognizes that organization plays a big part in keeping a club running smoothly. She says quite matter-of-factly, "I'm an organized person."

Mrs. Charles has been a leader for just three years, and for the past two years has been serving as the organizational leader of the community club; that is, the one responsible for the overall operation of the 4-H club. She willingly shared the blueprint which has worked for her club, but admits that each year some things are changed to see how they work out.

Dorothy Charles' organization begins long before the first 4-H'er signs up on the enrollment sheet in March. Before the first meeting of the year, Mrs. Charles has already contacted leaders and has arranged which projects will be offered. This is done in consultation with the leaders and with older 4-H'ers. Mrs. Charles said, "They need to have input because they have ideas worth listening to."

How do you find leaders for the wide range of

She said they try to use 4-H teen leaders as much as possible in the club, and added, "I hope to have more in the future, but this doesn't happen overnight."

In the Penn Manor 4-H club, leaders are strongly encouraged to go to the extension-sponsored 4-H leader training sessions. "They can always learn in leadership and it really gets you warmed up to 4-H when you attend a training meeting," Mrs. Charles said.

So now that the leaders are signed up and ready to go, how do you get 4-H'ers? Mrs. Charles said her club distributes letters throughout the elementary schools in the area they wish to cover. She said these letters begin at the fourth grade, which means some of the younger eligible kids are missed. She said, however, if they learn about it and are really interested, they are welcomed into the club. This year the Penn Manor 4-H club included the Millersville Borough in their letter-area, and they attracted a large number of borough youth to the club.

This initial letter, Mrs. Charles explains, tells what 4-H is and invites interested persons to the organizational meeting. This first meeting is an important one because she tells more specifically what 4-H is all about, the experiences it offers and the responsibilities it entails. Then the project leaders tell about their special areas of interest after which prospective members divide into smaller groups and the 4-H'ers can learn exactly what the projects involve.

Mrs. Charles said, "We allow more than one project per child, but we discourage it. We do emphasize the

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Homestead Notes

projects offered in today's community clubs? Mrs. Charles said, "I just heard of interest among the neighborhood. I got on the phone and one person would tell me to try another and I just kept going until I got them."

Mrs. Charles said it is important to have plenty of leaders, because they must keep members interested, especially where parents are not solidly behind the members. She said, "Some are going to be lost from 4-H, but you can't be discouraged by that because there are so many good ones."