

Her holidays are spent at market



The Slaymaker children have a talent for music passed to them by their mother. Here, Deana sings, accompanying herself on an organ while Mrs. Slaymaker listens.

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Feature Writer

When a glance at the calendar proves the holiday season is fast approaching, most homemakers start replacing their everyday clothes with "going to town" clothes and begin spending a larger than usual amount of time shopping for bargains, gifts, and special holiday foods.

For most husbands this time of transformation is nothing to rejoice about.

Clyde Slaymaker, Jr., of Quarryville, however, is fortunate. His wife Joyce spends more time behind the counters than in front of them at this time of year.

During the peak holiday shopping, Joyce helps sell the dressed poultry, eggs and fresh produce they supply to their customers at three markets. On Wednesday and Saturday of each week the Slaymakers sell a full line of dressed fowl, rabbits, eggs, and produce at Broomall and Sharon Hill Farmers' Markets to suburban Philadelphia homemakers. On Tuesdays and Fridays they sell the fowl and eggs at Central Market in Lancaster. The Philadelphia markets have been in the family operation since 1932 with the Lancaster stand a new addition early this year.

"We wanted to open a stand closer to home," Joyce explained.

Clyde, Jr. represents the third generation of his family that goes to market to sell directly to their patrons. At one time the elder Slaymakers dressed their own birds, but now they purchase everything wholesale ready for market. Joyce says they sold close to 800 turkeys alone for the Thanksgiving holiday. Five hundred were by order; the remainder were sold to walk-up customers.

Although Clyde, Jr. was accustomed to the marketing business, it was all new to his wife Joyce who grew up north of White Oak in the Manheim area on a dairy and layer farm. The 16 years she has been involved in marketing, however, have proven to be agreeable to her.

"I like going to market - getting out to meet people," she admits. "Our customers like going to this type of market to buy. They like the personal touch such as being called by their first name," she explains.

"Our customers like to sort through the pile of tomatoes or select their own eggs or chickens rather than have them already pre-packaged in cellophane and plastic trays," she continues.

In order to meet their customers face to face, the Slaymakers leave home at 2:30 a.m. and return by 4:30 p.m. from the Broomall and Sharon Hill Markets. When they go the Central Market they leave home at



Mrs. Slaymaker shows a piece of ceramics which she fashioned herself.

5:30 a.m. Being close to home has its advantages - like getting three hours more sleep early in the morning!

Year round Joyce keeps the books and payroll for their 10 employees. "Monday morning I spend most of the time catching up on the weekend business. Fridays I do the payroll," she explains.

Mrs. Slaymaker also puts in time at the "shop" where the commodities are delivered then broken down into orders for the various markets.

The Slaymakers have three children. The boys - Doug, 14, and Duane, 12 - often go along to market while Deana, 8, stays behind at a friend's home. The

family lives five miles north of Quarryville on Route 222.

When not involved in the workings of their business, Joyce enjoys sewing for herself and her daughter.

"I got interested in sewing after my daughter was born. My sister-in-law taught me enough to get started," she explains.

After the children were all in school, Mrs. Slaymaker became interested in ceramics.

"A friend asked me to go along with her to classes at a craft shop in Lancaster. I really enjoy working with ceramics," she says.

When asked how she finds time to paint them she replied, "I work on them in between times: between loads of wash or other spare minutes between chores. They are something I can work on a few minutes, leave, then come back to easily."

"I give away a lot of my ceramics for gifts. I did 25 or so for last year's Christmas."

Mrs. Slaymaker also sells her ceramics at the two Philadelphia markets. Their lease at Central Market is strictly for dressed fowl and eggs, and prohibits her displaying her ceramics.

The whole family actively supports the programs at the Refton Brethren In Christ Church where Clyde serves as Sunday School Superintendent and Duane, Deana, and Joyce sing in the various choirs. Mrs. Slaymaker's musical interests evident in her singing and playing both piano and organ are fostered in her children as well. Doug and Deana take organ lessons and Duane plays the guitar. Doug also plays the trombone in the Lampeter-Strasburg High School concert, marching and pep bands.

Among the organizations in which the Slaymakers have membership, the Beaver Valley Lions Club is special to them. Clyde has had one successful cornea transplant made possible by the efforts of the Lions who support work with eye banks. Mr. Slaymaker speaks to groups about his operation and the need for more donors, having the full knowledge of their benefits at first hand. Mr. Slaymaker did not have a sight problem until he was a teenager. In January, 1974, he had a successful cornea transplant at Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia.

"It is a long convalescence," Joyce explains. "The last stitches did not come out until six months after the operation. He wasn't allowed to do anything strenuous or lift anything heavy until those stitches were out."

Now he has better than average vision in that eye when he wears glasses," she adds. The family has been waiting since March for a second cornea which matches Clyde's in size to become available.

"Donors do such a wonderful thing for others, and we are so grateful," says Joyce in praise of the program.

When her husband was recuperating, Joyce got out of many of the activities she had been involved in.

"I think we often get into too many things for our own good," she says. "We try to imitate the best of not just one friend, but many." She concluded this thought by saying that children grow up so fast that parents should spend more time with them.

Something Joyce enjoys which her family directly benefits from is cooking. Not surprisingly her family's favorite dish is fried chicken.

"They could eat fried chicken several times a week," she remarks.

Mrs. Slaymaker shared some of her family's favorite recipes using chicken and turkey.

The family's favorite fried chicken recipe:
Oven-Fried
Chicken

4 tablespoons margarine
4 tablespoons shortening
1 cup flour
2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Chicken pieces enough for your family
Melt margarine and shortening in broiler pan in



These ceramics crafted by Mrs. Slaymaker are displayed on an antique flour chest belonging to Mr. Slaymaker's grandparents.