



One view of the Garber living room points out the many creative pieces of artwork Mrs. Garber has fashioned herself. In the left hand corner of the

picture is a hanging planter which she recently finished.

## Farmhouse is wonderland of decorating ideas

By JOANNE SPAHR

Editor's note: For the third year, the Lancaster County Farmers' Association (associated with the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association) Women's Committee will sponsor their Heritage Trail Home Tour on April 20. Guests will tour five homes in the Manheim area which contain a legacy of Americana, farming history, and beauty. The following article deals with one of the homes to be visited.

MOUNT JOY, Pa. — A craft or interior decorating enthusiast could get engrossed in the home of the James Garber family, Mt. Joy R2, and never come out for days.

Exaggerated as the above statement might be, the home is definitely a wonderland of crafts and original decorating ideas to delight any visitor.

Mrs. Garber, formerly Martha Stauffer, is largely responsible for the furnishing and refurbishing of this five-bedroom, three-story brick farm house, although she likes to play down her creative role.

"I don't help in the barn or fields anymore," points out the energetic, attractive mother of six, "and everything I do in the house is a project that I really enjoy."

And, while her home is part of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association Heritage Home Tour, she does say that any decorating she has done has been for the enjoyment of her family and not simply for show.

For instance, her most recent project — decorating the downstairs and upstairs halls — was done as a family endeavor.

"Now that was a huge undertaking," she admits

with a sigh as she recalls all the work the family went through. As in most old farm houses, the paint was several coats thick and chipping.

"So, we torched all the paint off and then papered," she states, adding that she is her own paper hanger and painter.

In the downstairs hall, the Garbers worked around original architecture which included a wooden archway and Christian doors. These features now add a rich flavor to the decor. Hanging in the middle of the archway, illuminating the hall, is an elegant crystal chandelier.

The Garbers also laid a rich red, floral designed Axminster carpet. This type of floor covering was popular in the 1940's and early 50's, and only recently caught Mrs. Garber's eye again.

Mirrors reflect the beauty of this area of the home, jeweled with elegant calde

and flower arrangements and crafts which the pert and adept farmwife has hand-crafted.

Singling out one of her favorite pieces of decoupage, Mrs. Garber notes that she went on a "decoupage binge" a while back, as well as a macrame spree.

"Oh, I do enjoy crafts," she emphasizes, but she quickly adds that she has to be in the mood to do them before she starts, and when she begins something, she sticks with it until she's done.

As a result, the walls are bedecked with wall hangings, wreaths, plaques, and conversation pieces, and her furniture is beautifully laden with centerpieces, candles, and delightful knickknacks.

Another fancy she pam-

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The Garbers' living room is done in Williamsburg colors. The walls are beige, the woodwork is

Williamsburg blue, and the furniture is done in deep shades of red.

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