

Ella Mae Metzler

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and helped work in the tobacco and potatoes.

When making bridal gowns, Mrs. Metzler recalls that she bought patterns, and sometimes she combined patterns. "I tried to make the dresses the way they wanted them. The girls bought the fabric. Sometimes I made for the whole wedding party, including mothers and bridesmaids."

One of the changes in bridal dresses over the years is that "they got long," Mrs. Metzler says. She said the change to longer gowns came "after the War," and that weddings became "more fancy. Weddings got bigger."

In all her sewing, which included coats, Mrs. Metzler says with a smile, "I always came last."

Asked whether she preferred sewing by machine or by hand, Mrs. Metzler answered, "It doesn't matter. I just liked sewing." She made wedding dresses for both her daughters, but her youngest daughter, Geraldine's, was the last gown she made.

Although she gave up sewing for others, Ella didn't stop learning. When she was nearly sixty, she and her daughter Dorothy took adult lessons at Hempfield High School and learned to make ceramics. She said, "I made 26 dolls, and I sold some and gave some away." The two dolls she has with her at Landis Homes are dressed in lovely homemade calico dresses, complete with lace, as well as lace-trimmed pantaloons and petticoats.

She said, "I have a lot of dress materials left over. I was going to do a lot of things when I grow old."

In ceramics, Ella Mae also made chickens on nests, pitchers and bullfrogs. Her experience in ceramics allows her to lend a helping hand with ceramics at

Landis Homes. Even without her sight she is able to clean greenware, and can feel the spots that need work with her fingers.

She enjoyed ceramics so much that she set a goal one year to make a piece for each week of the year. "I had to limit myself because I ran out of space to keep them."

Another interest of Ella Mae's which she took up late in life is painting. She and Dorothy took painting classes at Hempfield in 1971, and she has several of her paintings in her room. One is of their home, one of the Hunsicker covered bridge and one of the Pinetown covered bridge.

Ella Mae also learned to do decoupage through a course at the Farm and Home Center, and she learned to do tole painting. She said, "I didn't do too much because my eyesight failed. I enjoyed doing it."

Ella Mae reports that she was very proud when her grandson made himself a shirt. She says, "I didn't know he was going to do it. He just bought the pattern and material and went to work."

When Mrs. Metzler was 15 she started making scrapbooks, a hobby she continued all her life. "I made it all about myself with Christmas cards and weddings. Then I did one with newspaper items, about local things that happened. I did one scrapbook each year with births and deaths, and pictures of (Hurricane) Agnes. Anything I was acquainted with I put in."

and subscribed to magazines I made scrapbooks of rooms in magazines."

In June, Mr. and Mrs. Metzler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

For Ella Mae, her life has been full and fulfilling. The ribbon she won at the Farm Show was a fitting tribute to her skill as a seamstress and her interest in the community around her.

Mary Ann Ibach

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the frame, Mary Ann did the actual work of framing. She said, "I tried a new technique. I used layers of cheesecloth to achieve a puffy look."

When asked how long it took her to complete the design, Mary Ann said with a laugh, "a lot of naps." Needlepoint takes a lot of concentration." She said she began it last May, but took off over the summer for canning and freezing.

Last year at the Farm Show Mary Ann took a first place with a needlepoint bell pull which she had designed as a wedding gift for her brother and sister-in-law. It featured all the information about the wedding, and on the back side it had pertinent information about its creation.

Needlepoint is not Mary Ann's only interest. She also crochets, knits and does counted cross-stitch.

She said, "I really started knitting in 1966. I went to the hospital, got snowed in and had nothing to do. When I went back in April I took knitting with me. I started doing it, and never took classes and no one taught me."

She said in 1970 she was sick and wasn't working so she did more needlework. At that point she did three beautiful afghans in the afghan stitch, with a design worked in cross-stitch.

About her needlework, Mary Ann says she usually has several projects going at once and adds, "I'd like to get at it every day, but I don't always so it. Each year I plan to make Daniel something for his birthday, and I make some of my Christmas gifts. This year I just happened to see some wreaths, and I made five and gave four of them away."

Mary Ann added, "I always have things in my mind. I have very few things in my own home that I've done - I've given almost everything away."

Although she says that needlework is her favorite form of work, she adds, "I really enjoy counted cross-stitch, and I would like to do one of the very first prayer Daniel ever made. I wrote it down. Next year I would like to make a latch hook panda for his birthday." Lucky Daniel in past years has received a personalized afghan and a cross-stitch grow chart. Mary Ann also made a beautiful counted cross-stitch bellpull announcement of Daniel's birth.



Last year, Mary Ann Ibach won first place at the Farm Show with this bell pull she created for her brother and sister-in-law.

Mary Ann says she likes to do different stitches, adding, "Some day I hope to draw our house in sampler form. I want to learn some more stitches first."

She enjoys designing her own things, and often designs wedding gifts. "Designing takes me more time than doing it. I must draw the design on graf paper first," she states

Asked how she chooses her projects, Mary Ann, says, "I think of people I want to do things for. I have no set pattern. I hope to knit more this year." She admits that Winter is a good time to work on needlework projects.

Mary Ann is currently crocheting a vest for her mother, and is finishing a project from a class she took to help her expand her knowledge of stitches.

Mary Ann, who has been married for ten years, works one day a week as a beautician at Calvary Fellowship Homes, Lancaster. She enjoys going to Roots Country Auction with Daniel and a neighbor, and is a member of Calvary Independent Church where she teaches sixth grade girls.

Mary Ann's talents have been shared with many people, and for those who attended the Farm Show, they got to see a well-done portrait of Lancaster County's many agricultural products.



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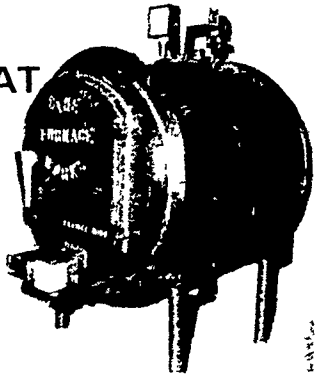
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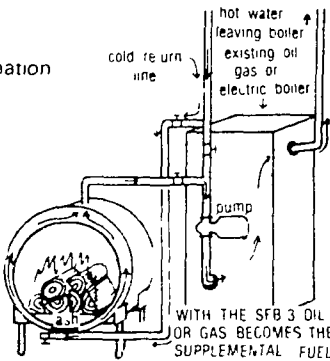
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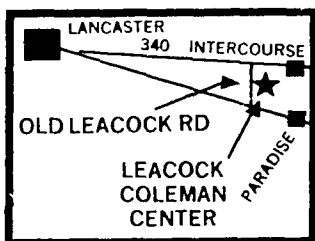


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