

# Gingerbread barns put the icing on Elizabethtown Young Farmers banquet

MT. JOY — Sugar and spice and everything nice, that's what gingerbread barns are made of.

With fifteen batches of gingerbread, twelve pounds of confectioners sugar and a hundred hours of work, three energetic women fashioned centerpieces that stole the show.

The occasion was the fifth

annual banquet of the Elizabethtown Young Farmers Association. And the women were: Nancy Garber, Joyce Shultz, and Patty Hudson.

See related story, Elizabethtown Young Farmers banquet page C30.

The idea came to Nancy Garber while she was searching for something

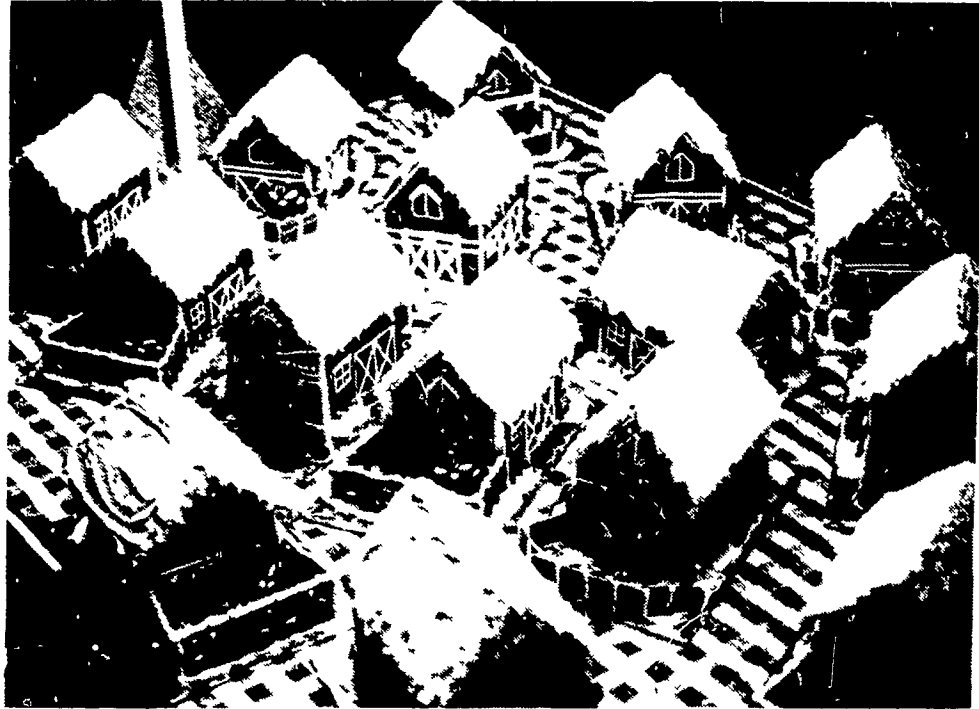
unusual to use as a centerpiece for the annual banquet.

Nancy had seen Patty present a program to the Rheems Elementary School. Nancy approached Patty, proprietor of Pattycakes bakery which specializes in gingerbread houses, about the project.

Since funds were limited,



Shown from left to right are Patty Hudson, proprietor of Pattycakes, Nancy Garber and Joyce Shultz.



Each barn was slightly different from every other barn. When viewed in a group, it looked like a winter-clad farm community.



Every individual barn was complete with details such as crosspiece doors, windows, pretzel stick barnyard fence, farmer and his livestock.

Nancy prevailed upon Patty to allow herself and a friend, Joyce Shultz, help make the fifteen barns which would be needed for centerpieces.

Patty created a suitable pattern which included a simple two-story barn complete with pretzel barnyard and a horse and cow.

An additional 290 tiny gingerbread boys and girls were baked and decorated to stand by the barns and to be used as decorations in the cupcakes for dessert. Fifteen of the boys on the cupcakes matched a boy on the barn, and those people who found a matching boy at their place at dinner won a gingerbread barn as a door prize.

This was not a first attempt at a barn for Patty. Just a month earlier, Nancy

had asked her to recreate their barns and outbuildings including silos as a gift to her husband for his birthday. Working from photographs and suggestions by Nancy, Patty made a very personalized "Garber barn."

Eleanor DeLong, a Quarryville cake decorator,

also donated time to help complete the structures.

The results of all of their labors were fifteen sturdy gingerbread barns laboring under their snowy loads of confectioner's snow which served as lively conversation starters for a room full of appreciative farmers.

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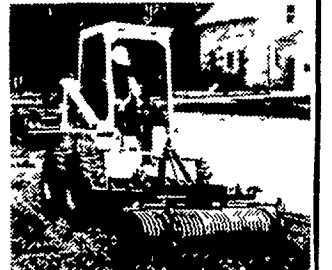
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