

Homestead Notes

(Continued from Page C2)

about it, but I'm having trouble believing it. I really wasn't expecting it."

Lori also had the experience of not making what she set out to do, which is what shortened her working time. She finally chose a Klopman woven polyester fabric, about which she says, "It was easy to sew on but it frayed. I did all french seams."

In addition to learning to make pin tucks and covered buttons, Lori searched diligently for just the right purchased lace collar. The collar she used came from New York City and she purchased it while on a trip with the Garden Spot Performing Arts Association. She said she walked 12 blocks to go to a recommended lace shop. In the end she didn't use the lace cuffs, because the match was not identical.

Lori said that she had a "little girl's sewing machine" when she was younger but that she really learned to sew in 4-H. "Last year I really started to sew and I really enjoy it. The main thing is that it costs less. When I go to a store I look at the garment and see if the seam is finished or if it is lined and I decide I'd rather make it." She said she feels good when someone compliments her on an outfit and she can reply that she made it.

Lori said she often gets ideas from attending fashion review. "I look at what other people have," she states, "I think what the judges will like. They look for the coloring and if it is the right age. They try to encourage you to do new things and it makes it more interesting to do something new." The pin tucks, which were new for her, did not take a lot of time. She marked them with chalk, ironed and stitched them. She did admit, "One time I got so frustrated I let out a scream." She laughs recalling the look her cat gave her before coming over and resting its paw on Lori's arm.

For next year she is already considering a skirt, jacket and blouse combination.

You want to look for something that is in style but that's not too old," she states.

A sophomore at Garden Spot High School, Lori plays the piano and violin and is a member of the county and district orchestra as well as the Lancaster Youth Symphony. She is on the National Honor Society and helps the stage crew of the Garden Spot Performing Arts group.

Pin tucks are big this fall for anyone who knows the latest fashion and Beka Baum, 15, Columbia R1, chose tucks in a big way for her 4-H project. Her lovely quiana dress features 160 tucks at the waist and the neckline and Beka admits that they were time-consuming to construct. She spent 40 hours on tucks alone, tailor tacking them, pressing, basting, and sewing. When the tuck was stitched, she took out the basting and tailor tacks and if it was crooked, she started the process again. She said, "I never worked with tucks before. It was a challenge." I was looking for something different I hadn't done before."

She adds, "When I look back on this summer, the main thing I learned was patience. I didn't lose patience until the last week. When I started getting upset I stopped and made cookies. I had to do the collar three or four times. Now that it's over I can't believe I made the dress."

Beka's mother is a good seamstress and Beka turned to her for help when she needed it. But with her mother working at two jobs she often wasn't home at the critical point. Consequently, Beka says, "Mom talked over the phone with me. You really have to think to explain the problem over the phone. I learned a lot."

The result is stunning. Beka says, "I love silky things. The dress flows on you. It really is neat material because it moves." And despite the long hours she says, "I like the dress on me and I would like to make another."

This was Beka's first year in the senior division. A member of the Mountville 4-H

Community Club, she was a winner in the junior division last year. About the contest, she says, "I couldn't believe it. I was really excited. All I hoped was to get before the professional judges. I was more excited when I won at regional."

Beka learned a lot about sewing in 4-H, but says, "My mom always sewed and I sewed around the house." She also took home economics in school.

She has nothing but praise for 4-H. "There are a lot of new opportunities to get to know people. 4-H is really neat. There are also responsibilities and pressures and heartaches. But you get new skills and you get better and better and better."

Beka likes to sew, saying, "The money that you save is important and it's something I can do. That's my talent and I'm proud of that. I plan to continue sewing in 4-H until I'm 19. Although she plans to go into education, she states, "Sewing is going to be handy to make clothes for college and make gifts. Why pay \$25 for something when you can make it for \$7?"

The dress that won for Beka was also not her first choice for a project. Like Jennie. She wanted to make a velvet blazer and wool skirt but couldn't find wool. "I did a lot of searching and I wasn't very confident about it. I just wasn't thrilled about doing this dress. It was just another

dress." She said she didn't get enthusiastic about it until a teen leader in her club mentioned that she had a good chance of winning at the county contest. She added, "I saw a lot of pattern books and the really dressy look is good. Now I'm glad I picked a dress." She's already looking at Fall fashions for ideas for next year. "Each year you want to find something harder," she says.

Beka also took cake decorating with the Mount Joy 4-H Club and she has her own strawflower business taken over from her mother. "It takes about two to three hours a day to pick the flowers and put stems on them," she says, although sewing often took precedence this summer. She wants to learn to make dried flower arrangements and sell them. She works for a standholder at Roots and often substitutes at other markets.

In August, Beka will represent Mountville as their 4-H Senior Queen in the county contest.

A member of the Congregational Bible Church at Marietta, Beka plays church softball and is active in their youth group, enjoying backpacking and rappelling. She plays basketball at Hempfield, where she'll be a sophomore. She does a lot of work at home and in addition to sewing her

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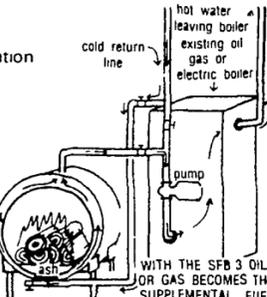
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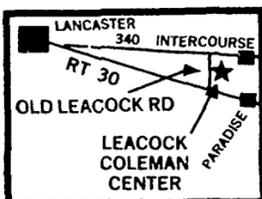


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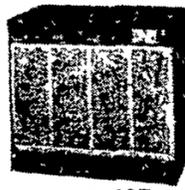
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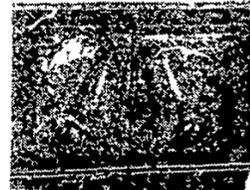
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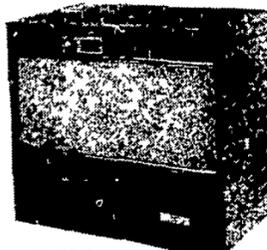
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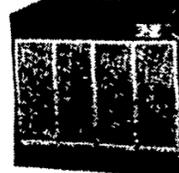
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