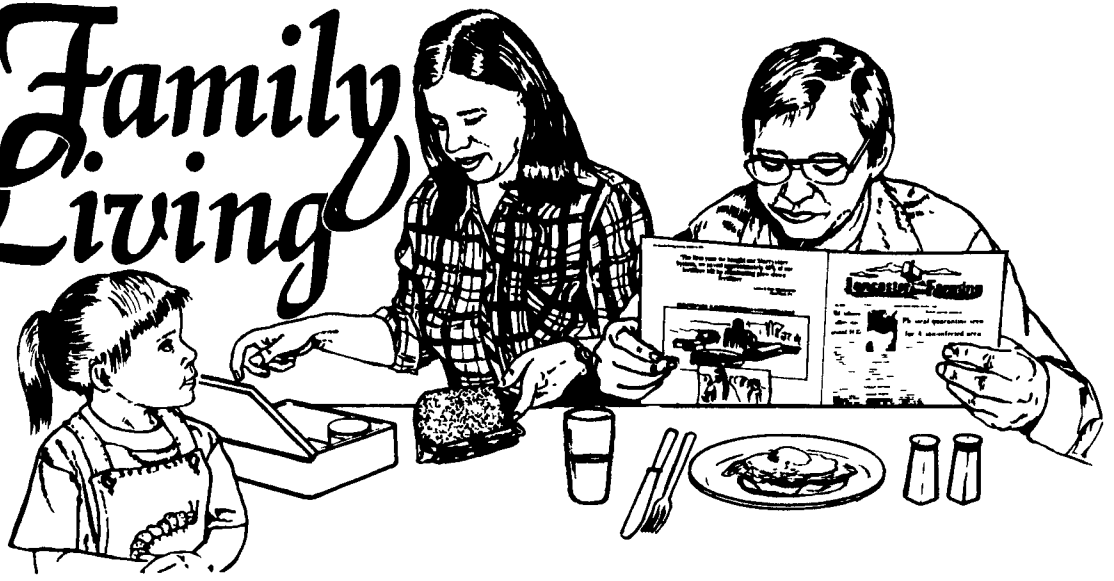




Karen Evans Brubaker is responsible for making the candy sold at the store. She remembers when candy making was just a family project, long before it became a family business.

# Family Living



## Family Projects Turns to Sweet Business

BY KIMBERLY HERR

LANCASTER — It started as a family project - something fun for the children to do. It became a family business.

"Dad was always figuring out projects for us children," Karen Evans Brubaker explained. "This one just kept going and going."

The project was candy making. Jay Evans, Karen's father, heard of a candy company that was going out of business. He bought a melter and some molds, thinking, according to Karen, that it would be "a project for the family to do together."

That was in 1976. The following year, the Evans' began making candy for a few relatives and friends, and then as Karen said, it just "kept going and going." Until Dec. 8, they were selling the candy from their Willow Street home, but as of the above date, their candy can be purchased at the Evans Candy Store, 2100 Willow Street Pike.

The candy store is part of the Evans Country Mill, which also features The Mill Restaurant which will be opening soon, according to Karen.

Karen's father was not a complete stranger to candy making when he bought the first melter for the children. According to Karen, he had made and sold peanut butter eggs at Easter when he was in college to help pay tuition.

"And this became a way for us to earn money to go through college," Karen said. Although Karen attended nursing school for two

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Lisa Shenk, a friend of the Evans family, helps with packaging the candy.

## BACK HOME

By Michelle S. Rodgers

Lancaster Extension  
Home Economist



Christmas — a festival of the family. It is a time of year when being together and doing things together seems especially important... and it is! We enjoy many family activities such as decorating the tree as a family, family cookie baking, the exchanging of names, family secrets, family meals and family caroling.

For some people there is also another family activity. This might be the time of year for making the annual trek and maybe somewhat difficult visit to a family member who is shut-in or in a nursing home. Whether you are a regular visitor to an elderly family member or friend, or, if you only visit occasionally, it sometimes seems difficult to bring the joy of the season to those shut-in. But, the real joy of the season is sharing it with others; which includes your aging aunt or elderly grandmother.

I remember well my awkward visits to the nursing home to see my great-grandmother; "Grandma-ma" we affectionately called her. She had lived on the family farm and was taken care of by my grandparents until she was 96-years-old, when my grandparents health no longer enabled them to care for her. I wish I would have realized at that time how much family visits count and how I could have brought her the joy of the season.

If you can, spend your holidays with an aging family member. Share with them the joy in your home. If your loved ones are unable to be with you, think of this "five sense" approach to make this holiday season brighter for

everyone.

Stimulate the sense of sight with bright colors and bold forms: the latest family snapshot, a large calendar of the new year, Christmas decorations and mementoes of Christmas past.

There is so much to hear that is special to the holidays: sing favorite Christmas carols, read the Christmas story, a favorite poem, or the kids' letters to Santa. Tape record a great-grandchild's first words or messages from distant relatives. Another way to say "you're special" is to listen and to recall memories of holidays gone by.

The touch of the hand is so important. Sometimes when I visited my great-grandmother, I wondered if she even realized that I was there. It was difficult to see her in that condition and remember the days I had sat on her lap while she Little Black Sambo. I wish I would have realized that as she grew older, there was still the need to show affection through touching: the holding of hands, hugging, a back rub or a kiss, or combing her white hair.

Stimulate taste with special foods or beverages that do not violate the prescribed diet. And bring in the holiday aroma of scented candles, greens and fresh baked goods.

These sensory experiences are always the most significant when shared with family and friends. Enliven your holiday visit and reinforce your relationship with a loved one during this year's celebration of the family — Christmas.

## Involve Children in the Farm Operation

NEWARK, Del. — Many farmers dream of turning over the family farm to their children when they retire. To reach this goal they work hard and sometimes go out on a financial limb. But no amount of devoted effort can guarantee that your sons and daughters will want to become your business partners. Involving them in the farm operation takes patience, flexibility, and conscious effort as keeping open lines of communication, according to dairy producer Bill Vanderwende of Dutch Ayr Farm in Bridgeville, Del.

"When I got into farming I was milking eight cows - four that I owned and four I rented," Vanderwende says. Today he and his three sons, Doug, Danny and Jimmy, and daughters-in-law, Debbie and Becky, milk 250 cows, grow their own grain and soybeans, and have several side enterprises, including broilers and hogs.

At the recent Southeastern Holstein Seminar in Newark, Del., hosted by the University of Delaware and the Delaware

Holstein Association, Vanderwende presented some of his thoughts on bringing children in the business and told how Dutch Ayr Farm has grown to accommodate his family.

"There never was a question about bringing my four youngsters

into agriculture," he said. (His daughter Carla majored in agricultural economics at the University of Delaware and is a loan officer with the Farm Credit Association in Salisbury, Md.)

"From the time they could get to

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Delaware farmer Bill Vanderwende tells how he brought his children into the family dairy business, during recent Southeastern Holstein Seminar in Newark, Dec.