

Teamwork Pays Off

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the slide presentations of the other farms." These were shown at the awards program during Farm Show Week.

Connie does much of the bookwork in their retail farm business which includes selling milk handling equipment. Most of the equipment is shipped UPS and Connie prepares it for shipping as well as handling the phone and mail orders as they arrive. Since the Rutts have the sole U.S. distributorship for their breeding calendar from England, they ship throughout the U.S.

The Rutts have recently purchased a computer to help them with their business and farming operation and both Ken and Connie are studying and working with it so

they can put it to work for their benefit.

Ken is manager of the buildings at Solanco Fairgrounds, so Connie is often involved in scheduling meetings. "It is used heavily by the community for church services, weddings and other meetings. They are now going to offer a place for youth to meet once a month." She adds that the rates are kept low and cover only the expenses of the building.

The fair plays a large part in their lives, with Connie also heading the clothing exhibits. "We have a nice amount of clothing, as much as we can handle nicely," Connie says. During Fair week Connie says, "We don't plan anything but to milk the cows."

After taking a quilting class with

three friends about five years ago, Connie now adds quilting to her list of accomplishments. She said she would like to make once a year. Winter is her time for this kind of work, however, because in the summer she tends a large garden and does the yard work. She is sometimes called on to make hay as well.

She helps organize the quilting group at the Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren, which usually makes quilts for the Brethren Relief Sale in Lebanon. This winter they have quilted a friendship quilt which will be given to their former pastor.

Connie says she likes sampler quilts, and particularly likes one in her kitchen which represents various aspects of farm life. Her latest efforts revolve around "stenciling" sheets, which means transferring a quilt pattern onto a purchased sheet, adding the fill and backing and then quilting it.

"I work on quilts mainly in the evening, and I don't put them in the frame until I have time to work on it," Connie says.

Counted cross stitch is another craft she enjoys, and Connie says she often carries it with her when she is going for doctor or dental appointments. A recently acquired skill is making baskets, which

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Having learned to sew as a 4-H'er in northern Lancaster County, Connie stills enjoys sewing for her daughter, Lorrie, and herself. She passes on her sewing skills as a leader in the Solanco Community Club.

Bookkeeping Duties

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and took organ lessons there with the stipulation that she give some free time to their church. Eventually she took her turn at worship services and within two years she began wishing for a church of her own.

Her most recent post was at the Bird In Hand Methodist Church where she was organist for 12 years, but resigned with the move to Mount Gretna. She also served at the Lutheran Church of the Holy

Spirit on Columbia Avenue in Lancaster.

Now Irene plays mostly for relaxation on the baby grand piano which sits in the corner of the living room. She also fills her time doing beautiful embroidery, much of which is displayed in her home.

The Hesses' two children are J. Clair who is married and in his residency at Abington Hospital, and Linda Conklin who resides in New York City with her husband.



Irene is ready to take a walk in the winter wonderland around her Mount Gretna home. This Master Farmer's wife enjoys the solitude afforded by their home in the woods.

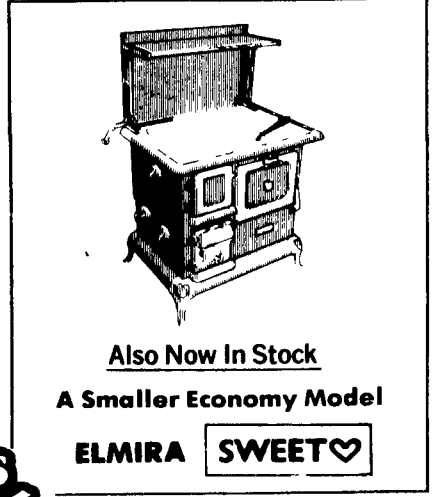
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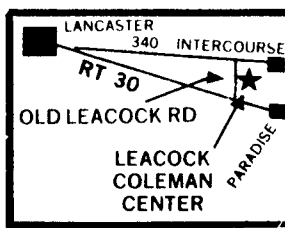
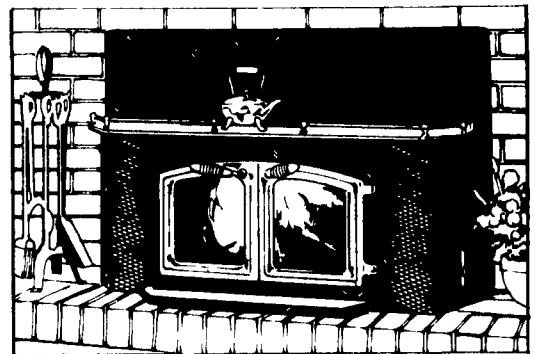
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