



Pat Zeamer works at the pan in which the fasnachts are fried. It is up to her to turn them at the proper time and to take them out when they are done.



This container will hold up to a dozen fasnachts. The thermometer is a quick way to check and make sure the fat is not becoming too hot or cold as the process continues.

Fasnacht Tradition

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dough. The crews worked round the clock to sell the doughnuts on Tuesday.

Eventually, Dottie remembers that her father, Freeman Lenhart, made a mechanized mixer to help with the process at church. Dottie says, "If he could make something to make it easier he did it. He wanted to save wear and tear."

After the new church was built, Aunt Clara continued the tradition in her home, on a small scale, and when she decided it was too much for her several years ago, Ken and Dottie took over. The work is now done in their spacious farm house at Musser Farms Dairy near Columbia.

This ambitious family does not wait until Fasnacht Day, but actually makes the delicious morsels several weeks before. In fact, Dottie stresses that they do not do it to use old fat, because she very purposefully buys new lard so it makes fresh, delicious fasnachts. She also buys the freshest cake yeasts she can find, so that all her efforts are not in vain.

The family members have an organization to the way they tackle the task, born of years of working together. The night before, Ken, Dottie and Pat met in the spacious farm kitchen and mix the dough.

Since they are mixing it in a batch which takes 20 pounds of flour, this step is not a small one. From experience, however, they divided the batch between two large plastic pails, purchased specifically for the job from a farm supply business.

They then measure the ingredients carefully, and Ken takes over as the mixer. Asked



Rolling and re-rolling. Dottie works her dough to use up every possible morsel. The recipe makes about 20 dozen fasnachts.

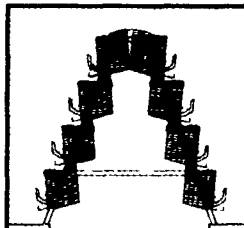
how he got that job, he jokes, "I opened my mouth." He places the tuts in a low position which allows him to really get into the work, and proceeds to mix and knead it for 10-12 minutes. He does it until it feels just right, then he and Dottie work

together to grease the top of the dough and the sides of the bowl so the finished dough doesn't stick.

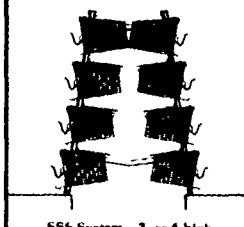
The two enormous containers are covered and allowed to stand overnight (by this time it is 9:30

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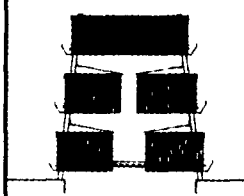
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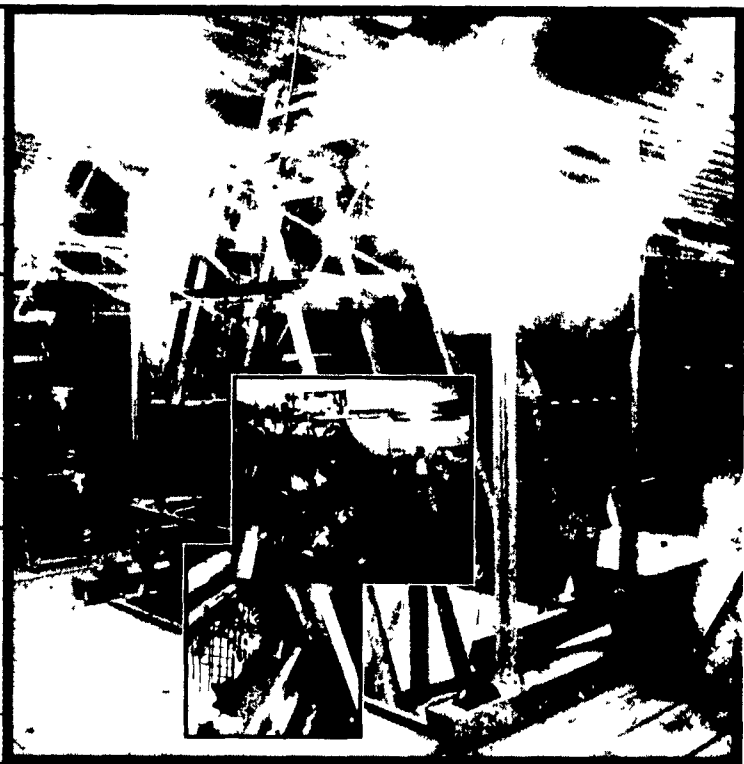
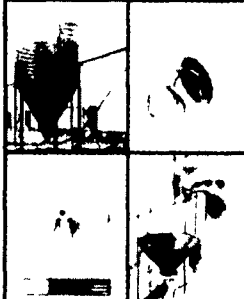
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