

#### **REDISCOVER PEWTER**

Pewter is a colonial material enjoying renewed interest for today's homemaker. Pewter is that lustrous metal which wears well, doesn't need polishing and is elegantly casual with any table setting.

Examples of authentic pewter are rare. The reason for the scarcity is that pewter was hand cast from tin - an ingredient subject to a high English tariff in colonial days. Old pieces were often traded in for newly-cast pieces.

Today, pewter pieces are sometimes hand cast but are also

# Ladies Have You Heard?

## **By Doris Thomas**

### Lancaster Extension **Home Economist**

created by spinning and stamping methods for greater versatility. With either method each piece may not be exactly uniform, giving a valued handcrafted look. Finishes include dark shadings of antique, soft sheen of satin or a bright gleam that resembles silver.

Pewter is not a precious metal, but lends itself to all the design and use possibilities of silver. It has its own special beauty and to many, part of that beauty is its tarnish resistance.

Today's pewter is an alloy of several metals consisting mainly of tin and small amounts of copper and antimony to add strength and brilliance. Since it is a solid metal, pewter will not develop worn spots with prolonged use. As a soft metal, however, it does dent easily without proper care. It has a low melting point and should be kept away from extreme heat, flames and heating elements.

After buying pewter pieces, carefully read and follow care instructions. Many types of pewter "flatware" available are actually dishwasher-safe. Other pewter pieces will require washing by hand. Rinsing in hot water and drying immediately will prevent water spotting.

It's wise to wash food and beverage service pieces promptly after use. As with silver, certain chemicals and acids present in foods may cause stains and pitting if in long contact with pewter. Common culprits include party dips, eggs, salad dressing, oils, vinegar, salt and fruit juices. Acids such as those of a lactic variety found in cheese may also start corrosion.

HOW TO CLEAN CEILINGS If your spring house cleaning includes washing ceilings, here are

some suggestions to help you. First, cover the furniture and floor with newspapers. Start by dusting the ceiling with a vacuum brush or with a long-handled mop covered with a clean cloth.

Then, using a sturdy ladder, wash the ceiling with a sponge or cloth dipped in warm water to which you've added detergent or soap. Rinse with a clean wet sponge or cloth.

It's best to do just one small section of ceiling at a time -— the area you can easily reach from your ladder. Make sure marks do not show where you finish one part and start the next one.

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 12, 1984—B13

To do a thorough job, you'll need clean sponges or cloths. That's why it's important to change wash and rinse water as soon as they get dirty. Otherwise, you'll just be smearing the dirt around.



### Saturday, May 12

Lancaster Society 7 will meet for a food and plant auction.

- Lancaster Society 2 meets to entertain Society 29 at 12:30 p.m. for lunch at the Farm and Home
- Lancaster Society 25 meets for a program on abused women by Ada Farber.

Saturday, May 19

program by Jane L. Lee, Band Box - bring scissors and thimble.

- Lancaster Society 18 meets for a program on the highlights of trips taken by Mr. and Mrs. Hoke.
- Lancaster Society 8 meets at Helen Wivell's for a program on herbs by Linda Campbell.
- Lancaster Society 4 meets for a tour of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Museum and Wrights Ferry Mansion. Lunch at noon at the Copper Luster Inn.

Center.

Lancaster Society 3 meets for a

