

Peg Meams

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my head on when I do it. I have to concentrate and can't dream of other things. Seeing it come together is the thrill."

She enjoys the pleasure her craft gives to others, and is presently working on a gift which was specially ordered. "I am thinking what a delight it will be as a surprise."

Peg makes sure all her materials are pre-shrunk, and wants people to use them, not store them away. "The purpose is to have them be used," she explains. "I can't stand having them in a drawer."

Throughout her career, Peg worked as an extension home economist, and spent the last 14 years supervising agents throughout Maryland. She says honestly, "There is no way I could have done my job and this too." Her philosophy shines through when she discusses her job. "I was the one who was learning all the time. I retired when I still enjoyed being there."

Weaving has allowed her to continue learning, and she points out, "Having come from a career where I was people oriented, weaving has helped. We moved into a new area, so I needed to

meet people. Weaving was an opportunity where I could meet people in a friendly way. I enjoy the personalities of other crafts people."

Since moving to Adams County, Peg has become a member of the Mud College Craft Guild, a group of women who enjoy traditional, colonial crafts and offer support and fellowship to one another. They hold two shows a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. "We are all busy, but we enjoy each other's company. We just enjoy getting together," Peg explains. She is also a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen.

Peg takes her things to about 10 shows a year, mostly in neighboring areas - Westminster and Woodbine, Maryland, East Berlin, Gettysburg, Hanover and Littlestown. She also sells from her home, but notes, "I ask people to call first because I don't want to stay here all the time."

She is happy with the amount of work she presently does. "I don't want to get bigger. I like not having to worry about other people."

Being a weaver is a continuous growing and learning process according to Peg. "I've been able to learn what to do or what not to do again. I have also increased my capacity to go faster. I had to develop this on my own."

"The thing I like most is the

sense of achievement," she says. "You can see it developing before your eyes. It is not a useless use of my time. It is purposeful."

Peg is convinced that women of any age should consider taking up new crafts. "It builds confidence in yourself, as well as clearing the cobwebs. I don't feel my age at all."

She candidly says she thinks crafts once did not enjoy the good name they now do. "For a period, people were very negative."

Nevertheless, she is very positive about the things crafts offer people, "for the individual and for society. You grow yourself in the development and growth of your skill."

She adds, "I am fortunate not to have to depend on it for my income, but it does offer a supplementary income. You don't get paid for your time. Paying for all the time put into crafts would make most of them so expensive people wouldn't buy them."

Although she loves weaving and appreciates spinners, Peg says she has no interest in learning to be a spinner. "It would frustrate me terribly to have to spin and wait to weave." Instead she purchases good quality products, which she displays in her workroom, and

from which potential customers may choose. She works with linen, wool and cotton, and combinations of the three. She said, "There are many, many sources of quality yarns."

Peg takes her craft seriously and works hard at perfecting it. "I have to do my best. This is a very important part - for the craft, for the person who develops it and for

the person who owns it. Most women have talents they don't recognize in themselves."

Peg's work is lovingly created to be functional and attractive, in the manner of traditional weavers. Her weaving has offered her not just a shift in careers, but also a creative outlet which continue to challenge and satisfy.

Chester Co. women to focus on Colonial times at Ladies Day Out

NOTTINGHAM — The Chester County Farmers' Association Women's Committee will hold their annual Ladies Day Out on September 11, at the Nottingham Inn, Route 272 and Old Baltimore Pike, Nottingham, Pa.

The year special attention is being given to weaving, spinning and Colonial women and their day-laws, marriages, childrearing, pets, and needlework.

The guest speaker will be Susan B. Swan, associate curator and person in charge of textiles at the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Delaware. Persons attending are welcome to bring antique needlework, crewel work and quilts to be evaluated.

Price for the event is \$10 per person. Registration is scheduled for 10 a.m. Call Denise Wilkinson, 274-8171 for reservations by Sept. 4.

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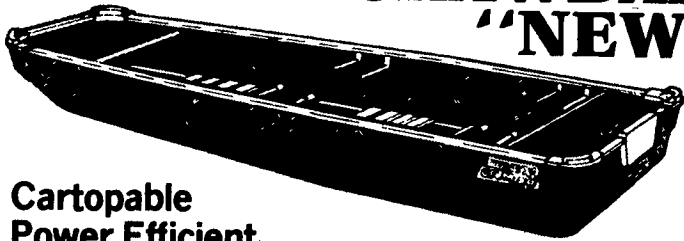
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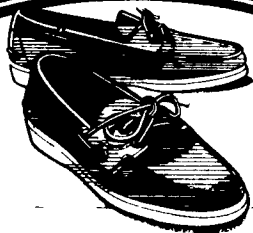
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