

Country Creations features homemade crafts

BY SUZANNE KEENE
STRASBURG — Shirley Groff's farmhouse in Strasburg has become the showcase for the many country crafts she and her family create. A sign at the end of her sidewalk announces that hand-crafted gifts can be found inside and summons visitors to investigate her "Country Creations" shop.

Located deep in the heart of Lancaster County's tourist district, where people from all over the country come to see the Amish and to enjoy Pennsylvania Dutch food and crafts, Shirley's shop is in an ideal location. Tourists and locals alike find their

way to her small, but well-stocked shop which is situated along North Star Road, a short distance off heavily-traveled Route 896.

Observant shoppers receive an extra bonus when they stop at Country Creations. In the meadow across the narrow road in front of the Groff's farmhouse, Shirley's husband, Ken, can be seen working with sleek harness racing horses which he trains on their farm. Occasionally, an Amish buggy will clatter by, reminding visitors of the origin of many of the crafts they seek.

Once inside the shop, visitors can select handmade country gifts from Shirley's abundant in-

ventory, which includes wreaths, decorative straw hats, dolls, Christmas ornaments, wooden fruits and other crafts.

While some of the crafts in the shop are on consignment from other craftsmen, Shirley and her children make most of the them. Her 16-year-old son, Brian, a sophomore at Lampeter Strasburg High School, does a lot of the woodworking for the folk art, and her daughter, Lori, a seventh grader at Martin Meylin Middle School, does all the tin punching. Shirley's other son, Steve, is a sophomore at Albright College and has little time to help with the shop.



Shirley Groff operates a craft shop called Country Creations in part of her farmhouse where she sells a variety of country crafts.



Shirley's 16-year-old son, Brian, does much of the woodwork for folk art like this bear pull toy. Her daughter, Lori, also helps with the shop by doing tin punch and waiting on customers.

Shirley carries most of the responsibility for the shop, but Ken, Brian and Lori take over when she can't be there. She also gets some help from her mother, Dorothy Eshleman, and her sister-in-law, Lois Eshleman.

A lot of Shirley's time goes into making the crafts for the shop. She does much of the hand painting, stenciling and sewing and raises and dries flowers to use on wreaths

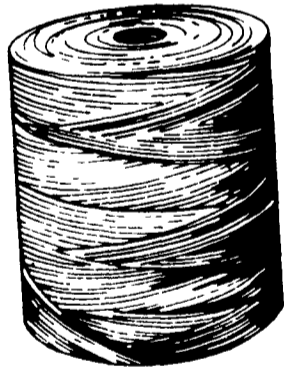
or to sell "as is." She said she likes to add a little personal touch to all her crafts, making each one unique.

"I think putting that little personal touch makes the difference," she said, noting that she gets personal satisfaction from adding those extra little touches.

Shirley gets many of her craft ideas from visiting other shops and

(Turn to Page B29)

GENUINE MAYSVILLE COTTON TOBACCO TWINE



- ★ 100% COTTON
- ★ GUARANTEED 2400' PER 10 LB. BALL
- ★ APPROX. 150 FT.-LB. BREAK STRENGTH



40 lb. Test Kraft Tobacco Paper Also Available!

No Other Twine Can Meet All These Standards!

Genuine Maysville Tobacco Twine And Kraft Paper Is Available At The Following Dealers:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| AGWAY
New Holland | EBY'S GEN. STORE
Martindale | AARON S. GROFF & SON
Hinkletown | C.W. SENSENICH & SONS
RD 3, Ephrata |
| AGWAY
Quarryville | BOMBERGER'S STORE
Elm | LAPP SHARPENING SERVICE
RD 2, Myerstown | CHRIST STOLTZFOOS
RD 3, Quarryville |
| AGWAY
Salunga | BRANDT FARM SUPPLY
Elizabethtown | JACOB LANDIS
Lititz | J.B. ZIMMERMAN
Blue Ball |
| DANIELS FARM STORE
Leola | FARMERS SUPPLY
Lancaster | ORGANIC PLANT FOOD
Lancaster | J.B. ZIMMERMAN
Strasburg |
| ★ DISTRIBUTED BY BOMBERGER'S STORE INC. ★ | | | W.L. ZIMMERMAN & SONS
Intercourse |