

Country flower shop

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on the support of my family, whenever I get discouraged."

That holiday open house has become an annual event, drawing between 300 and 500 visitors each year. As a special touch, Susan makes her own homemade sweetbreads for refreshments, baking at least 80 mini-loaves in a variety of flavors.

Holiday seasons are naturally busy ones at the floral shop, but bridal work is still Susan's favorite specialty. Bridal business is year-round, and begins in January with local bridal shows and fairs. Susan says she especially enjoys the one-to-one contact possible by setting up displays at these events, then following up by mail to women who sign up for more information.

All wedding arrangements and bouquets are custom designed, individually matched to bridal party color schemes. The shop's wedding hairpiece styles range from the very simple to full crowns made match to the bridal bouquet. She also adds a "toss" bouquet to the order as her personal gift of thanks to the bride.

"Weddings are the fun part of the business," she says, and keep her abreast of the fast changing trends in the floral business. Fresh flowers are returning in favor for weddings, while the trend toward using silk ones in becoming less popular.

Silk flowers do offer an advantage, the ability for the flowers to be used later in a bride's home decorating. Clients choosing silk are invited to bring their bouquets back after the wedding, along with a container of their choice, if they would like the bouquet redesigned into a centerpiece.

Upcoming weddings on Susan's schedule include a very special one this spring - that of their son Trevor and their future daughter-in-law.

Younger son Troy is a senior at Northeastern High School, and employed through the school's work-study program at his mother's shop. His responsibilities include most of the delivery work and continuing improvements around the shop.

Troy is also Susan's pine cone wreath specialist, since he creates most of the shop's inventory of this popular item. White pine cones are soaked, then wired to the forms while still wet. When the finished wreath is placed in a warm, dry spot, the cones open up as they dry, filling any gaps in the design and creating a look of fullness. By changing decorations to the season, pine cone wreaths are appropriate for use all year long.

Green wreaths are all hand-wrapped at the shop, not purchased elsewhere. Friends save evergreens for Susan's use, and are always on the lookout for supplies of pine cones as well.

The shop's small attached greenhouse provides a display area for a selection of potted greenery and hanging baskets, while a refrigerator area keeps cut flowers crisp and fresh. Through the American Floral Service, of which Susan is a member, the shop can provide floral delivery across the country.

One wire delivery last Easter was an especially memorable one. A customer ordered fresh orchid leis, direct from Hawaii. Panic began to set in when they had not yet arrived early the day before by special delivery service. Instead, they came unexpectedly, later in

LEBANON — The Lebanon County FFA Project Book Contest was held at the Cedar Crest High School on Jan. 16.

The judges scored the books on accuracy, completeness and labor income. Below are the Cedar Crest results.

Work Experience On Farm, 0 to 500 hours, Tonya Johnson, second, blue silver; Work Experience on Farm, 0 to 500 hours, Mardell Boyd, first, blue, gold; Dairy Heifers, Lisa Houser, first, blue, gold; Ed Houser, fifth, white; Dairy Herd, Brenda Balmer, third,

red, blue; Market Hogs, Gale Hitz, first, blue, gold.


Small Grain, Brian Boyer, first, blue gold; Broiler Chickens, Jeff Ruhl, first, blue gold; Home Improvement, John Whary, second, red silver; Misc. I, Adam Hain, third, white bronze; Misc. II, Lynette Kreiser, first, blue gold; Chris Hartlieb, second, red silver; Beef Finishing, Scott Schwear, fourth, white; Two Enterprises, Becky Smith, second, silver red; Rabbits, Pat Elliot, first, blue gold; Jon Boyer, second, red, silver.

Skills and Tasks, 0 to 225 hours, Tom Price, first, blue gold; Todd Wenrich, second, blue silver; Kevin Dreibelbis, third, red, bronze; Jenny Peters, fourth, red; Neal Boeshore, fifth, white; Tim Donten, sixth, white; Skills and Tasks, 226 hours, Mike Wenrich, third, red bronze; Greenhouse, Jenny Embich, second, red silver.

the day, with the regular mail deliveries.

"It was such a thrill to open that package and find those fresh orchids from thousands of miles away," recalls Susan.

As the shop became better established, Susan hopes that both the wire service and the bridal business will continue to grow. She also wants to do a bit of "growing" on her own, through picking up classes in business, plus a few personal enrichment courses.



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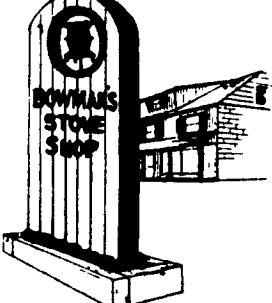
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