

# Judy Weidman Turns Century-Old 'Unwanted' Home Into Show Place

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MOUNT JOY — Over 900 people visited the Weidman House near Mount Joy last weekend and enjoyed the gracious 100-year-old home filled with antiques and additions designed for modern living.

Judy Weidman, who lives there with two of her three children, agreed to open her home as one of the stops on the annual Lancaster County Tour, sponsored by the Lancaster County Art Association.

She said, "It was a lot of fun, especially when people say nice things about your house." And say nice things they did. Judy's friend, artist Arlene Fisher, was displaying her art in a room newly made from a garage and said, "The people really liked the house. They made lots of nice comments to me."

Judy added, "It was a nice group of people — they were all so nice. I wasn't a bit nervous about opening my house, but it flabbergasted me that people liked the house so much."

She recalled that she and her late husband, Abe, purchased the house 24 years ago when "nobody wanted it. Young couples weren't buying old homes then." It had been a tenant house for a farm, and Judy laughs, "Everything's so crooked." She said she'd like to do some research to learn more about the home when time permits.

Loving care and lots of work through the years has transformed the house. Judy says there were no cupboards in the kitchen when they purchased it, and they bought a complete kitchen which had been on display. It fit perfectly, and continues to be serviceable and attractive.



Visitors were treated to an attractively decorated porch on the side of the Weidman House. Antiques are featured throughout the house.



Judy Weidman stands before the John Eby clock which dominates the dining room of the home. The clock has been passed down in the family since 1790, and has the names of all those who owned it inside the case.

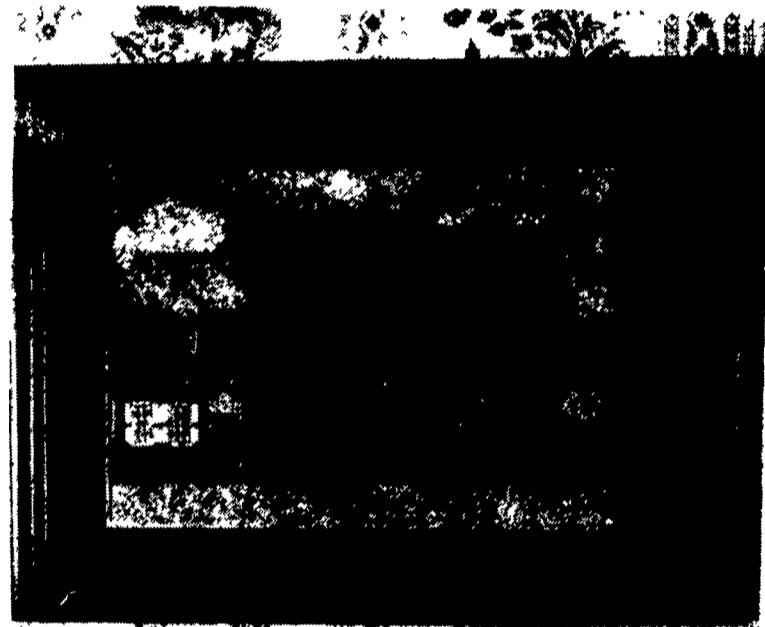
As they walked through the home, tour-goers were treated to a comfortable home, featuring many needlework done by Judy and antiques accumulated through the years. Of special interest is a John Eby clock, made by the Manheim clockmaker and passed down through the family since 1790. Judy says she has been told there are only two clocks like it, and the names of family members who have owned it are written on the back of the case.

A newly-added dining room and sun porch, decorated by Judy, drew lots of attention, but the deck and hot tub overlooking surrounding fields also drew the visitors interest.

A unique feature of the house is a family room located in the "old ground cellar," with beautifully pointed stone walls. Judy recalls that the cellar was so bad she didn't even like to go into it, but it has been transformed swan-like into a cozy family room with a raised fireplace. It is a favorite gathering place for visitors.

The most recent project for Judy was turning the garage into a sitting room. That was finished just two days before the 900 guests appeared. Judy comments that the hardest part of opening her home for the tour was getting ready, giving complete attention to every detail. She said they washed windows, curtains, and spent hours on yard work to have the home in near-perfect shape for the visitors.

A special treat for those who visited was a small taste of strawberry daiquiries, a specialty developed by Judy and now being



This is one of the many beautiful pieces of needlework which grace the Weidman home. Any kind of needlework is appealing to Judy when she can find the time.

offered for sale by Stauffers of Kissel Hill and Ridgeview Dairies. Judy says she can't remember how she concocted the first daiquiri mix, but it has been a favorite for about two years and she decided to try marketing it. The frozen mixture requires only the addition of ginger ale to make a delicious, refreshing non-alcoholic drink. Judy is enjoying the prospect of marketing the product, and is developing a peach daiquiri recipe along the same lines.

Ever energetic, Judy has also developed the "Weidman House Sampler," a cookbook featuring the most favorite foods she has served over the years. Having sold over 3,000 cookbooks to date, Judy has now written a "Weidman House Supplement," with additional recipes. She carefully acknowledges the friends from whom she received the recipes, saying, "I put in who gave the recipe to me, but I don't know where they came from."

The best part of the cookbook, Judy believes, is that the recipes are simple. "The recipes are all excellent and easy to do, with things you have in your kitchen. They are no-fail. They are time

tested recipes," she explains. In addition to enjoying selling the cookbook, Judy says, "It's nice to have all my recipes in one spot." They are sold in several area stores.

One of Judy's hobbies, begun before her husband Abe died three years ago, is hosting small dinner parties. She said the tradition of hosting colonial dinners actually began when they returned from Colonial Williamsburg and invited some friends to come to dinner and wear colonial garb. As members of the Donegal Presbyterian Church, most had appropriate clothing readily available.

Her menus are simple when she entertains, featuring such main courses as chicken cordon bleu, filet, roast pork, and turkey. She makes all her food from scratch, and enjoys purchasing her food from Central Market in Lancaster. About the markets she says, "We are so lucky in Lancaster County. The produce is so fresh." She usually shops early and enjoys every moment, saying, "The people are so great. I just love it."

Judy says, "I have always enjoyed cooking and having com-

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This family room, with stone fireplace, was created from an "old ground cellar." It is now a favorite spot in the Weidman House.

## Homestead Notes