

Strawberry Patch Calico Shop

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do something they never thought they could do — giving them something creative to do in their spare time."

Whereas, according to Jeanne, the hardest thing about running the shop is that she occasionally has a customer who is displeased. Her depth of concern about her customers is best illustrated by an anecdote told by Sue. One morning not long ago, Sue reports, she found her mother in tears while making out a new price list which raised the cost of material to customers. Although the shop had absorbed previous price increases, when forced to raise her prices, Jeanne simply hated the thought of charging her customers more for material.

Jeanne is proud of the fact that the Strawberry Patch offers about 75 classes each semester with the semesters running from February to June and September to December. The classes are scheduled for beginning to advance quilters and for stenciling,

basket making and other creative arts.

Frequently Jeanne engages guest teachers such as Pat Cox of Minnesota who specializes in Baltimore Albion quilts and other quilting experts to teach the classes.

She was flattered, she says, when her shop was invited to be a vendor at the recent Great American Quilt Festival in New York City. One of Jeanne's customers, Cindy Applegate of Montrose, entered a beautiful quilt in the festival. Jeanne draws customers from New York state and even from Philadelphia. This summer she had a customer from Manhattan drop in to match material purchased at the quilt festival in New York City.

The Strawberry Patch is a family enterprise. Husband Gene, and daughter, Sue Efthimiou, spell Jeanne with the customers. Although Jeanne makes all the material selections, her sons, Mark and Bruce, take care of the business end.

Jeanne, who teaches a bible study and helps conduct choir in her local church attributes the success of her shop to her faith.

"I started this with a prayer and it is my constant. I say a prayer every morning when I walk up the steps. This has accounted for many of the blessings."

A true romantic, Jeanne named her shop after a failed strawberry patch. Laughing, she says she thought perhaps she could cultivate this type of patch best. Whether Jeanne has a green thumb or not may be a debatable point, but all who visit her establishment agree that, "it's the berriest."



The Strawberry Patch offers about 75 classes each semester. Here, students work at constructing rope baskets.



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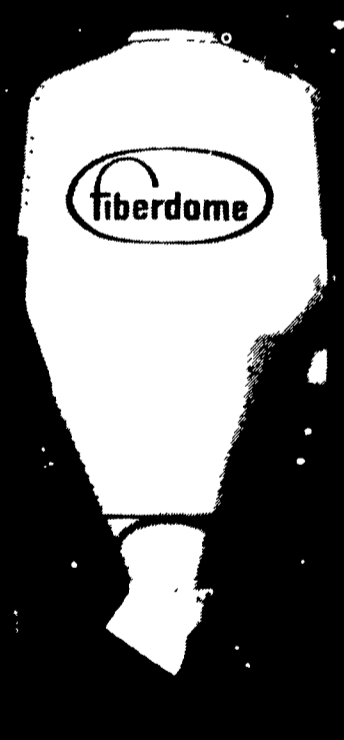
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