

Busy Hands

(Continued from Page B16)

of her new ideas like the forming of the different shapes of homes from the blocks of wood when she and Charles go hunting together in the afternoons. They enjoy taking time off from their business and roaming the nearby wooded areas hunting together to relax. Never one to waste any time, Betty also uses this time to hunt for flowers and other ornamental greenery that she can dry and use in her dried flower arrangements.

An extremely talented lady, Betty says that she learned much of her life philosophy from her mother. "My mother always told me that when I get big, I should try to do everything, that is, instead of buying it," Betty remembers. She states that her mother taught her from the time she could barely reach the old sink that now occupies her much loved kitchen, to "always make ahead, always make sure that you have food in the house, always try one thing at a time," and "always clean up or don't do it." She adds that her mother also taught her to "always keep yourself busy and take one day at a time."

With these lessons in mind, Betty has developed her talents to include knitting, embroidery, sewing, flower arranging, and cooking. Admitting that she loves to make centerpieces and create original craft items, Betty reveals that she always watched her mother cooking and baking and grew up wishing that "one day I'm going to be a cook."

Anyone that has tasted any of Betty's delicious creations, including her indescribably delicious candy and homemade jellies, can attest to the fact that her wish has

come true and that she is indeed a cook. Most likely, all the children at the Harry Truman Elementary School, where she works as a cook can also be witness to the fact that the school employs a very talented cook.

Betty says that most of her recipes come from watching her mother and developing the measurements from that. She completed her first recipe book when she was twelve-years-old as her mother baked. She also reveals that if she tries a recipe and something "isn't right", she adds more butter, flour, shortening or other ingredients to "make it right." With this background of experience, Betty Biehl's recipes have delighted readers of this paper for many years and she loves sharing recipes back and forth with many friends and acquaintances.

Candy is one of her specialties and another one is Molasses Cakes which are really pies made into cakes. She bakes many of these as Christmas gifts for friends and usually tries to include a "wet one" and a "dry one" in the gift box. The Molasses Cake recipe is featured with this story.

Again utilizing all her available resources, Betty has fashioned lovely centerpiece arrangements out of Hershey Chocolate canisters with dried flowers. Her creative talents have also helped her to make her own draperies, kitchen and bath towels, and rugs throughout the home.

Betty credits her freezer with much of her cooking success. She and her husband put out a large garden every year and Betty freezes produce in addition to some canning and drying. "I like making everything from scratch,"

she says with a smile.

"The way I have ideas in the kitchen, that's the way Charles is with wood," Betty describes her husband. As Betty had a clear idea of how to make her kitchen, Charles designed his woodshop and they both worked together to build it. "We both built the shop," Charles stated proudly. "I mixed all the concrete," Betty pointed out. Their plans call for shop addition a showroom where they can display some of their handicrafts. The only problem with this, as Charles states, is that the items sell too quickly and they never have a chance to show them.

To help future customers see their handiwork and to promote their workmanship, the Biehl's run a stand at the Leesport Market and Auction in June throughout September. Customers can view some finished pieces there and look through pictures Charles has of other pieces. This busy couple also welcomes visitors to their home in Mertztown to view their handiwork or interested persons can write for more information. Their address is Box 82, Mertztown, Pa. 19539.

Molasses Cake

Developed from the recipe of Betty Biehl's mother, Dorothy

Schaller.

Mix together for crumbs:

- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup shortening

- Stir together:
- 1 cup molasses
 - 1 cup boiling water
 - 1½ tsp. baking soda
 - pinch of salt

Pour mixture into pie crusts or

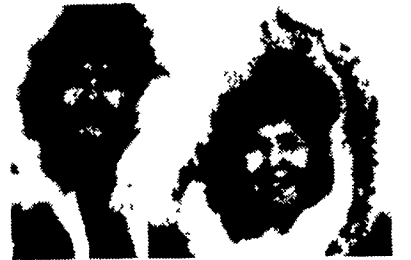
drop some crumbs in the bottom of pans for cup cakes.

Cover with crumb mixture.

Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees on the bottom rack of the oven and then for 10 minutes on the top rack until done.

May turn out wet or dry. Betty says it always comes out a surprise.

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