

Pumpkin Season

(Continued from Page B2)

Kathy sowed red beet seeds in flats of small cells of soil. Customers just cannot seem to get enough red beets, she says. The inside head start, planting one seed per cell, was a real boon to germination and yields. She has had similar success with greenhouse starting of onions in individual cells.

Spring sales open in early April, with bunches of fresh asparagus. Lehman's use the honor system for their asparagus customers, and rarely find that a bunch disappears without the proper payment left behind.

Pumpkin season, however, has brought a few more problems. One morning a few years ago, they woke to find a picking of their nicest pumpkins missing. And just recently, their 175-pound pumpkin - largest at the York Fair this year - which they were displaying at the stand "got away," with only drag marks left behind.

As strawberries ripen, the Lehman stand swings into full gear. Supplemental berries are bought in if their home crop is not sufficient to meet demand. Continuing rains this past season cut heavily into the strawberry yields, as well as that of many other produce crops.

To alert customers to their first strawberry sales many years ago, Kathy ran a three-day ad in the Columbia newspaper. The response surpassed her wildest expectations. Opening at 10 a.m., they were out of berries in three hours.

"We put up a sign that said we'd have more berries the next day - and went home," says Kathy with a grin. "Except for the asparagus ad we use every year, that was the extent of our advertising. Everything has been word of mouth."

Sweet corn is a staple of the stand, with a few late plantings still yielding into mid-October. The perennially-popular Silver Queen is a customer favorite, although Kathy has converted some to a preference for the new "super-sweet" types. These hold their sugar content for several days after picking. A white super-sweet Lehman's tried this year, dubbed "How Sweet It Is," won over some customers after just one

meal.

"We guarantee our sweet corn and our melons," Kathy explains of their commitment to quality produce. Such customer satisfaction is what keeps loyal buyers returning, some from fairly distant parts of the county.

Halloween season brings families out together to browse for that just-perfect pumpkin from displays spanning several wagons and the stand.

"That's something families can do together," says Kathy, who enjoys watching children debate the serious business of pumpkin-selection. "If one gets a pumpkin for a dollar, then a brother or sister may figure they can have two fifty-cent pumpkins - just to keep everything equal."

Cost of holiday decorations, such as pumpkins or corn stalks or Indian corn, is something customers rarely question, Kathy notes. But occasionally, she does hear comments on the price of food produce.

"Crafty" items are also popular, like the wooden scarecrows the Lehman's cut out and Kathy paints. Nadine is a talented crafter, and designs decorative wreaths, baskets and "country look" items for the stand.

Often, items they make or arrange specifically to decorate the sales areas catch the attention of customers. Though they offer bulk selection of ears of decorative "Indian" corn, for instance, most buyers will instead select a pre-tied grouping of three of the colorful ears.

In spite of basketfuls of mini-pumpkins through which buyers can sort for size or shape, the first to sell are usually those the Lehman's decoratively display on the spokes of the pumpkin wagon's wheels. And, a wagon rounded full of bright-colored, ornamental gourds sometimes makes selection of just the right ones a lengthy decision for customers.

But it is this customer enthusiasm and loyalty which seem to add to a genuine enjoyment and pride the Lehman's take in their produce business. Some ten acres are cropped to vegetables and the orchard, which includes peaches, apples, nectarines and plums. Although they do hire neighborhood youngsters to assist with

picking some crops, the family does most of it themselves. Everyone pitches in to milk and feed in early morning and afternoon, and helps as needed with the vegetables and fruits.

Brian handles more of the dairy and farm work, but his wife, Nadine, is at the produce stand everyday. Their daughter Brandy, 4, enjoys helping fill containers with sturdy produce like apples and onions, but opts for watermelon as her favorite to taste. Her sister, one-year-old Brittany, is still a bit young for a job at the stand.

Barry is employed by the Ford-New Holland Equipment manufacture, and he travels extensively in trouble-shooting and helping develop new farm machinery. Debbie works for Royer's Flower Shop, but helps feed the dairy herd and attend to the produce business. Bernie, 16, is a student at Eastern High School, and assists with whatever needs done - including unloading watermelons.

Two years ago, Ellsworth and Kathy built a new home next to the produce stand, while Brian and Nadine moved into the farmhouse. Their daughters are now the fifth generation of Lehman's here, where Guernsey cows are a tradition and the produce business once again a valued diversification for this family farm.



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



The end of October and leaves everywhere except on the trees. They cover the lawn, the garden and the cars. I'm always glad for a wheelbarrow to cart them off to be dumped.

Lily leaves are still quite green but I know it is time to dig them up and store them until next spring. The dahlia roots take so much space as I put them in baskets in the cellar.

The green beans have reached a point where we are able to eat all that I pick and I no longer freeze them. In fact about the only things that I freeze just now is chard, kale, brussel sprouts and applesauce.

Since I have some extra time, I've been baking several kinds of muffins. Some are heavy and contain lots of oatmeal while others are light like a cake. We eat most of them for breakfast as I think that bought cereal is quite expensive.

Another chore just now is patching overalls and jeans; it is either that or buy new ones. Some pairs have a half-dozen patches but that is better than holes. There

are always buttons that need to be replaced too.

Yet while I'm thinking of all of these mundane things, I spy some items on a table nearby and pleasant memories take over. There is a beautiful paperweight from a jewelry store in Lucerne, Switzerland and a tiny plate on a stand from Paris, France. A tiny music box, dated 1874, plays two tunes and was my father's. It was broken when I got it but two of my sons repaired it for me. Then there is the antique lamp that my daughter gave as a gift.

Our minds race from one thought to another as we go about our day's work. But, it is wise to occasionally remind ourselves of the pleasant things in our lives and keep an optimistic outlook.

SELL IT WITH A LANCASTER FARMING CLASSIFIED

KEN CLUGSTON
(717) 665-6775

CRAFT-BILT CONSTRUCTION INC.

FARM-HOME BUILDING
1242 Breneman Road
MANHEIM, PA. 17545
PH: (717) 665-4372

BUILDING & REMODELING FOR —
DAIRY RESIDENTIAL
SWINE POLE BUILDINGS
BEEF STORAGE

ASHLEY
WOOD & COAL STOVES
NEW & USED FURNITURE

FISHER'S FURNITURE, INC.

Bart, Pennsylvania 17503
Rt. 896 at Georgetown - 6 Miles
South of Strasburg
Hours Mon Thru Thurs, 8.5, Fri 8-8, Sat. 8-12

REDUCE YOUR HEATING BILL
with one of America's best-built stoves
HARMAN MARK II & MARK III
We Have A Full Line Of Harman Stoves And Furnaces.

The Mark II and Mark III are unique to the stove industry. No other stove looks, operates, or performs like them. They are designed from the ground up to burn wood or coal to perfection.

Heating capacity is 1900 square feet for Mark II and 2400 square feet for Mark III. Both are available in a variety of colors with either solid brass or chrome trim.

LEACOCK Coleman CENTER
89 Old Leacock Rd. RD. 1, Banks, PA
Open Mon. - Wed. 10:00 - 12:00, Thurs. - Sat. 9:00 - 5:00

GOOD FOOD OUTLET STORES
See Our Original Line Of Golden Barrel Products Plus All Kinds Of Nuts, Beans, Candies, Etc. At Reduced Prices

Processors Of Syrups, Molasses, Cooking Oil, Funnel Cake Mix & Shoofly Pie Mixes (With or Without Syrup)

- ★ CORN SYRUP
- ★ PANCAKE SYRUP
- ★ PURE MAPLE SYRUP
- ★ SORGHUM SYRUP
- ★ TABLE SYRUP
- ★ COCONUT OIL
- ★ CORN OIL
- ★ COTTONSEED OIL
- ★ PEANUT OIL
- ★ SOYBEAN OIL
- ★ 100 LB. BAG GRANULATED SUGAR
- ★ BAKING MOLASSES
- ★ BARBADOS MOLASSES
- ★ BLACK STRAP MOLASSES
- ★ HONEY
- ★ PEANUT BUTTER
- ★ FUNNEL CAKE MIX
- ★ SHOOFLY PIE MIXES

If your local store does not have it, CALL OR WRITE FOR FREE BROCHURE & PRICES — WE, UPS DAILY —

Good Food Outlet
— Located At —
L&S SWEETENERS
388 E. Main St., Leola, PA 17540
717-656-3486 1-800-633-2676

Good Food Outlet
— Located At Good Food, Inc. —
W. Main St., Box 160, Honey Brook, PA 19344
215-273-3776 1-800-327-4406

NEW ITEM! ← HIGH-FRUCTOSE 55
16 oz. Jars
• Instead Of 1 Full Cup Sugar - Use 1/2 To 4/5 Cup 55 (depending on taste)

High Fructose 55 Can Be Used As A Liquid Sweetener For Pancakes, Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, Other Drinks
Use As A Cover Syrup For Frozen Fruits.
Use In Baking, In Jellies - Many Other Uses!

Stop By For A Free Taste!