

Pierced Lampshades By Bonnie Remsburg

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MIDDLETOWN, MD — A craft class was the spark that ignited into a fascinating hobby for Bonnie Remsburg.

Rachel Remsburg, Bonnie's mother-in-law, invited Bonnie to attend a six hour class on the art of hand-cut and pierced lampshades at the Side Door Gift Shop in Walkersville, Md. During the hands-on class, Bonnie completed her first lampshade in a beautiful floral design. Each class member was given enough materials to make another one on their own.

As the opportunities came for wedding, birthday and Christmas gifts, Bonnie began using the skills she had learned to create her own unique designs for family and friends. She also gave several beautiful country farm scene lampshades pierced with barn and cow designs to farm organizations for door prizes. After 20 to 25 creations as gifts, she decided to make them available for sale.

Creating designs by making cuts and piercing holes in paper is actually an old art form handed down over the years. The famous lacy paper valentine came from this early art form. Interest was revived in the art in New England during the 1930s, but has never reached a high level of popularity

in the United States.

The beauty of pierced and cut paper work is best appreciated when light passes through the cut and pierced sections, making the most popular present-day application of the craft lampshades and light ornaments.

To make the lampshades, portions of the design to be cut are traced as fine lines, and portions to be pierced are traced as tiny dots. The design is then cut with a craft knife and piercing tool. After the entire design has been pierced and cut, the cut sections can be raised or rolled to add a three-dimensional quality to leaves, flower petals, and other designs.

A lining is then glued onto the lampshade paper. She then applies the rings of the frame with glue as well as the back seam of the shade. Bonnie adds velvet ribbon glued around the top and bottom of the lampshade in a contrasting color to add to the beauty. She has created shades in country, floral, and custom designs.

Bonnie and her husband Tom live on a dairy farm just outside Middletown, Md. They have two children, T J, who is five and Jarrett 2. The farm house was built by Tom's great-grandfather and has beautiful woodwork and fireplaces with mantels. Bonnie delights in putting her decorating

talents to use in the old farm house.

For Christmas, they cut down three trees for their home. The "old fashioned" Christmas Tree was done with red beads and hearts, real red candles, cloth and crocheted ornaments made by parents and grandparents along with several made by their boys.

The Victorian one, which stood in the formal living room was complete with dried baby's breath, pink glass balls, burgundy and mauve satin ribbons with white lights and pearls.

Cow ornaments collected over the years was the focus of the tree in the family room. Bonnie hand-strung popcorn and cranberries for this one, adding white lights for sparkle.

You will also find Bonnie at many dairy functions and shows. As a young girl beginning in 4-H, she became interested in animals. Her first projects were with beef, then with dairy heifers. Bonnie and her sister, Cynthia, soon had four cows on their acre of land. Their mother helped them milk the cows. At 38, Bonnie's father left his job as a cement mason to purchase a farm in Litchfield County, Connecticut, where they began a herd of registered cows.

Their prefix was a combination of her sister Cynthia and Bonnie's names, Cy-Bon Farm. By the time Bonnie was married in 1982, she owned 23 animals. She says her father received most of his knowledge of dairying from reading the Hoard's Dairyman magazine.

Bonnie also became quite successful in 4-H dairy judging. She won the Connecticut state contest before she was 16. While a student at the University of Connecticut, her dairy judging team won the contest at Harrisburg. She received her B.S. degree from the University of Connecticut in animal science and came to the University of Maryland to get her Master's degree. While in Maryland, she met her husband, Tom, at a State Holstein Convention. She taught at the Alfred Agriculture and Technical College in Alfred, New York, one year before becoming Mrs. Remsburg. While at Alfred, she set up a hands-on computer program for students for a cull cow program.

Since her marriage, she has also taught agriculture courses at the Frederick Community College. At present she is a full-time mother, occasionally helping with the farm chores when needed. She has had the opportunity to judge dairy shows in several eastern states which is a real thrill for her.

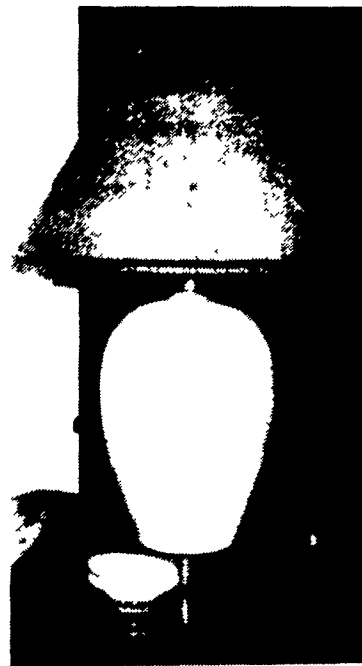
Tom and Bonnie were honored by the Maryland Holstein Association in 1989 as Outstanding Young Breeders and were recognized nationally in 1991.



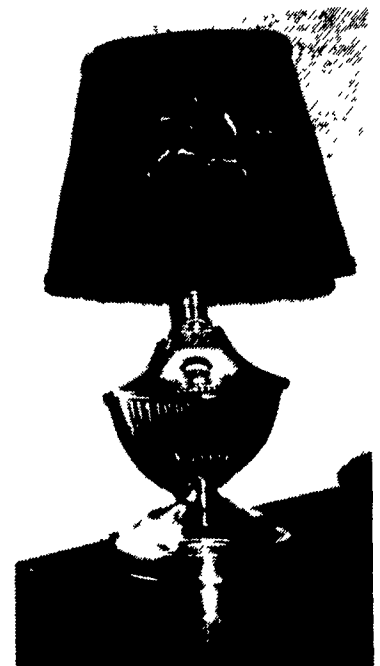
Bonnie Remsburg stands beside her favorite piece — a brass lamp with black shade.



Many of Bonnie's lamps have beautiful country farm scenes pierced with barn and cow designs.



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Each summer, Bonnie and her two boys enjoy spending several weeks on her family farm in Connecticut. It has now been converted to a vegetable, produce, and floral business with greenhouses.

Bonnie's hobbies include needlepoint, cross stitch, stenciling, cooking, decorating and entertaining. She welcomes your inquiries about her lamps at (301) 371-5498 or 7229 Holter Road, Middletown, MD 21769.



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Homestead Notes