

Ephrata Young Farmers Collect Gifts For Needy

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
STEVENS (Lancaster Co.) —
The hum of a saw and the smell of
sawdust fill the air at Dale's
Workshop.

"I thought I would put some
spice into someone's Christmas,"
Dale Whissler said.

That spice is a unique wooden
train that Dale designed. Each car
of the train carries a letter that
spells the child's name. The train
serves as a dual toy. It has wheels
so that it can be used as a push toy
and it is also a puzzle.

"I like to do things that no one
else wants to do," Whissler said of
his wooden cutout business.

His latest project is one that he is
giving away to brighten some
child's Christmas.

Whissler is one of the members
of Ephrata Area Young Farmers
who want to give Christmas to a
family who are in great financial
need.

The organization chose a family
that was forced to flee an abusive
situation. The mother is the sole
support for a 15-year-old daughter,
14-year-old twin boys, and a
1½-year-old grandson with develop-
ment and speech delays.

The Young Farmers are collect-
ing food and used and new cloth-
ing for the family.

Specific needs for the 14-year-
old twin boys are size 10 sneakers,
size 29x30 jeans, book bags, flannel
shirts, sports team sweat shirts,
watches, and socks.

For the 15-year-old daughter:
size 5 sneakers, shirts, sweaters,

and sweatshirts — the bigger and
baggier the better, size 13-14
jeans, socks, hair accessories,
pierced earrings, and a book bag.

For the 1½ year-old grandson:
size 3T clothing of all types, edu-
cational toys, books, and stuffed
animals.

For mom and the entire family
— money to help meet the family's
needs throughout the year.

The gifts will be assembled dur-
ing the Christmas party on Decem-
ber 21 and delivered to the family
on December 22.

If you would like to contribute
food, clothing, or toys to the needy
family, send it to Karen Becker,
4340 Oregon Pike, Ephrata, PA
17522, (717) 859-3276.

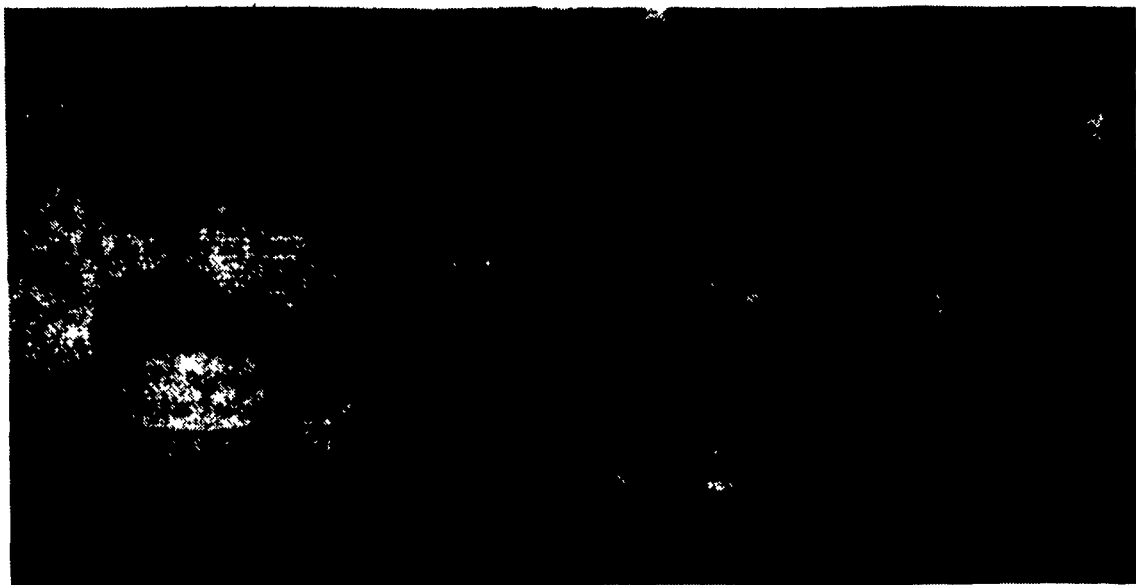
Gifts of cash should be made out
to Ephrata Young Farmers with the
explanatory memo "Christmas
Charity Project." Cash gifts should
be sent to Nevin Horning, EAYF
treasurer, 560 Millway Rd., Lititz,
PA 17543.

Whissler is giving a toy, he said,
"Because I like to give them some-
thing to keep their minds occupied
so they don't get into trouble."

Whissler has a stand at Root's
Market, where he sells wooden
toys, puzzles, and does custom cut-
ting for people who give him pro-
jects or show him pictures of
things they would like him to do.

He uses a scroll saw to make
unique cutouts of such pictures as a
barn raising, locomotive, and a
Christmas scene. He also has made
more than 2,000 puzzles with dif-
ferent pictures or photographs.

"My wife said that when I get a



Dale Whissler shows off one of the wooden trains that he designed with a child's name. The train has wheels and can be taken apart and put together like a puzzle. Whissler is donating a train to the Christmas project established by the Ephrata Area Young Farmers.

new idea, I'm like a little boy with
a new toy. I can't stop," said
Whissler, who works in his wood-
shop from 2 a.m. to 8 or 9 at night
to fill orders.

Whissler said that a back injury
forced him to retire from farming
and that is why he took up wood-
working. He continues member-
ship in the Young Farmers because

he enjoys the organization and
there are a lot of nice folks in it.
Whissler can be found at Root's
Market in Manheim on Tuesdays
or reached at (717) 336-5953.

Toasting Nuts

Most nuts taste rich and good
fresh out of the shell. But, it's
toasting that brings out their full-
est flavor.

Toasting nuts is easy. Most
importantly, watch them carefully
because the time between prime
toasting and scorching is short.
These methods work for any type
of nut.

• **Skillet method:** Sprinkle nuts
in an ungreased, heavy skillet.
Cook over medium heat 5 to 7
minutes, stirring frequently, until
nuts begin to brown. Then, stir
constantly until nuts are golden
brown.

• **Oven method:** spread nuts in
a shallow ungreased pan and bake,
uncovered, in a 350° F. oven for 6

to 10 minutes, stirring frequently,
until light brown.

• **Microwave method:** Mix
softened margarine or butter and
nuts in microwaveable pie plate
and microwave on high, stirring
every 30 seconds, until light
brown. One teaspoon margarine
and ¼ cup nuts will take 2½ to 3
minutes.

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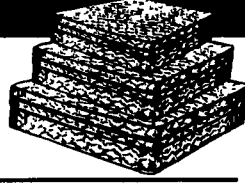
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