

Stained Glass Designs By P.J. Heyman

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
BOILING SPRINGS (Cumberland Co.) — When P.J. Heyman strolls around the farm where her husband Gene Heyman raises Black Angus, she is doing more than admiring the cattle and getting her daily exercise.

She visualizes the beauty of her surroundings in glass — stained glass — for P.J. is a stained glass artist.

Delicate shades of glass fill the studio on the couple's Boiling Springs farm.

P.J. works with flat glass panels that come in thousands of different variations and thicknesses to produce stained glass objects of art. Some of the glass panels are machine made but others are hand-made or mouth blown glass.

The sheets of glass come in 4x5-foot and 2x4-foot panels. Before she begins her work, P.J. makes a pattern and traces it onto the glass. Then she cuts it out and finishes the edges with a grinder. After checking for fit, she wraps each edge with copper foil tape and solders it on both sides.

For her projects, she uses the copper foil method invented by Tiffany as opposed to the lead method that is more commonly used.

"Copper foil allows more detail and is more delicate in appearance. It's a superior method of construc-

tion and not as heavy," she said.

Her finished creations include lamps, kaleidoscopes, panels with designs such as the flag with the stars and stripes, quilt designs, fan-shaped designs, and free-form shapes.

Born in Holland, P.J. came to the states in 1956 with her parents. For her, it was an exciting to move to a new country, learn the language, and participate in classes.

Always showing an artistic bent, P.J. studied art at the State University in New York where she earned a two-year-degree and became a commercial artist.

It wasn't until 1978 that P.J. took her first class in stained glass in York.

From then on she was hooked. Her projects accumulated, and P.J. quickly learned that if she wanted to continue her craft, she needed to sell some of her work.

She became affiliated with The Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen (PGC), which is to encourage, promote and develop one the country's finest resources — crafts.

PGC is a non-profit, state-wide organization governed by a board of directors. A network of chapters provides members with more opportunities for personal involvement and direct marketing.

P.J. became a juried member of the guild in 1983, which enables her to participate in events sponsored by PGC such as galley exhibi-

bits, an annual workshop series, a Crafts Gallery in Bushkill, the Crafts Center in Tyler State Park (Bucks County), and four major craft festivals every year.

P.J. works four to five hours during the day and most evenings on projects. Her inspiration for designs comes from all places and in all hours. It is not unusual for P.J. to awaken in the middle of the night with an idea.

Her studio will not be in home much longer. Recently, she purchased a little 1875 church located at 4th and Walnut Street in Boiling Springs, where she plans to open an art gallery for not only her work but that of other artists.

P.J. was hoping to have the gallery ready for the Christmas season, but she said, "I have a lot of work to do on the church before it can ready."

That work includes putting a new roof of the church and selling the lovely chestnut pews inside.

For more information, contact P.J. Heyman by writing to Stained Glass Studio, 619 Lerew Rd., Boiling Springs, PA 17007 or by calling (717) 258-3256.



P.J. Heyman was one of the 250 craftspeople who participated in the 48th State Craft Fair held at Franklin and Marshall College.

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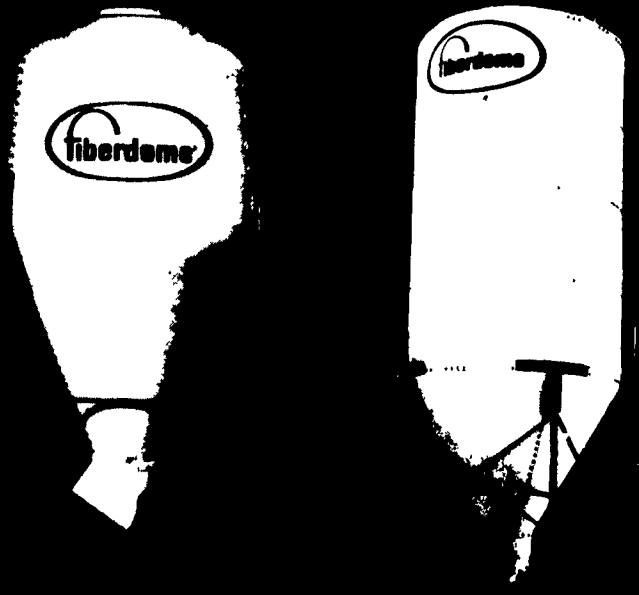


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