

English Garden Tea Parties Delight Young And Old

(Continued from Page B2)

At a recent children's tea party, one little boy turned up his nose at the China teapot and cups.

"I don't like tea. I want orange juice," he announced.

Marian, always prepared, hurried to bring him freshly squeezed orange juice. By the time, she returned, the little boy's friends had encouraged him to try the tea. After one sip, he admitted that the tea, a mixture of mint tea and cranberry juice, tasted good.

Marian's eye for beauty and color has been honed over the years as the former owner of the Lavender Patch, a gift shop.

Marian made the transition from a farmhouse filled with antiques and country decor to purchasing a more contemporary-style home and decorating it with Victorian touches and collectibles of that era.

News of the tea parties and garden luncheons are by word of mouth only. Marian said, "I want this to remain something special for select occasions."

Reservations may be made by calling Marian at (717) 426-4533.



Marian uses herbs and edible flowers from her gardens for the luncheons and tea parties she serves. A delightful tour of the English garden and a fenced-in vegetable garden is available for curious guests.



After the tea, the children played in the English play-house and then had a swimming party in the pool that borders the garden.

Homestead Notes



Dainty sandwiches interspersed with edible flowers, stuffed cherry tomatoes, and herbs tastes as good as it looks.



Prim and proper ladies at an English Garden Party sniff their nosegays before indulging in finger sandwiches and sweets during a English Garden luncheon. From left are Sharon Haines, Verna Brubaker, Janie Barge, Marian Miller, and Lu Ann Fahndrick.



In keeping with the styles of the Victorian era, Marian wears her garden hat low to serve tea. "The focus was to be on the hat, not the person," she said. When weather permits, the teas are held outdoors, but her home inside carries Victorian touches with a floral theme. Notice the kitchen cupboards and doors are each painted with a different flower or herb.



Five-year-old Tyler Barge is certain he won't like tea. While he waited for freshly-squeezed orange juice, his cousins, Courtney Fahndrick, left, and Sara Haines convinced him to try the tea, a mixture of mint tea and cranberry juice. Surprise! He likes it.