

Kids Korner

Toys Mean Fun, Learning, And Work



Jason plays a child's harp, which includes easy-to-read music for beginners.

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
PARKESBURG (Chester Co.)

— How would you like to have your yard and part of your house filled with toys?

The six children of Paul and Twila Ranck do. They are surrounded by all kinds swings, playhouses, chutes, sliding boards and ladders. There are outdoor playsets with a look out, a treehouse, a scout hideout, a club house, a Dutch loft, and a chalet.

Even a six-car train winds along

one side of their Parksburg home. It's a wooden train set, big enough to sit in and climb on, and pretend that it's actually moving.

Jason, 11; Marla, 10; Barbara, 8; Elizabeth, 6; Martha Joy, 4; and Daniel, 2, are accustomed to having their yard filled with the wooden play things. Inside, they have a whole child's size kitchen set up in which to play with their dolls, a doll house, car roller that looks like a marble roller, a big bubble bucket for blowing bubbles, and much more.



This is only part of the train that is ready for take off in the Ranck's yard.

But these toys are simply for play. They require work for the Ranck children. The toys are samples for potential customers to see when they stop by the Ranck's Route 30 farm.

The children like to help their dad set up playsets in other people's yards. They like to take some

of the equipment to shows where they help sell the pieces to customers. They package items to ship in the mail.

In the summertime, Jason mows the grass. It requires a lot of starting and stopping to move all the outdoor furniture so Jason can mow the grass.

Instead of going to school, the Ranck children study at home with their parents as teachers. They also play musical instruments.

They believe that spending time together helps their family appreciate each other more and teaches them how to work happily together.



Whenever they want, the children have a choice of selecting this or one of the many other playsets scattered over the Ranck's yard.



Elizabeth uses a doll-size high chair while pretending she is a real mother.



This child-size kitchen enables the children to learn homemaking skills.