

Karin Buchan Shares

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 2, 1988-B3

(Continued from Page B2)

According to Karin, people love coming to the greenhouse farm, although it is four miles off the main route to Homer City. "We have critters running around and are kind of laid back," Karin said of the secluded farm. Heirloom seeds are often part of heritage and handed down through generations. Many plants are taken for granted as being part of granny's garden or something Uncle Ed grows in his garden, but a closer look may reveal that the plants are actually grown from seed saved through the years. Families need to be aware of this or the seed may be lost when the grower passes on. A prime example of this is what

happened to one of Karin's friends. When the family dispersed the deceased grandmother's belongings, they found carefully wrapped flower seeds she had brought from Europe 60 years before her death. She had planted them every year until her death. "Unfortunately, the family threw the seeds away and another cultivar and memory is lost to us by accident, and possibly gone forever," Karin said. Many ethnic groups preserve seed as part of their heritage. According to Karin, one of the best ethnic groups at preserving seed heritage are the Italians, who save seeds from tomatoes known to make the best sauces and pastes. The Amish most often save seeds

for peas and beans. Stories are told of American settlers who carried seed with them to distant places. Archeologists have found evidence of ancient South American peoples saving chili pepper seeds from 7000 BC and the Slavic people have successfully preserved many pepper varieties. Russians believed in the importance of saving seeds and had an amazing seed bank. During the last clash a few years ago, the scientists who were barricaded in the seed bank died of starvation because they refused to eat seeds that were stored there. Many heirloom seeds have a history or story associated with it. Such is the case of the "Mortgage" (Turn to Page B4)



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