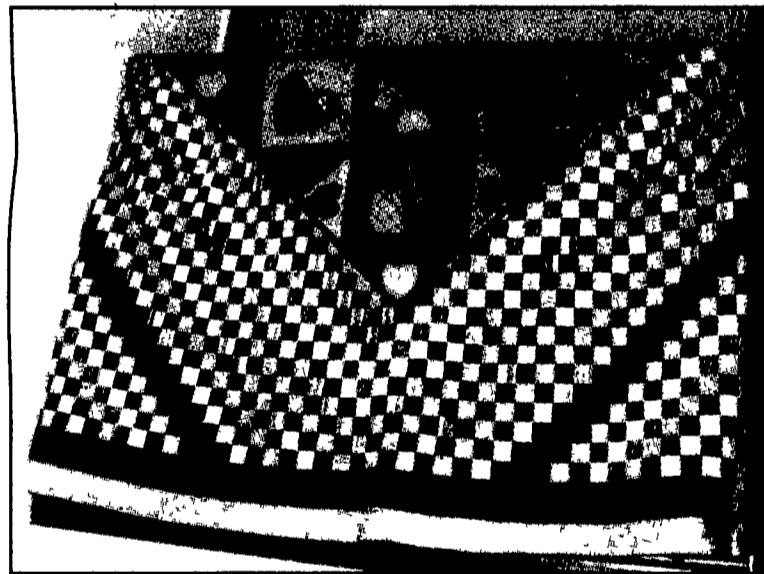




This quilt is one that Elva began working on years ago, but had someone else finish. The time-consuming process for constructing the "cathedral window" coverlet contains no quilting but involves hand piecing many fabrics.



Elva has resold hundreds of quilts from her collection obtained through auctions and consignments. This "postage stamp" quilt hangs in her foyer. She sold more than 100 quilts, 100 porcelain dolls, hundreds of dishes, and other antiques before moving into the new house.



The Stauffer home was built on the farm, which has been in the family for almost 100 years. Elva said that she used many of the ideas in designing the home from those she toured in previous years. Now she is reciprocating by opening her home during the annual Kitchen Kaper Tour, May 1.

Stauffer Home Open For Ephrata Kitchen Kaper

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)
— For years, Elva Stauffer took advantage of home tours to garner ideas for building her own home. Last year, she and her husband built an expansive Cape Cod on their farm. Now she is opening her home for the Ephrata Women's Club 13th annual Kitchen Kaper on May 1.

The popular tour is always a sell-out because it offers a combination of ideas for every homemaker. Not only are the homes open for tour, but at each home a different restaurant provides food for tour participants and an area florist arranges stunning displays to coordinate with the decor.

Some homes feature collections and antiques, and Elva's home is no exception. On display will be her collections of old quilts, dolls, and cast iron dogs.

Elva said that "sales are in my blood." She inherited the "auction bug" from her dad, who operated a weekly horse and cow sale. One of 11 children, Elva said that she learned to cook and sew at an early age. Her entrepreneurship surfaced when she was only 14 and began a small restaurant to serve soup, sandwiches, and baked items at her dad's auction site in New Holland.

"When I married and moved to Ephrata, I missed my restaurant," Elva said.

She quickly became immersed in helping her husband on the farm. They had cows, chickens, and sold produce at a roadside stand. Elva also began holding Stanley demonstrations and is now in her 45th year with the company. The couple had three children. Now adults, son Clark is the fifth generation Stauffer to farm the home place. Ronald operates Cloister Restaurant with his mother, and daughter Shirley lives in Canada.

Elva and her husband purchased the Cloister Restaurant 27 years ago. At that time, Clark took over the farming operation, which allowed Elva and her husband to work the long hours required in the restaurant business. The restaurant is well known for its authentic Pennsylvania Dutch cooking such as pig stomach and snitz and knepp.

When the Stauffers acquired

the restaurant, they thought it best if someone on the premise knew CPR and First Aid in case a patron was injured. Elva took the training.

After Elva completed training, she said, "They asked me to run with the ambulance." She did.

Last Saturday night, she received a plaque in appreciation for volunteering 20 years with the ambulance service.

For 20 years, Elva placed children in local homes through the Fresh Air program. She is no longer involved in that, but she does have two Ethiopian stu-

dents living with her on weekends throughout the school year.

Elva is a member for Lancaster County Farm Women Society 3 and of the Hinkletown Mennonite Church.

Elva said that her home was built after her husband became ill and could no longer manage steps. Three weeks after they moved in, he died. Many readers of this paper remember her husband, Aaron, who was well known for his farm research on ground water and conservation practices. Tour groups from

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Ephrata Woman's Club To Hold 13th Annual Kitchen Kaper Tulip Tour

Monday, May 1, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the Woman's Club of Ephrata will conduct its popular kitchen/house tour and craft show. The Tour includes two bed and breakfast homes. Four private homes, and the Eicher Arts Center. Local restaurant chefs will offer samples of their fare at each of the homes and floral decor will be displayed by florists and decorators.

Tickets for the Tour, for all ages including children, are \$8 in advance by contacting Marti Nissley (717) 859-2847 or Edith Graff (717) 336-4719. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope, along with payment. Tickets on the day of the tour are \$10 and are available at the Church of the Brethren, 201 Crescent Ave., Ephrata. The club advises visitors to wear comfortable walking shoes. No high heels, cameras or baby carriages will be allowed. A listing of places open for tour include the following:

- Craft Show at Ephrata Church of the Brethren, 201 Crescent Ave. Among the beautiful hand-crafted items will be redstone pottery, hand-painted porcelain, silk flower arrangements, framed designs etched on black painted aluminum, Scherschritte paper cuttings, antique button jewelry, hand-designed T-shirts, semi-precious stone jewelry, country crafts, astronomical photographs, and various crafts made by young people in TRACK.

- Jeff and Cindy Rutt, 954 Lincoln Hgts. Ave. A moderate, contemporary, brick and taupe house is a true home for the millennium. The open-end architecture of the interior with high ceilings, hardwood and tile floors and exterior walls of many windows, give much light. This is a home of the future. A step-down family room and a step-up computer room are both visible from the living room and kitchen. Beige wood cabinetry encircles a working island with all the newest appliances. A lighted cabinet containing antique salt cellars and ink wells, a collection of Cindy's grandmother's, are points of interest. Lily's on Main, Main St., will serve in the kitchen. Brossman's Flower and Gift Shop, 30 E. Main, is the floral decorator.

- Thomas and Julie Wettach, 1173 Marilyn Ave. The summer of 1998, Dutch Quality Contractors refurbished the original Dutch Colonial house to a more contemporary home. The interior open-end architecture was built around the one remaining room, the living room. The kitchen with light oak cabinets and an island, all new appliances, the sun room, with window walls, and the dining room all flow through to each other. Two open gas fireplaces add heat and enjoyment to the newly-refurbished rooms. Cloister Sweets, 7 Dutchland Ave., will serve in the kitchen. Esbenschade's Greenhouse, 546A E. Division Hwy., Lititz, will do the floral arrangements.

- Twin Pine Bed & Breakfast, 1934 Main St. Innkeepers Harold and Sylvia Stoltzfus will welcome you to Norman Kurtz's recently-opened, elegant Bed & Breakfast. Twin Pine Farm established the Kurtz homestead in 1939 by Norm's father, Moses. Resembling a Swiss chalet, the home continued renovation and expansion. Currently, the mansion contains 20 rooms appointed with antique furniture, artifacts from the Kurtz farm, seven gas fireplaces. Many more beautiful points of interest include a scenic view, from the top deck, of thirty-five farms. The Olde Lincoln House, 1398 W. Main, will provide the food. Floral decor will be by Anita Yoder, of Heritage Design Interior, 872 E. Main, New Holland.

- Eicher Arts Center, Ephrata Park, Restored in 1983, the Arts Center was originally the Sisters House of the Cloisters. This historic building provides a forum which enables the citizens of the area to participate in various cultural activities. Tour participants are invited to stop, rest and enjoy cookies and coffee. Flowers are presented by the Arts Center Volunteers.

- Michael and Nancy Sensenig, 1032 Clearview Ave. Home to the Sensenig family for one year, the architectural structure of this home is "Farm House Style." The interior mirrors this style with its country kitchen, where an antique cupboard holds a Pfaltzgraff collection. The home is decorated in soothing colors of country blue and mauve. Isaac's Restaurant, in the Cloister Shopping Center will present the food and Black Iris Design, 108 E. Main provides the decor.

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OMESTEAD NOTES

