

Grandpa's Hobby To Benefit Lititz School

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Lancaster Farming Staff
 LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — "Get a hobby," Della Bollinger told her husband Mark as he sat watching her quilt hour after hour.

After retirement, the former truck driver and farm mechanic kept busy during the day with the 10,000 layers on their Lexington farmette and driving a school van for the public school district. But evenings were, well, a bit boring.

While he pondered his wife's advice, he examined a wooden chicken coop. Curious, he wondered if he could duplicate the coop on a smaller scale.

With a minimal amount of equipment, he made a wooden coop and presented it to his wife. After that, his hobby sort of got out of hand, no doubt because of his wife's other hobby.

"She cooks," Bollinger said as if that explained everything. It turns out that his wife of 48 years likes cooking for guests. In fact, the Bollingers have had almost every member of their church congregation that numbers 600 as dinner guests.

When friends and relatives saw the coop Bollinger had made, they ordered one for themselves.

Now more than 100 coops later and several other projects such as wooden hobby horses, the 73-year-old Bollinger has perfected his skills, purchased

additional equipment, and handcrafted a walnut Grandfather's clock.

He is donating the clock to raise funds for the annual Lititz Mennonite School Auction, June 23-24.

The Bollingers have a vested interest in the school. Eleven of their 20 grandchildren have attended the school. They appreciate the teaching their children receive from the private school and want to do their part in helping the school.

The annual auction raises funds to help with schooling costs. In addition to typical auction fare, the school depends on quality items such as Bollinger's handcrafted clock to attract interest.

The stately Grandfather's clock features Hermle's motivating moon dial, and triple chime movement that allows a choice of Westminster, St. Michael's or Whittington chimes.

The clock works were purchased from Emperor Clockworks in Alabama, who make the chimes according to German standards.

"This is not a kit, but it's not made from scratch either," Bollinger said with his typical dry humor. "I consider a scratch is something you do if you have an itch."

Bollinger said that his middle son of six children had made the same style clock as a gift for his parents in the 1970s.

"I got to thinking, and I

thought my son would probably like that clock for himself someday," Bollinger said.

Last summer Bollinger made his first Grandfather's clock. It turned out so well, his son suggested he make one for the benefit auction.

The clock has a brass plate with the engraved words, "Handcrafted Mark F. Bollinger +N2 2000."

Recently the Bollingers reduced their chicken layer operation from 10,000 to 5,000. Bollinger transformed one of the chicken houses into a woodworking shop.

"We are getting too old to carry eggs up and down the steps," Bollinger said of the decision to transform the former two-story chicken house into a shop.

He works in the shop during the day, and at night, he returns to watching his wife quilt.

"We're back at square one," he said.

Except this time, his wife has put him to work measuring and cutting threads needed to finish the quilts she does for a quilt broker.

This fall, both will have something unusual to keep them busy. They plan to travel to Wales in the fall to visit their daughter, who is in mission work in that country.

When they return to the states, Bollinger may build another grandfather's clock.

"It depends on how well this one sells," he said.



Mark Bollinger points out the detail in the handcrafted clock he built for the Lititz Mennonite School Benefit Auction.

School Benefit Auction Is June 23-24

LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — Lititz Area Mennonite School, will hold its 23rd annual Benefit Auction on June 23 and 24. Friday begins with a chicken BBQ dinner served from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meals may be eaten inside the school or purchased for takeout from the drive-thru.

Dinner is \$5.25, which includes a roll, chicken leg and thigh, baked potato, cole slaw, applesauce and drink. Chicken only may be purchased for \$2. Children's meals are available for \$3.50. Hot dogs, ice cream and baked goods also will be available.

The Friday evening auction will begin at 6 p.m. Winross trucks and collectibles will be sold throughout the evening along with crafts, plants, lawn and garden items, theme baskets, and many more items.

Morning Star Ministries will make balloon shapes for the children and a children's auction will begin at 7 p.m. Quilts, artwork, and the many other items

to be auctioned on Saturday will be displayed Friday evening.

Saturday begins with an "All You Can Eat" Country Buffet Breakfast served from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Enjoy eggs, pancakes, sausage, home fries, baked oatmeal, fresh fruit, pastries, and juice for \$4.50. Meals for children 6-10 years are \$2.50, and 5 and under are free.

The auction begins at 9 a.m. with a wide variety of items including crafts, baskets, pottery, Beanie Babies, wooden items, lawn and garden items, plants, and flowers.

At noon the art will be sold. The art will include for the first time a Thomas Kinkadee canvas print evening majesty. Other artists and their work include Debra Smith, The General Sutter; Richard Bollinger, Day's End; Diane Stewart, Quilts and Clematis; Andy Smith, Country Life; Gentle December Snow by John Showalter II, and many more.

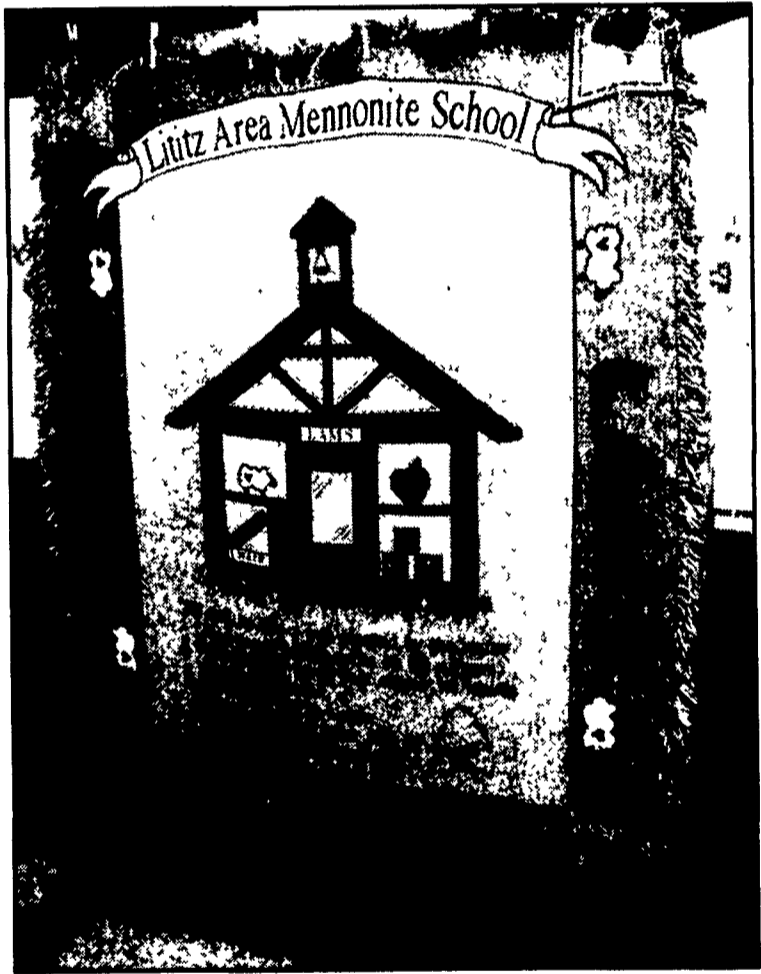
Special features will be sold at 12:30 p.m. These include a hand-

made Grandfather's clock and a hand-made hobby-horse. The quilts and wall hangings will be auctioned at 1 p.m. with beautiful designs such as Bargello, Lone Star, Pieced Pineapple, Broken Star, and Double Wedding Ring.

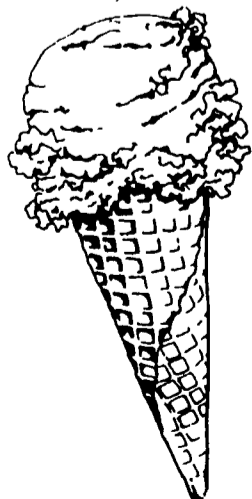
LAMS has designed a very colorful and unique afghan that will also be available at the auction for \$45.

Children's activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. with train rides, moonwalk, face painting and other games. Food available throughout the day will include hot sandwiches, French fries, fruit and salad bar, soft ice cream, and baked goods.

The school is located at 1050 East Newport Rd. in Lititz. For more information or to donate an item for the auction, call the school at (717) 626-9551.



Lititz Area Mennonite School will sell collectible afghans for \$45 each during its upcoming benefit auction, June 23-24.



Strawberry Shortcake takes center stage at the fifth annual Berry Festival, Kitchen Kettle Village, June 16-17. The festival features numerous berry-related activities, live music, and entertainment. Kitchen Kettle is located on Rt.340 Intercourse, 10 miles east of Lancaster.

Heritage Day At Hans Herr House

WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.) — The Hans Herr House will hold Heritage Day on August 5. This farm festival, now in its 21st year, will feature activities from the 18th to early 20th centuries, and demonstrations of rural life and crafts.

Visitors to Heritage Day will be able to see the 1719 Herr House and grounds, including the 1835 Shaub House across the road. Beautifully-restored early farm equipment will be displayed for the first time in the newly completed exhibit building. Craft demonstrations will include blacksmithing, hearth and bake oven cooking, linen processing, fabric dyeing, pottery making, threshing, and

more. There are wagon rides, children's activities, and workshops scheduled throughout the day. Sandwiches, roasted corn, ice cream, rhubarb punch, pies, hot dogs and other refreshments available for purchase will ensure that no one leaves Heritage Day hungry.

Admission to Heritage Day is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children ages 7-12. Ages 6 and under are free.

The Hans Herr House is located at 1849 Hans Herr Drive, Willow Street, PA just five miles south of Lancaster off Rts. US 222 and PA 741 between the villages of Willow Street and Lampeter. For more information call (717) 464-4438.