

Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*

Accent Home Decor With Childhood Treasures

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LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — Robert Leayman remembers the pleasure his daughter had cooking with tiny pots and pans, setting her table with doll-sized dishes and playing store with miniature grocery items.

Now that his daughter is grown, he helps her compile collections reminiscent of her childhood. They canvass antique shows in search of a doll-size canister set, the missing piece to a set of tinware and the tiny utensils to complete the set.

But tucking those items away deprived his daughter of the everyday pleasure of enjoying them. Leayman found a solution to that also.

He built a child size replica of a cupboard. Since then, he's built a child-size Hoosier cabinet, tin pie safe, and more, patterned after the adult-sized versions of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Almost every room of his daughter's home has at least one of the cupboards that complements her home's colonial decor.

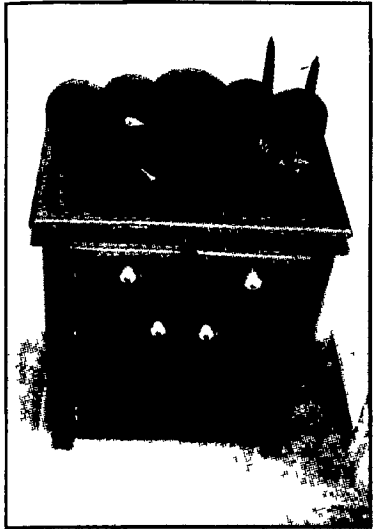
She has filled each of the cabinets with sets of antique dishes, utensils, and grocery items. Although these items were greatly cherished by generations of girls, many of the table settings on the market today are incomplete. Complete sets are expensive and seldom available. If patient, dedicated shoppers can find individual pieces and compile their own sets.

For collectors who want to know how to display their collections, his daughter's home is filled with ideas.

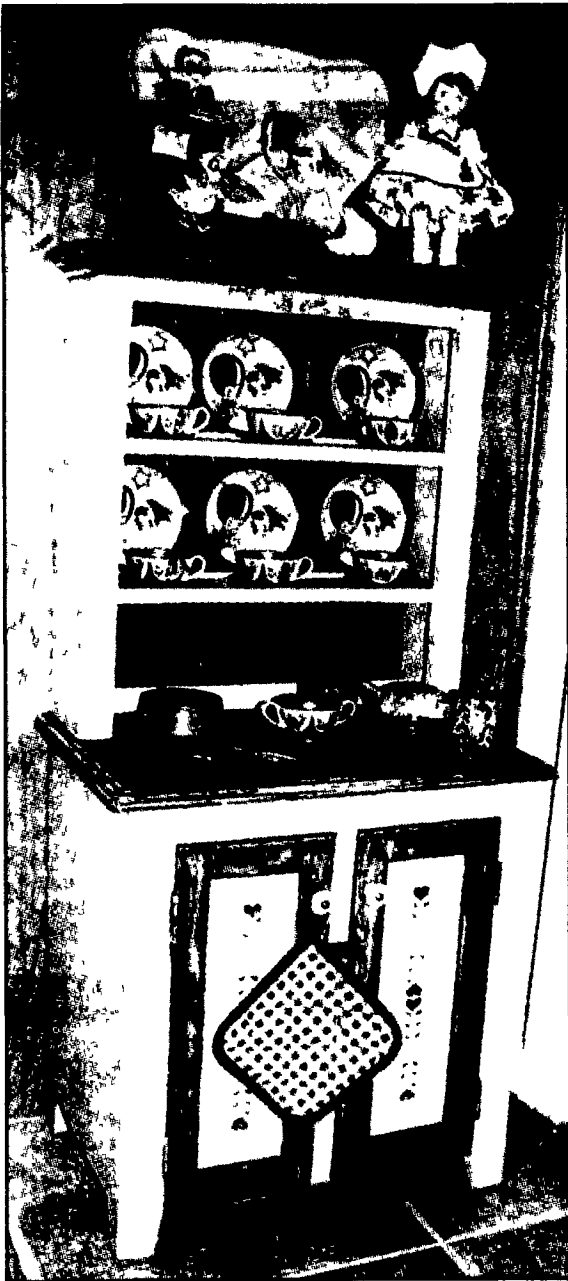
In addition to the little cupboards filled with kitchen-related items, she displays other childhood treasures. In the corner of the dining room, a small ironing board is set up with a little iron ready for plug in. A wooden barrel filled with wooden child-size clothespins, and even a clothespin bag is on display.

Leayman delights in making the doll-sized furniture as a hobby.

But he doesn't paint them for his daughter. Her husband does. To order an unfinished cupboard, call Leayman at (717) 560-0477.



This jelly cupboard is a copy of the original on display at the Landis Brothers House at Landis Valley Museum. Notice the utensil holder filled with tin knives, forks, and spoons. Even the gold candlesticks were made for the children's market.



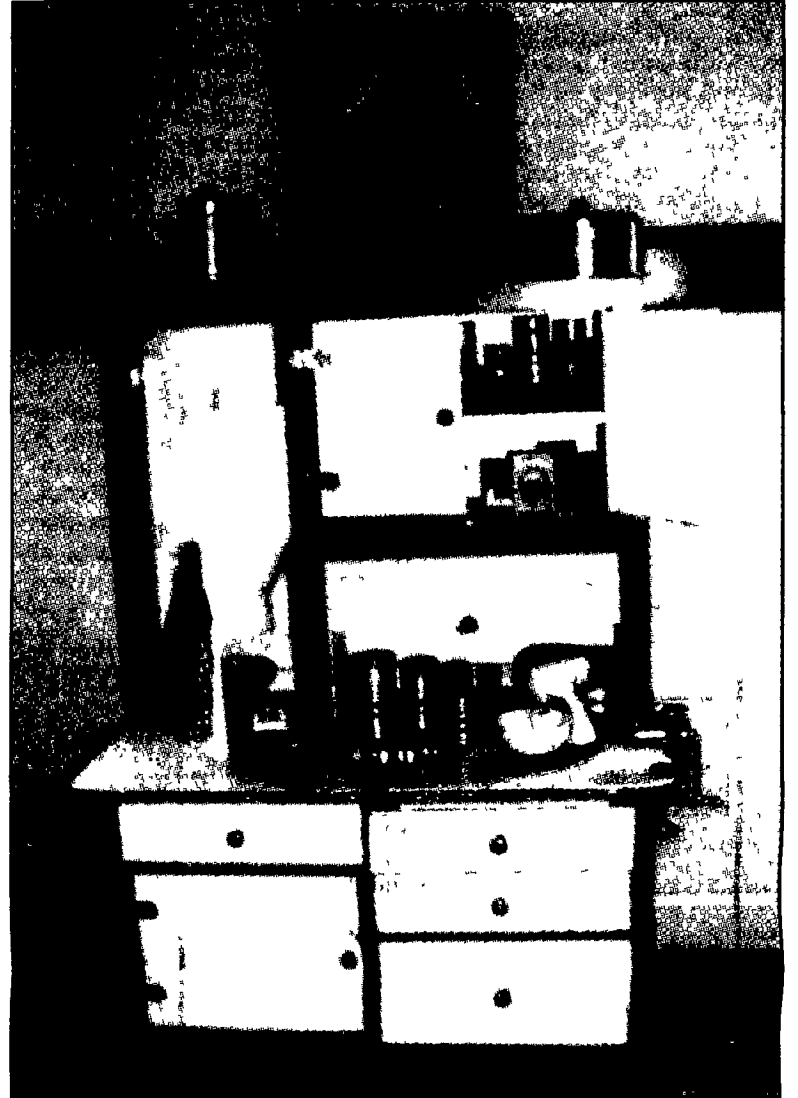
This Wedding pattern tinware set by Ohio Art from the 1950s is one of the numerous collectible sets. The sets came in four- and six-place settings. Also included is a cake plate, tray, and bread plates. Value is \$200-\$300, depending on condition and completeness. Robert Leayman handcrafted all the child-size cupboards on this page.



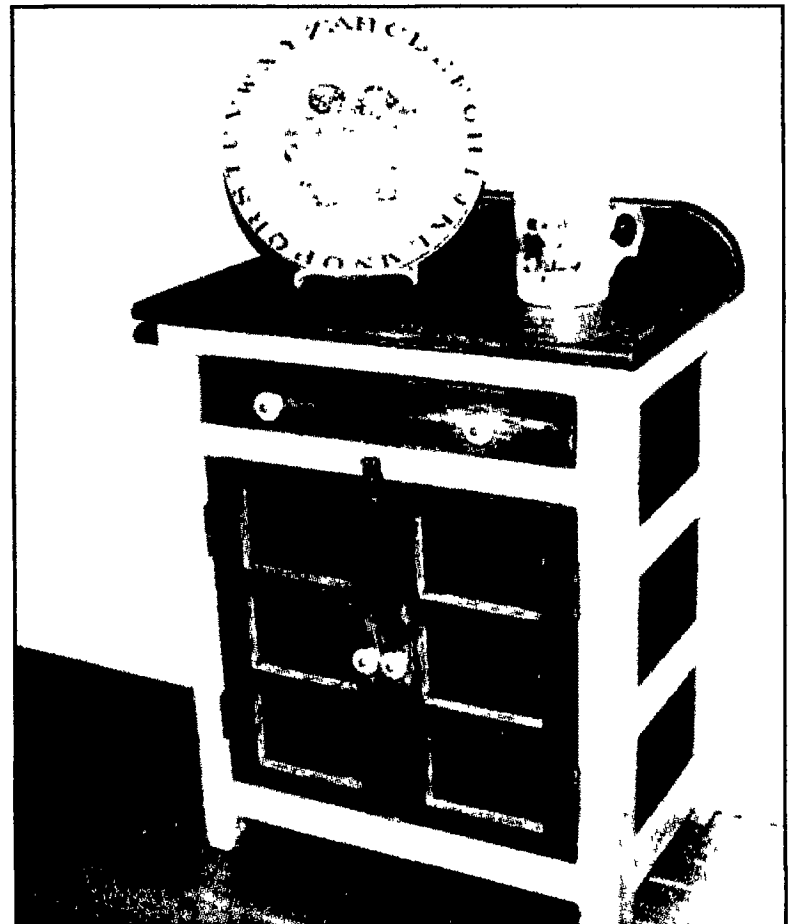
Intersperse childhood treasures throughout your home or confine to one room.



These day-of-the-week towels were often painstakingly embroidered by young girls filling their hope chests. If you have a collection, drape them over a wooden clothes rack.



This Hoosier cupboard is filled with doll-sized cans of dill pickles, salmon, beans, sauerkraut, Vienna sausage, and evaporated milk. Prices are \$25 and up for one can with intact label. Notice the Ivory Snow, baking powder, and Nescafe, staples for homes during the 1950s. The four-piece canister set with breadbox (cake tin missing) sells between \$150-\$300. Egg beater, cookie sheets, and food mixer were made for children, but the food grinder was a salesman's sample.



This pie safe with punched tin sides and front also offers a spot to display a child's cup. The plate features the Campbell kids and the alphabet.