

Know Your Neighbor

Mrs. Leroy Brown

A rustic wooden footwalk with side rails runs from the white country home of Mrs. Leroy Brown to her three-story "coop", the studio she designed and had renovated after she retired 10 years ago.

The "coop" is exactly that - a chicken coop where Mr. and Mrs. Brown of Lehman raised chickens for many years. Upon her retirement as manager of the cafeteria at Natona Mills, Mrs. Brown decided she had 15 or 20 good years ahead of her, years that she would like to spend doing things she never had time for while she and her husband were working.

So—in order to have a studio compatible to her first love, "hooking", she decided to remodel the chicken coop and make it a place where she not only could carry out her hobby, but an ideal setting for her many priceless antiques and family heirlooms.

The wood she used for renovation came from Major's barn and is over 100 years old. Each piece is in its original condition and adds to the charm of her third floor hideaway. Suspended from the ceiling is a huge wagon wheel which, with Harold Brobst's cooperation, is wired and holds several old lamps that belonged in her family.

Well-constructed shelves in one corner hold two children's tea sets. One, which belonged to Mrs. Brown, is handpainted china, and the other, of Staffordshire china, the "Little Maud" pattern, belonged to her sisters, and is at least 85 or 86 years old.

In one corner on an antique easel is an 80-year-old hand-tinted photo of her two sisters - a real work of art; and along one side of the room, Mrs. Brown has on display beautiful pieces of glassware, from old hand-blown barbershop bottles to vases and dishes.

It is not difficult to realize that here is her first love - a place where she spends a great deal of her time.

Louise Brown does all kinds of needlework and crafts—embroidery, crochet, knitting, sewing, bargello, needlepoint, caning and rushing. She refinishes furniture and makes custom silk lamp shades which, incidentally, are the only items she sells. But no matter what the conversation, she always comes back to her favorite subject—hooking.

In her "coop" are all varieties, from primitive style of hooking to the modern design. She has hooked rugs,

Musical Program For Book Club

Mrs. Myne Shapiro Levy, well-known pianist, and Mrs. Gertrude McGlynn Ankner, mezzo soprano, will present the December program for the Back Mountain Memorial Library Book Club, entitled *Chanukah and Christmas*, Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the library's annex.

Mrs. Levy will narrate and Mrs. Ankner will illustrate vocally the story of Chanukah, the Hebrew Feast of Light. The Christmas portion of the program will feature Christmas specialty songs and audience participation in their favorite carols.

Hostess committee, headed by Mrs. William Pierce, Mrs. John Coon, and Mrs. Thomas Graham, will serve tea. Members are requested to bring guests.

wall hangings, chair covers, and is presently hooking chair seats for six beautiful dining room chairs she recently acquired and refinished.

She learned the art of hooking 35 years ago but still takes lessons as well as teaches. "There is always something new to learn," she said. Mrs. Brown teaches individuals as well as classes, but she will not sell any of her handiwork. She feels that everyone should create their own hooked items—"put oneself into them." She likes to teach as she feels that it is important to retain an almost "lost" art.

Caning is second in her love of handiwork. In her studio, she has three beautiful antique chairs with seats caned by her. Two additional items that visitors notice upon entering the "coop", are the high chair she had as a child; an all-wood, folding chair with wheels; and a log cabin chair made of wood over 100 years old. The chair was made by Alfred Sims and is a duplicate of the fireplace chair used by families in Newfoundland.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been residents of Lehman for the past 36 years moving there from Wilkes-Barre. Mr. Brown is a native of Wilkes-Barre but Mrs. Brown was born and raised in Michigan. She attended Battle Creek College, Mich. where she majored in dietetics. Her husband was employed by F. M. Kirby for 32 years.

After moving to Lehman, Louise Brown accepted a position with the Lehman School District. At the time, the Lehman High School had one of the first cafeterias which was set up in what had been the public canning facility during the depression located in the then new Lehman High School. She held this position during Mr. Hendricks' tenure as

supervising principal. While at Lehman, Louise took special courses in food planning at Cornell University, where she became very interested in proper nutrition.

Leaving her position with the school, she and her husband managed the cafeteria at Natona Mills for a period of 13 years before they retired.

Until recently the Browns did their own gardening but have given that up in order to spend more time with their hobbies and interests. Mrs. Brown continues to do her own freezing and feels the time spent in doing this is well worth it. "The food that I do myself just tastes better," she told the Post.

Louise Brown enjoys musical, classical and semi-classical, and plays the piano, although she spends little time at it. Her daughter, Victoria, is married to Harry Price, and with their three children, live in East Brunswick, N.J.

She is an active member of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church and president of the Episcopal Women's Association. Belonging to no specific community organization, she is always willing to help in any of them in any way that she can, and has served as a volunteer with Red Cross, YWCA, United Fund, and countless others.

Mrs. Brown's husband, Leroy, has taken over the second floor of the "coop," installed fluorescent lights and raises geraniums there during the winter.

Their "coop" is the Browns' "escape hatch". Winter or summer, they walk out the door of their modern home, walk across their rustic bridge to the "other world," and lose themselves in the crafts and hobbies they love most.

"We are really living—not running, not worrying, but moving at our own pace—the pace we set for ourselves," were Louise Brown's parting words.



Mrs. Leroy Brown

photo by Jim Kozemchak

Oak Hill

by Bridgette Correale
639-5759

Lehman Board of Supervisors will conduct a meeting Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. at the Lehman Fire-hall. All residents are urged to attend.

Happy birthday to Brian Bednar, son of Phyllis and Charles Bednar of Hemlock Drive. Brian celebrated his 12th birthday Dec. 5.

The Orkwis' Frank, Georgia, Kenny, Ronny and Joy Ann—entertained Frank Jr., Barbara, Maureen and Patricia Orkwis of New York City this past week.

Birthday greetings to my husband Vince who will celebrate his birthday, Dec. 10. I always knew we would be a good match, Sagittarius and Taurus, even if sometimes it is more like "cat and dog"—but what else is new!

School of religion at Gate of Heaven will meet Dec. 11 at 9 a.m. This includes grades one

through eight. The pre-school program will begin the same day under the guidance of Charlotte Watchulonis.

Congratulations to Cindy Osborne. Cindy was among four girls who received a gold bracelet from the Harvey's Lake Womens Club Dec. 2 at the Lake school, for achieving high honors at Lake-Lehman High School. This teenager is not only intelligent but very attractive; her parents, Shirley and Ozzie, are very proud of her and so are we.

A meeting of the dance committee was held at my home Wednesday evening to discuss plans for Gate of Heaven's parish Mardi Gras, which will be held Feb. 5 at the school auditorium. According to the reports, it promises to be a delightful evening, so keep the date open.

Sorry to learn that Marge Lyons was in a car accident, but happy to report that there were no serious injuries.

Weis Markets Has Stock Split

A two for one stock split was approved by the stockholders of Weis Markets, Inc., at a special meeting held Nov. 30. This action was recommended by the Board of Directors and accomplished by amending the Articles of Incorporation and increasing the number of shares of Common Stock which the corporation is authorized to issue from 4,200,000 to 8,400,000. Stockholders will retain their present certificates, and certificates for additional shares will be mailed Dec. 22 to stockholders of record December 3, 1971.

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