



Meryl Wagner

Post Cookbook

'Cooking for large family easier,' says Meryl Wagner

"Cooking for a family of 14 was a lot easier than preparing meals for just the three of us still at home," said Meryl Wagner of Jackson Township.

Meryl and her late husband, Jeff Wagner, born and raised in Jackson Township, had 12 children, seven boys and five girls. Out of necessity, Meryl had to learn to cook a variety of foods and with a family that size she tried to find recipes that were filling, tasty and easy on their budget.

Practice makes perfect, they say, and in her case it was true because Meryl learned to prepare many original recipes by adding "some of this" and a "little of that", something different for her large family.

Now that all of them but one are through school and most of them married or

away, she finds it difficult to prepare meals for her two sons and herself. "No one is home for a meal at the same time so I find it easiest to make casseroles or simple one-dish meals which can be re-heated when the boys come in." It is also difficult for Meryl since she is on a special diet due to being a diabetic.

Kevin, the youngest in the family, is a sophomore at Lake-Lehman High School and drum major for the band. The only musician in the family, he also is a wrestler and plays baseball in the summer Teeners League.

The rest of the children, boys and girls, were athletes. Cheryl, now a sophomore at Lock Haven, made a name in softball and hockey at Lake-Lehman. Ricky, graduate of Franklin and Marshall,

now working in New Jersey, and Don, married and living in Kingston, were outstanding wrestlers at Lake-Lehman. Glenda, living in Alabama with her sister, Bonnie, was one of the highest average women bowlers at Crown Imperial Lanes. The other Wagners were also great athletes but have married or moved out of the area. Bob, married with two children, is living in New Jersey. Elaine also is married and lives with her husband and three daughters in Dallas. Gerald is retired from the U.S. Navy and works in Norfolk. Tim, formerly with the U.S. Army, is living at home while going to school. Michelle and her husband live in Philadelphia.

When the children were younger, Meryl did a lot of canning but after they were raised she discontinued until last season when she canned a few vegetables. The boys enjoyed them so she plans to do some more this summer.

Until the past year, Meryl was working part-time but now devotes her time to band parents and the auxiliary of the Jackson Township Fire Company. She is a past president of the fire company auxiliary. She also is an active member of Huntsville Christian Church and, at the present time, between church and the band parents, she has every weekend tied up until May. The band parents are in the final stages of raising funds and finalizing plans for the band's trip to Canada.

In her leisure time, Meryl likes to crochet or sew. She also does ceramics when she has the time.

The recipes, she shares with Post readers are some that she has made since the children were small, with the exception of the fruit dessert. That she obtained from a nurse after she learned she had diabetes. The mock oyster stew is a favorite of several of her sons and also economical. She has made Easter eggs since her children were very young but seldom makes them any more. Meryl's banana bread is a favorite of the family and of her friends and the nice part about it, according to Meryl, is that it keeps for such a long time.

MOCK OYSTER STEW
1 lg. can tuna fish
1 qt. milk
1 pt. George Washington seasoning
salt & pepper to taste
1 lg. T. butter

Heat all of the ingredients until hot but not boiling. Serve with oyster crackers.

FRUIT DESSERT
1 c. pineapple chunks
1 can fruit cocktail
1 can mandarin orange sections, drained
1 pkg. lemon instant pudding

Do not drain pineapple or fruit cocktail. Mix three fruits together, add package of lemon pudding and chill. Coconut, bananas may be added if desired, also whipped topping. Diet fruits may be used for diabetics.

BANANA BREAD
¾ c. sugar
½ c. shortening
2 eggs
3 lg. ripe bananas, mashed (1½ c.)
2¼ c. sifted all-purpose flour
½ t. salt
½ t. baking soda
½ t. baking powder
½ c. chopped nuts

Beat sugar, shortening and eggs for three minutes at high speed. Blend in bananas. Sift flour, baking

soda, salt and baking powder, stir with wooden spoon until just well blended. Stir in nuts. Pour into two greased loaf pans.

Bake in moderate oven for 45 minutes or until wooden pick comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire

racks for five minutes, remove from pans and completely cool. Wrap in plastic wrap or foil. Allow to mellow for several days. Keeps well and may be frozen.

EASTER EGGS
1 bx. confectioner sugar
¼ lb. butter or oleo

½ bag coconut
pinch of salt
vanilla
2 egg whites, beaten
Mix all of the ingredients and knead to smooth and satiny. Shape in size desired, then dip in melted chocolate. Place on rack for chocolate to set.

Oak Hill

March never surprises

by Bridgette Correale

Our weather has been a topic of conversation what with 70 degree temperatures one day and six inches of snow the next. But March never surprises me - six members of my New York family are born in March and that's enough explanation.

Belated greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Orkwis who celebrated their wedding anniversary March 17 and to Mark Farrell whose 10 birthday was March 11.

Jet Cook, along with some "swingin'" senior citizens," traveled to Florida where they enjoyed a week of fun and laughter. It seems that Jet, who is a junior citizen, can't keep up with our Back Mountain Senior Citizens.

Best wishes to Joe and Peg Canfield. The couple will honor their 25th wedding anniversary March 29.

Sorry to learn that Christine Hale fractured her wrist. That's one way of getting out of your chores.

Happy birthday to Louise Menapace whose big day is March 28.

Jack and Mary Gesmundo enjoyed a few days in New York where they visited their son Joe and family.

Happy birthday to Michael Nace. Mike will celebrate his 11th birthday March 24.

The Cleary's and the Batka's celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a dinner at Donachies. One of these years I'm going to make that celebration.

I'm sure you get days that you wished you had stayed in bed. Mine was last Friday. My first mistake was, I woke up, then after focusing my eyes, I realized that we were blanketed with snow. I couldn't believe it, but then I started to hear school delays, school closings. "Oh nuts, here we go again."

After settling the children, I started out to work. Would you believe it took me two hours to end up four roads away? It wasn't easy.

I drive to 42nd St. and Route 415 and while I was stopped for the Stop sign, a bus almost struck me to a size 5. After telling myself, "don't worry the road will get better, I drove toward Dallas. Didn't even reach the golf range when a car from the opposite lane almost plowed into me. Wasn't on the road five minutes and already had two close calls so I figured I'd better turn around and go home.

Even that wasn't easy, I turned into Whitesell

Brothers to make my way back when another car came at me. Oh brother, did my sinus' clear up! Couldn't wait to get back home, even though my children would drive me up a wall.

Tried to enter Oak Hill by 42nd St. and no way could I make a right so instead I went left and up Vine St. And there's where I slid off the road and remained.

If you thought I was disgusted then, you should have been around when Vin came home and asked, "How did my car end up on Vine Street?"

Anyway a special thanks to a good friend who will remain anonymous, for helping me out, cause the way Vin felt, my car could have stayed there until the summer; and I'm not kidding.

Trucksville PTO buys

laminating machine

The Trucksville P.T.O. met on March 9 at the school. Mrs. Mary Billmar, president, presided.

A motion was made to buy a laminating machine for the school. The teachers told the parents that this machine would be an aid in preparing learning materials for the children. The purchase was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Mary Billmar reported that the school volunteer aide program is working well. She added that new volunteers are always welcome. Anyone interested in working once a week as an aide should contact the school.

The children have been collecting soup labels for the P.T.O.'s "Labels for Education" drive. The

P.T.O. has collected 21,800 labels and needs 800 more for a set of the Childrens Encyclopedia Britanica.

The P.T.O. will sponsor an end of the year picnic for the children at Francis Slocum State Park. It will be a planned day featuring various games and special picnic food.

The group viewed the film "But First This Message," which deals with the impact of the T.V. commercials on children. Mrs. Elizabeth Greenhead, vice president, chaired a discussion involving general parental concerns about the influence television exerts on own children.

The meeting was followed by a social hour and classroom visitations.

Three students win in poster contest

Three Back Mountain students received patches for the posters they entered in the Forest Fire Prevention Poster Contest sponsored by the Bureau of Forestry.

The winners in each of

the three categories of the contest were Kathy Meneely, first and second grade division; Heidi Keil, third and fourth grades; and Janet Winters, fifth and sixth grades.

Spring concert scheduled

The annual spring concert of Bishop O'Reilly High School, Kingston, will be presented this year on April 2nd and 3rd. The event will take place each night at 8 p.m. in the school's auditorium.

Sister Marylin, I.H.M., Director, has indicated

that this year's program will include a 220-voice glee club, a concert choir, a folk group, the school's strutters and senior waltzers. Musical selections will range from the classical to the folk, to the contemporary areas.



AUCTION CO-CHAIRMEN--The Back Mountain Memorial Library Board named Don Rood and Rena Rothschild co-chairmen of this year's auction to work with auction chairman, Kerry Freeman. Left to right, Rood, Freeman, and Mrs. Rothschild discuss plans for this year's auction. (Photo by Cheryl Casner Gula).

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Board names auction co-chairmen

The executive board of the Back Mountain Memorial Library has named Kerry Freeman as chairman of the 1977 Library Auction. Freeman was co-chairman of the auction last year under Howard Strom. His co-chairmen are Don Rood and Mrs. John Rothschild.

Residents of the area are asked to keep the auction in mind when they are doing their spring cleaning, and deliver any odds and ends, such as toys in good condition, dishes, cookware, furniture or any saleable articles to go over the block or for the odds and ends booth. No overstuffed furniture or TV sets will be accepted.

The barn was officially opened on Saturday, March 19, for the acceptance of auction goods and will be open every other Saturday after that, between the hours of 1 and 4 in the afternoon. Large or bulky articles will be picked up for delivery to the barn by calling George M. Bigus at 696-1264 or 822-5178.

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