Mary Wilkes prepares Italian polenta

by Joan Kingsbury When Mary C. Wilkes of Chase mentioned to her friends that she would be appearing in the Post Cookbook, the unanimous suggestion was "give them your Polenta recipe". Mary's grandmother, who was born in Italy, taught her how to prepare this unusual, delicious dish.

Cornmeal, boiled with water, cooled and poured into a circle on a large plate, forms the "crust" of the Polenta. The circle is rimmed around the edge like a pizza to prevent the sauce from running over. Top with a mixture of grated parmesan and romano cheese, then with mushrooms and onions. Be sure to stir the cornmeal constantly while cooking to prevent lumps from forming. If there are any leftovers, place on aluminum foil, then place under the broiler a few minutes to warm.

Two of the recipes Mary is sharing, Polenta and Butter Cookies, are her sons Jay and Samuel's favorites. The boys enjoy helping their mom bake



Jay, Sam and Mary Wilkes

and decorate Butter Cookies.

Born in Germany, Mary lived there until she was ten years old. At the age of ten she came to the United States to be adopted by an American family. When Mary went to live with her new parents, she said she knew from the first moment what wonderful parents they would be.

A graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, Mary is a licensed beautician, having obtained both her operator's license and teacher's degree from Bradford Beauty School. She recently completed her third semester at Luzerne County Community College where she is studying social science. After graduating from LCCC in December, she will enter King's College to work towards her bachelor of arts degree. Ultimately, she hopes to do social work with the elderly.

Mary, her husband John Joseph and their sons live in Chase. Both Jay and Sam are students at Gate of Heaven School; Jay will be in fifth grade next year, while Sam enters third grade. A member of the Cardinals T-Ball Team, Jay spends his extra time doing yard work for his grandparents. Sam is a member of the Giants T-Ball team. The family are members of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown.

John, a graduate of Larksville High School, is a technician at Proctor and Gamble. He is also a Democratic candidate for Jackson Township Supervisor. Hunting and fishing are his leisure activities.

Sewing, crocheting and taking day trips are activities Mary enjoys.
During the summer she and the boys frequently go swimming and picnicing. Every few weeks the family takes a special outing to points of interest such as Hershey Park.

The Wilkes are real sports fans. They regularly attend the Phillies games. Last year they were fortunate enough to obtain tickets for the World Series. They also enjoy the Eagles during football season. Last season the Wilkes' attended the Eagles play-

Making homemade pastas, canning and making jellies and jams also take up a lot of Mary's time. Making which Mary learned from her grandmother, is really an art. When making this specialty Mary doesn't use a recipe but like her grandmother, adds ingredients, then decides what's needed by the texture of the dough. POLENTA

1 c. yellow cornmeal 4 c. water

1 t. salt

spaghetti sauce 2 c. mushrooms (1 lg. can) 1 lg. onion

grated parmesan and romano cheese to taste Mix yellow cornmeal with 1 cup water. Set aside. Using medium heat, bring 3 cups of water and salt to a boil. Add cold mixture to boiling water very slowly, stirring constantly; continue cooking and stirring until

bles, remove from heat. Cover, let set 10 minutes. While cornmeal is

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it comes to a boil. When

cornmeal mixture bub-

cooling, saute mushrooms and chopped onions, place in a bowl. Heat spaghetti sauce.

After 10 minutes pour cornmeal onto a large platter spreading it 1/2 inch thick. Form a rim around the edge of the circle to prevent the sauce from running over. The cornmeal should look like a round pizza crust. Top with sauce and as much cheese as desired. Use mushrooms and onions as desired. Meatballs or sausage may be added to the sauce.

BUTTER COOKIES 3/4 c. sugar 1 c. butter, creamed 1/8 t. vanilla

2½ c. sifted flour

½ t. baking powder 1/8 t. salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Add sugar gradually to well creamed butter. Beat in vanilla and egg. Add sifted dry ingredients in small amounts forming a soft dough. Force dough through a cookie press onto a greased cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on rack. Decorate with candy confetti, candied cherries and nuts. COCONUT PINEAPPLE

SQUARES 1 c. shortening

1 c. sugar

1 t. vanilla

2 c. flour 1 c. coconut

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HOMEMADE CLAM CHOWDER

Mix ingredients until crumbly. Set aside 3/4 c. for topping. If necessary add 2 more teaspoons 1 c. sugar shortening to make crust more stable. Press crust into a 9x13 inch baking pan. Top with filling, then

crumbs. Bake at 350

degrees for 20-25 minutes.

Cut into small squares for

 $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. crushed pineapple, drained

3 T. cornstarch

Cook until thick, cool. Spread on dough, sprinkle with crumbs. Any fruit in season like cherries, blueberries or strawberries can be used instead of pineapple.

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NOXEN NEWS

The annual Snake Hunt, sponsored by the Noxen-Monroe Sportsmen's Club each year, is only 10 days away. The hunt will open with an evening of dancing and fun on Friday, June 19, and continue on Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21, on the Sportsmen's Club grounds in Noxen. It attracts several thousand to Noxen each year. charles Kovalick, president of the Sportsmen's Club, is chairman for this year's event.

More than 100 friends and relatives attended a graduation party Sunday afternoon at the Noxen-Monroe Sportsmen's Club headquarters in Noxen honoring Ron Swingle, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Swingle, Sr. Swingle was a member of the Lake-Lehman Area High School graduating class on Friday evening. While at Lake-Lehman High, he was a catcher on the high school's baseball team and a member of the high school wrestling team in the 132 pound class. Swingle will enter Millersville State College on Friday where he will pursue studies for a bachelor of science

degree in industrial arts. Six 1981 graduates were honored at Sunday evening's service in Noxen Independent Bible Church. They were Sue Williams, Cathy Repelog, Sue Keiper, Becky Tallent, Pamela Perry and Ron Swingle, Jr.

Education committee of Kunkle United Methodist Church will meet Monday evening at 7:30 in the

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church social rooms to complete plans for the annual Vacation Bible School to be held June 22-26 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Happy birthday greetings are extended to Miss Sally Galka, who observed her birthday yesterday.

Mrs. Lela Ann Wall and Mrs. Shirley Strohl of Noxen attended the recent meeting of the Hazleton Home of the Lutheran Church at St. John's Church in Wilkes-Barre. Pastor Hagen, director of Human Services at Hazleton Home, spoke on the different programs carried out at the home. Next meeting of the Hazleton Home committee will be held at St. Luke's Church in Noxen. 1981 graduates wil be

honored at the youth meeting of Noxen Independent Bible Church Friday evening at 5:30. A complete program of outdoor sports has been

women of Kunkle UM Church will meet this evening at 7:30.

Members of Ruggles "Rummage and Odds and Ends Sale" today and tomorrow from 10 to 4 at the church. Marguerite Williams and Edith Traver are in charge of

Members of Noxen UM Church will hold a clothing party in the church basement Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5. A bake sale also will be held in conjunction with the clothing sale, which will feature only all new women's clothes.

Annual Vacation Bible School at Noxen United Methodist Church will be held next week, starting Monday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. and continuing through Friday, June 19. Children from three years of age to Grade Six are welcome to attend.

Choir of Noxen UM Church will rehearse

UM Church will hold a

United Methodist tomorrow evening at 6:30.

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