



Mrs. Anna Houseal poses with her Christmas Tree. It probably has more work in it than any other tree in the township, Marietta, Mount Joy and Bainbridge.



A close-up shot of the balls. Handcrafted by Gladys Rettew of Marietta, all the balls are this fancy.

Anna Houseal's special Christmas tree

Anna Houseal has so many people in her family, that she has a bit of trouble keeping track of them all. Her Christmas tree helps, though, because it has one ball ornament for each of her 51 descendants.

Starting at the top of the tree, with exquisitely decorated styrofoam balls spelling out "Dad" and "Mother," the names work their spiralling way down the tree: six children, 20 grandchildren, about 15 great-grandchildren, and all of their husbands, wives and kids. The least exact area is around the bottom of the tree—Mrs. Houseal says that new babies are being born all the time, and she had to rush to get some of the names on the tree.

Mrs. Houseal told us that she expected about 40 relatives at her home, 126 South River Street in Maytown, for Christmas celebration.

Heritage Center open for free

The Heritage Center of Lancaster County will open its doors to the public at no charge on Saturday the 30th of December from 9:00 to 4:00.

Ordinarily the Center charges an admission fee, but for this one time anyone can go for free.

The Heritage Center contains many examples of Lancaster County art and craftsmanship: such as furniture, pewter, clocks, and coverlets.

It's located in the Old City Hall and Masonic Lodge buildings on Lancaster's Center Square.

Each ornament is about two inches in diameter, covered with some sort of cloth, and has on the front the person's name, either stitched or shaped with stuck-in pins. On the back of each is a picture or word: "Merry Christmas," angels, a pipe, a pasted-on picture of a winter scene, "Noel," etc. The balls were painstakingly, and

artistically, made by Gladys Rettew of Marietta, a friend of the Houseals. It took Gladys about two months to stick in the hundreds of fancy pins.

Each ball is different, although there are in the Houseal family 3 Jims, 2 Dicks, 2 Jeffs, 2 Kims, 2 Dennises, and 2 Bills.

This is the first time Mrs. Houseal has decorat-

ed her Christmas tree this way. She plans to make it a family tradition from now on. Most of the work is already done, so it will be easy if she can keep up with the new babies.



DID YOU HEAR?

Ms. Eveschild, 537 Martin Ave., Mount Joy, has written a book of biographies of women—40 of them (women, not books).

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Jennell Fackler will celebrate her 2nd birthday on January 10th.

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Karen Greider, a junior at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, was a member of the school's 4-3-3 varsity field hockey team. She was also a letterwinner.

Karen is a graduate of Donegal High, from Mount Joy.

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Clock Museum

The National Watch and Clock Museum, at 514 Poplar Street in Columbia, is a good place to visit over the holidays. It's got an atomic clock, watches, and many unusual pieces.

Holidays hours are 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 Saturdays, closed Sundays and on December 25 and 26 and January 1st.

PP&L

PP&L budgeted \$712,000 dollars and 16,000 man hours of work for its conservation program this year. The company hoped to achieve a reduction in electricity use of about 10 million kilowatt-hours, the energy used by 1,175 families in a year.

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