

IT'S PERPETUAL AND FUN TO MAKE

Make Your Family A Personalized Calendar

By Naomi Simmons

On New Year's Eve the old year passes out of existence and with it goes the usefulness of most calendars. However, this is not true at the home of Janice and Dwayne Larkin, of Parsons, Kan.

With a bit of arranging, their personalized calendar is good as new and ready for reuse.

In fact, the Larkins' perpetual calendar can be made to fit any month in any year from now until the end of time, simply by rearranging the little two-inch by two-inch blocks in the slides.

In the summer of 1981 the Larkin family saw a similar calendar, liked it, so came home to design and build their own with several improvements.

Dwayne cut the back from plywood and mounted the slides to hold the number blocks. Janice designed and painted the blocks, painting the numbers and pictures with permanent acrylic paint and varnishing several times to make them withstand wear.

"It was such fun! I made special blocks for each of our birthdays," Janice says. "The kids fight over who gets to put up the calendar each month."

These special birthday blocks have pictures of some interest of that family member, combined with their name. For Dwayne's birthday block she painted a train, Janice decorates cakes so her birthday block has a cake with a bag of frosting with a decorator tip. Brenda, 20, was born on Halloween so her block has a pumpkin and a little green car.

A football portrays 17-year-old Brent's interest and for Angela, 11, Janice painted a picture of Betsy Clark.

"Angela is very much a Betsy Clark fan and that is what she wanted," Janice explains.

Birthday cakes and wedding cakes without names are used to designate birthdays and anniversaries of cousins, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends they wish to remember.

The Larkin family hung their perpetual calendar on the kitchen wall near the entrance door.

"We just enjoyed it so much we decided to make others to give as gifts to our brothers and sisters. Now we have made calendars for nearly all of them for Christmas, birthdays or something," Janice says. "They really do make appreciated gifts."

"I think one big reason the people like these perpetual calendars is because of the personalized blocks," she says. "This makes them very special to the family members."

Personalized birthday blocks feature the family member's name and a picture pertaining to his or her hobby or interest. Janice has had requests for



Larkin works at her kitchen table painting blocks. Dwayne cuts the frames and blocks out of wood.



You can personalize each month with birthday and holiday blocks.

pictures of a pickup truck, a cow, a bank, a postoffice, books, a cat and a dog to name a few.

"I'll try to draw whatever they want," Janice says as she works at the glass topped kitchen table painting little blocks with a tiny brush. She says she has used up to 20 different colors in the designs and pictures on one calendar.

In the blocks, there are numbers up to 31, 17 blocks with holiday designs, six birthday blocks and two anniversary blocks. For some of the holidays, Janice uses stickers instead of painting the designs. Under the many coats of varnish they blend well with the painted designs.

The month name blocks carry the abbreviation of the month, plus a symbol of that month. These symbols are different from those used on the holidays. For instance, in December the month symbol is a wreath, Christmas Eve is marked with Santa Claus and Christmas Day portrays a tree.

FREE OF WEEDS, SEEDS, STAINS OR TAGS

Looking For Some Spinning Wool?

If you're looking for spinning wool that's free of weeds, seeds, burrs, manure stains, tags or other debris, Beverly Quinn, of Janesville, Wis., may have just what you need. She raises Corriedales and Karakuls, and specializes in supplying top-quality fleece for spinners.

"My interest in sheep began when I was 4 years old. A neighbor gave me an orphan lamb which I raised on a bottle," Beverly recalls. "From then on, sheep were raised on my parents farm."

Today, Beverly's husband John works for a manufacturing company while she works with her father on his 150 acre farm. She owns about two dozen breeding ewes and two rams. "I raise both registered and purebred colored Corriedales," she notes. "The difference is that a colored Corriedale can't be registered because the American Corriedale Association considers colored wool an undesirable trait. Spinners, however, are eagerly searching for this colored Corriedale wool. It's a medium, fine grade wool with appealing length and softness. Beginning spinners prefer it because it's easy to handle. And more advanced spinners like it because of its versatility."

Beverly shears her sheep flock once a year, usually in December. Retail cost of the specially-handled spinners' wool she markets sells for \$2 to



Beverly, shown with her father, specializes in supplying top-quality fleece to spinners.

\$3.50 per lb. "These are premium prices for a premium product. A lot of effort goes into keeping the sheep and their wool especially clean. These efforts include keeping pastures free of weeds and burrs. The buildings and pens have to be kept well bedded at all times to prevent their wool from becoming stained from manure. I also use special feeding equipment and rations to keep the sheep strong and healthy. An illness or infection, or lack of proper nutrition, can make a fleece weak and undesirable for spinning," Beverly points out.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Beverly Quinn, Rt. 4, Janesville, Wis. 53545 (ph 608 876-6792).

HOLDS A 300 WATT BULB

"Dusk To Dawn" Light Fits Regular Socket

Dusk to dawn lights are common on many farms, but now Radio Shack, Ft. Worth, Texas has introduced an "Automatic Light Control". It screws into standard light bulb fixtures converting them to dusk to dawn lights when the bulb is installed.

The company reports that the unit is ideal for lamp post lights, yardlights, entrance lights, porch lights or on any PAR-38 type exterior fixture.

The control features a photo electric cell that senses sunlight to turn the light on at night and off at dawn. The light can still be operated manually at the switch.

When placed in an upright position, the light control can hold up to a 300 watt bulb. If placed upside down, it holds up to a 100 watt bulb.

Retails for \$8.95. For more information, contact: Your nearest Radio Shack Store or FARM SHOW Followup, Radio

Shack, 300 One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 (ph 817 390-3011).



Automatic unit converts outdoor fixtures to "dusk to dawn" operation.