

# It's Miller time

## Miller's Bake Shoppe stirs up some goodies in Stuarts Draft

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### STUARTS DRAFT

When the doors of Miller's Bake Shoppe open, it's like opening the gates of heaven — to your nose.

Swirls of cinnamon, waves of yeast and sniffs of sugar waft into the nostrils with no turning back. It is heavenly.

The Stuarts Draft family of 10 opened the bakery Feb. 19, but they have been baking for much longer than that.

"Oh yes I've done a lot of baking in my life," Miriam Miller said. "Especially when you have a lot of kids."

Miriam baked mostly for local bake sales, but when the Yoders approached her and her husband, David, about buying their bakery, they said yes. The fresh bread can be smelled daily on Wayne Avenue in the Draft, where Yoder's Bread Basket used to be.

Now it's a family venture, with their oldest daughter, Cheryl, baking and decorating special-order cakes; the youngest daughter, Margaret, waving at customers; and the other six kids helping out around

their school schedules.

"It's something I've always been doing that I've liked since I was a little girl," Cheryl, 21, said. "I enjoy making the cakes the most, but that's the bad thing about working someplace like this — you're around all this food that makes you fat," she joked with a friend.

Miriam couldn't decide on her favorite recipe. The rows of pies, loaves of bread, baby breads, cakes, cinnamon rolls and cookies back up her statement that she loves to bake.

"Oh, I don't know," Miriam said bashfully. "I don't really have a favorite. It's just something I bake. I do enjoy making the whoopie pies because I know people like them."

When she's not baking for the shop's inventory on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, she's whipping up whoopie pies and others for wholesale customers in Staunton and various places.

"No, I never dreamed I'd be doing this, even with all the bake sales I did before," Miriam admitted.

The Millers plan to add new concoctions every month. So far, the family of bakers has added harvest



Margaret Miller, 4, bags up some bread for Marie Simpson of Roanoke, while mother, Miriam, watches approvingly.

bread and French apple pie because customers have requested them.

"I have different things in mind," Miriam said as to how she decides what new item will be added each month. "But I'll take into consideration what people ask for that I'm familiar with baking."

Couples and groups of ladies made their way into the small shop as David tossed more and more breads in the oven. They all admired the braids of bread and oohed and awwed over the baby breads. There are sourdough loaves, dinner rolls, blackberry pies, peanut butter pies, pumpkin whoopie pies and German chocolate cakes galore.

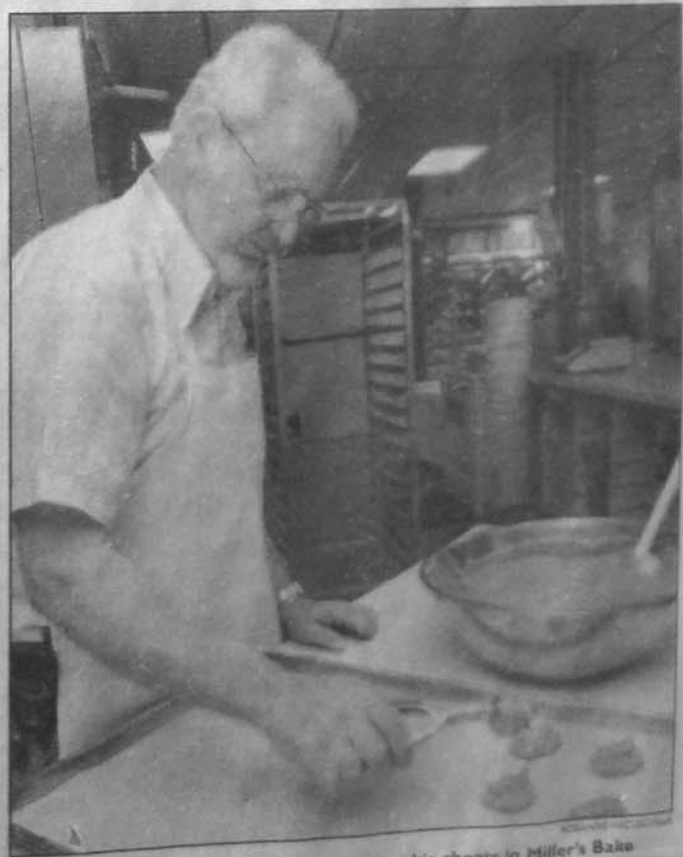
The Millers had an open house Saturday, March 20, with free homemade soft pretzels and free baked products for the first 25 customers.

The bakery's hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The shop is located at 23 Wayne Ave. and the phone number is 337-9675.

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Miriam Miller makes some whoopie — pumpkin whoopie pie batter, that is.



David Miller drops pumpkin batter onto cookie sheets in Miller's Bake Shoppe in Stuarts Draft.