

# Hans Herr House Restoration

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Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society the Hans Herr House and approximately one acre of land. He also gave an option to purchase an additional strip of land for \$8,000 by 1975.

On Monday evening November 10 1969, at the regular monthly meeting of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society, the Society acted to purchase the Hans Herr house.

The Society recognized the place as endowed with a sacred character because of its history and associations. This action was taken subject to Lancaster Mennonite Conference Bishop Board approval which was promptly given.

On December 29 1969 Samuel S Wenger Esquire representing the Historical Society, convened a group which formed an Advisory Board of interested people — thereby launching this proposed restoration work as a community project. To many persons the house has inherent value in its relationship to the total history of Lancaster County. To other persons it is prized for its pure Germanic architecture and to others who are the direct descendants living in practically every state of the United States and provinces of Canada the house holds special meaning.

Dr. J. C. Wenger, eminent church historian and President of the Mennonite Historical and Research Committee, of Goshen, Indiana, was most pleased to learn of the prospect of the restoration of this historic old landmark. On request Dr.

Wenger began immediately to prepare a booklet (monograph) on Hans Herr which would put into permanent form what is already known about this pioneer.

Andrew Wyeth, renowned American artist, has had an interest in this old stone house built by a distant relative of his mother. When approached on the matter he and Mrs. Wyeth who is particularly interested in restoration work agreed to serve on the Advisory Board.

After a snowfall, on the morning of February 11, 1970, Wyeth made a painting of the Hans

Herr house. In the painting he captured the virtues of simplicity and sturdiness, so characteristic of the early Mennonite settlers. The house appears to symbolize the best, the true, the important in Mennonite tradition.

Wyeth specifically did the painting for use as the basis for a color print in the monograph on Hans Herr written by John C. Wenger. All proceeds from the sale of this booklet will go toward the Hans Herr House Restoration Fund. The selling price will be \$3 postpaid U.S. & Canada. Residence in Pennsylvania add 6 per cent (18 cents) sales tax. It will be available from the Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society, 2215 Mill Stream Road, Lancaster, Pa. 17602.

The important decision as to who should be the restoration architect for the old stone house built in 1719 was reached at a meeting on March 9, 1970. John K. Milner of Media, Pennsylvania, was chosen.

The Media architect has the full endorsement of Dr. S. K. Stevens, executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The following is a quotation from Dr. Steven's letter of March 3, 1970 to the Restoration Committee.

"... The type of careful study which he could bring to the problems connected with the restoration of such a historic house are really priceless and there are very few architects in the entire country who have them..."

The National Trust for Historical Preservation has earmarked the sum of \$600 for the calendar year of 1970 to match local funds to support architectural services for the restoration of the Hans Herr House.

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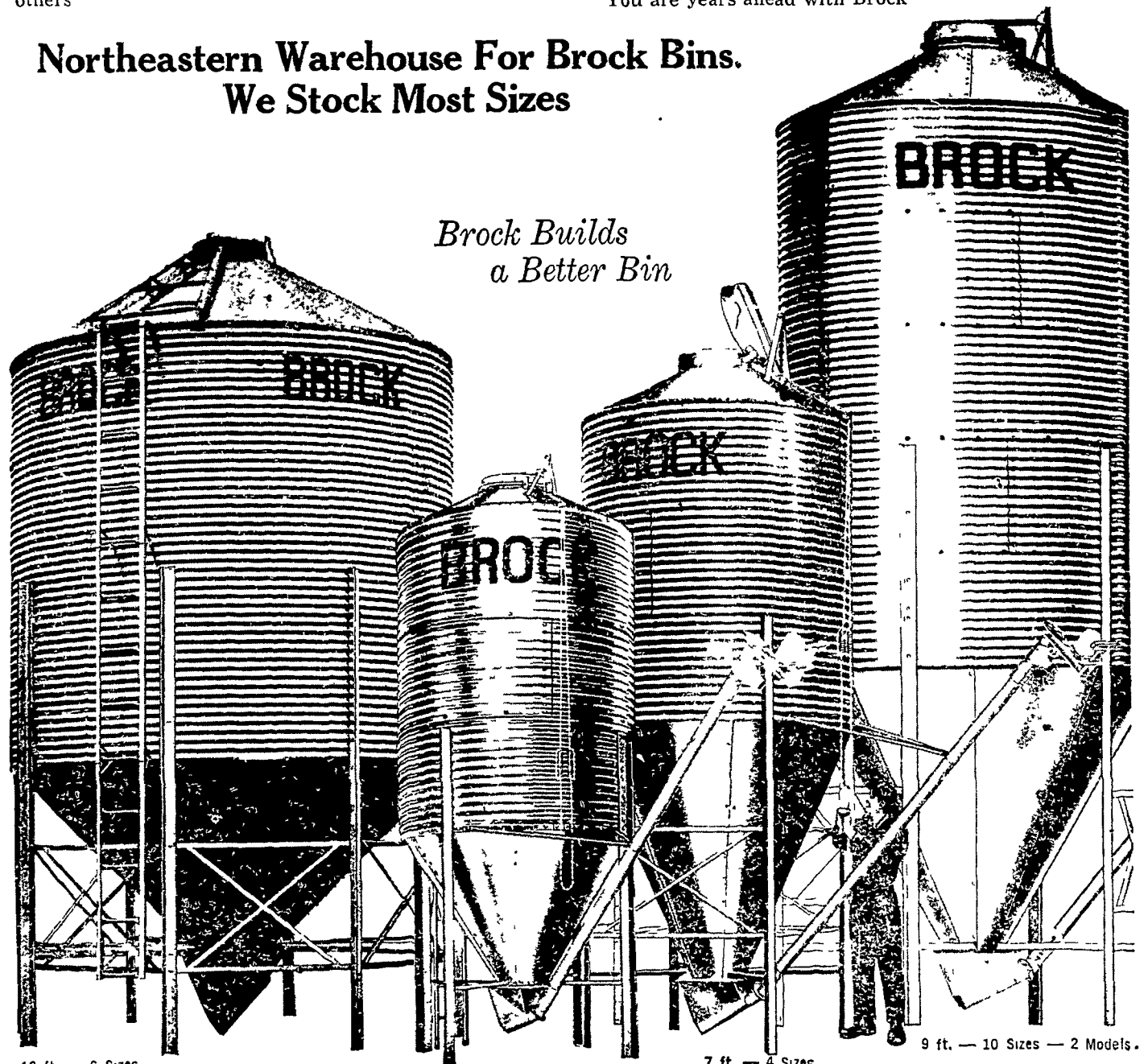
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## 4-H Activities

### Dairy 4-H Club

The second meeting of the Ayishue, Jersey and Brown Swiss 4-H Club was held Monday night at the Farm and Home Center.

Thomas Aaron, president, called the meeting to order.

Delegates were elected to represent the club at Penn State. They are Linda Witmer and Wayne LeFever. Mary Jane Eshleman is alternate.

Fund raising project this year will be selling morning board covers and pads.

A film on fitting and showing was shown after the meeting.

The next meeting will be at William Aaron's home in Quarryville. The date for this meeting is May 11, at 7:30. Any new members will be welcomed.

### Elizabethtown - Donegal 4-H by Christine Erb

The second meeting of the Elizabethtown - Donegal 4-H Club was called to order by the president, Barry Hossler and the club pledge was recited.

Roll call was taken and the club members responded by telling what projects they were taking and their progress.

The meeting was then turned over to our guest speaker, Bob Holmes, Farm Editor of the 'Intelligence Journal' who spoke to the group on 'Newspapers'.

April Boory will be our representative at Penn State for Club Congress in June.

The next meeting will be held on May 12 at 8:00 p.m., baseball will start at 7:00 p.m., at the Donegal High School.