



When the Andersons' "Bel-View Farm" was purchased in late 1849, it was cleared of all restrictions and reservations, "... excepting and reserving only the fifth part of all gold and silver ore, for use by the Commonwealth..." About the only "gold" that's been found here, however, are golden delicious apples.

Bicentennial farm

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credited today for having established the orchard to the extent it is now. Approximately 75 acres are planted in fruit trees, with more being planned for, as tree availability and marketing conditions allow.

According to the Andersons there have been a lot of changes in the orchard business over the last decade or two,

not to mention the last century. One thing that hasn't changed much is the fact that there is still an awful lot of hand labor involved in bringing the fruit to market.

But there have been significant changes in packaging, tree management, and handling. Anderson can easily remember, for example, the days when apples were packed in barrels. That was later changed to baskets, and after that came cardboard boxes.

While apples have been graded according to size for years,

the practice has become more refined. Today's apples are graded at intervals of each one-eighth inch of diameter.

Spraying is another major development which was unknown to fruit growers of previous generations. The Andersons are convinced that this development has aided them and others greatly in controlling diseases, insect pests, and mice.

The advent of dwarf and semi-dwarf trees brought about a turning point in the fruit industry in that picking became easier, and this in turn led to the opening of orchards to the public. The time was ripe for the "pick-it-yourself" approach. And it's been well accepted.

Aside from these industry-wide developments, the Anderson's Bel-View Farm has been directly involved in experimental work conducted by Penn State University. Some of the results changed spraying programs for a long time, claimed Anderson, a recipient of the "Honorary County Agent Award" in 1968.

The well-known fruit grower has also been active in clerking public sales and has been a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature for the past 16 years.



The Andersons' home was built in 1866 and reflects all the grandeur and quality workmanship which was prevalent in those days. One of the more unusual features of the thick-walled brick home is

that every bedroom has large walk-in closets — something which was seldom planned for in older houses.

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