The tourists found the Amishmen and their way of life most interesting. Privileged to stop at an Amish dairy

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farm near Bird-in-Hand, the German group was amazed that the old ways of the Amish could compete with modern technology. Many questions arose during the tour through the Amish country, which began near Intercourse. As would be true of any group of tourists, they were interested in the stability of the Amish sect, particularly their ability to keep new generations on the same path.

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Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 12, 1979—43

One lady noted that a big problem in Germany nowadays

is that the children defy the guidance of their parents.

By the time the tour left Lancaster County, many of the visitors had a good understanding of the Amish, but they still marveled at their frugality and determination. Although the Amish originated in southern parts of Germany, they are virtually unknown in their homeland and other parts of Europe.

Since the group of visitors was predominantly women, they were especially interested in touring the inside of an American farm home. They had two such opportunities and were visibly appreciative of what they saw. Most impressive was, perhaps, the realization that living here was less expensive than in Germany.

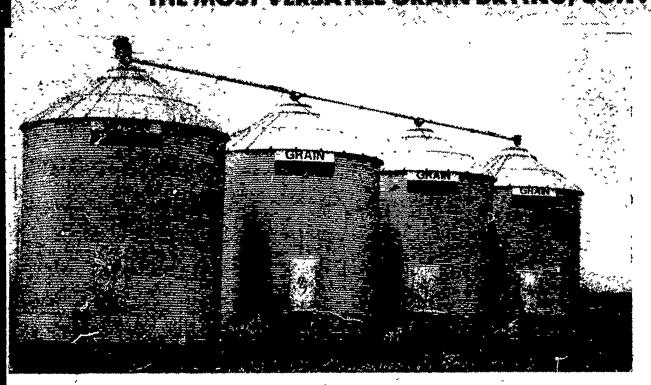
Many members of the tour came from larger Schleswig-Holstein farms, including operations of several hundred acres, which is much larger than the average farm found in Lancaster County. Most farm houses there (especially the older ones) are large, the same as here, and are quite often furnished elegantly and surrounded by carefully manicured gardens. In that respect, Lancaster County differs little from Schleswig-Holstein. The area is, by the way, the original homeland of the Holstein cow.

While the visitors marveled at the picturesque countryside and the full blossoming of Spring, they were also enthusiastic about the weather that greeted them. The sun shone brightly and for some the temperature might even have been a bit too warm. Northern Germany's climate is generally much cooler even in the midst of Summer, let alone Spring.

Favorably impressed with what they saw, the visitors

(Turn to Page 44)

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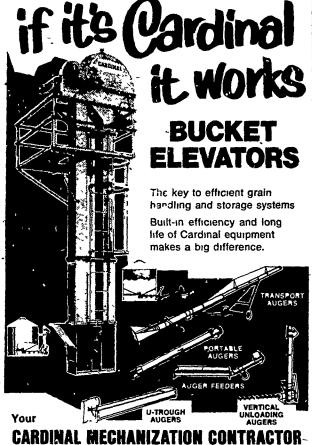
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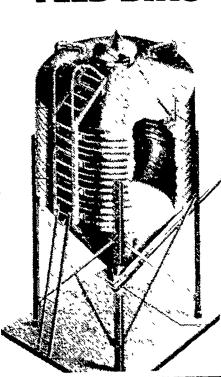
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