Rohrer's Mill featured in Kountry Kitchen tour

BY PAT KAUFFMAN

STRASBURG - In this day of rising energy costs and periodic shortages, a visit to Rohrer's Mill situated along Calamus Run in Paradise Township can be a refreshing change of pace. The mill will be one of 6 stops on Lancaster County Farmers Association's Kountry Kitchen Tour, Wednesday, April 30 from 9-12 a.m.

As part of their annual Ladies Day Out, the Women's Committe has organized this 4th tour, featuring for the first time, kitchens.

the Rohrer family since 1852. Owned by Esther and Christian Landis, the mill currently is used to grind a variety of flour. The Landises live in the white stone house near the mill while their son James and his wife Mary Louise, the 7th generation, live across the road in the brick house which was built by Esther's great grandfather in 1877. Jim and Mary Louise operate a steer and hog farm.

Inside the mill, visitors will have an opportunity to

Rohrer's Mill has been in view the 16 foot diameter water wheel which is used to turn a myriad of gears and belts. At one time the water wheel was also used to operate a saw mill, planing mill and slab wood saw.

The combination of the old brick and wood is particularly pleasing. Inside the structure, old grain bins, grind stones, gears and cogs are everywhere. As Christian pulls the ropes and adjusts the mechanisms, the

water rushes or quiets going through the huge water wheel. In its heyday, the mill was

used for grinding both cattle feed and flour. Many remnants of an era long past are housed here. And as Christian relates the uses of the numerous ropes, pulleys and cogs, it becomes clear that milling is deeply engrained in his life. The sights, and smells, and particularly the sounds of

gushing over the wheel have become part and parcel of him.

The Landis homestead is a picturesque combination of the old mill, 2 ponds along with races and an old line shaft once used to transfer power from the mill to the barn for use in various chores.

Currently, the family

the water rushing and markets several flours which are stone ground on the premises. In addition to the regular customers, Christian said the mill is also regularly patronized by food cooperatives. To reach the mill, go east of Strasburg on Route 741 approximately 11/2 miles. Turn right on Rohrer Mill Road, go south one mile on the left. In addition to the

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Rohrer's Mill situated in Paradise Township is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Christian Landis.

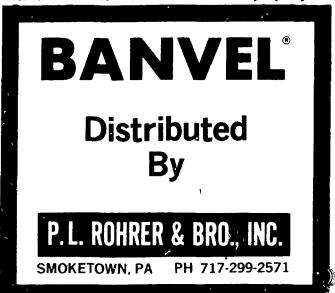


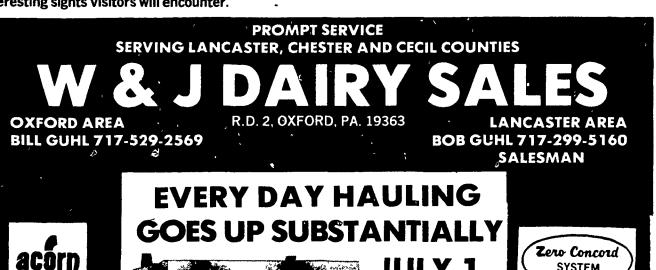


This buhr stone is presently used to grind flour at the historic mill. It is only one of many interesting sights visitors will encounter.



An old line shaft once used to transfer water power from the mill to the barn in the background for farm work still stands on the Landis property.





Christian Landis demonstrates the technique for stitching the tops of grain bags.



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