

Denlingers recall barn fire on historic date

PARADISE — December 7, 1941

Many people remember that date for obvious reasons.

But Noah and Marian Denlinger, of R2 Paradise, recall that infamous date in history for a more personal reason.

Among the Century Farms honorees Thursday, the Denlingers, in looking back on their years on the farm, recalled that date because it brought back memories of

one of the most feared experiences on a farm — a barn fire.

"It happened early that Sunday morning," Denlinger recalled.

"I got awake and saw the shadows of tree limbs on the bedroom wall, reflected there from the light of the fire."

The Denlingers lost 29 head of dairy stock, along with the barn and other contents

It's just one of the recollections the now retired couple have of the farm that has been in the Denlinger family for just over a century and a half.

Their son, Lewis, is now the sixth generation of continuous family operation of the farm.

The lengthy family affiliation with the land began back in 1830 when John

Denlinger, Noah's great great grandfather, bought a 200-acre tract of land along the then Lancaster Turnpike. The present farm of 70 acres is included in this original tract.

Up until about a year ago, it had been operated as a dairy farm. Now, it is essentially a steer feeding operation, with 95 head and still about 30 dairy heifers.

The elder Denlingers also have many other memories of their many decades on the farm.

They recall remodeling the house in 1965, removing the upper story and converting the brick structure into a ranch-type home.

But nothing sticks in the mind of a farmer more than a fire of unknown origin that takes its toll of livestock and barn.

Particularly, when it happened on a day as easily recalled as December 7, 1941.

FFA Awards



Larry Miller, left, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Fred Miller, R2, East Berlin, receives the top FFA degree, American Farmer, at the national convention held in Kansas City.



Ellis P. Martin II, Chambersburg, is presented the American Farmer Degree by Doug Rinker, right, National President of the FFA.

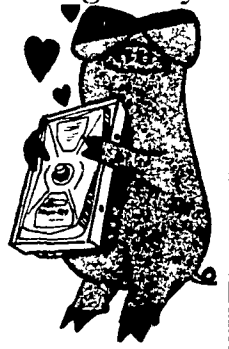
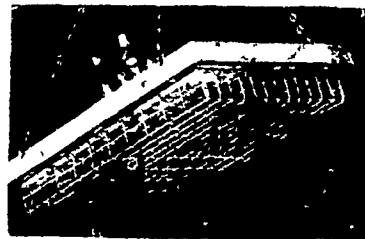
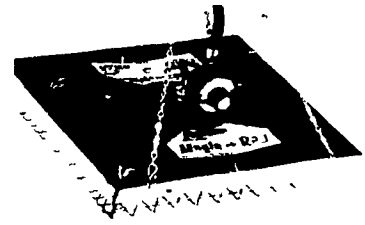


Old deeds dating back more than a century and a half are examined by Noah and Marian Denlinger, of R2 Paradise.

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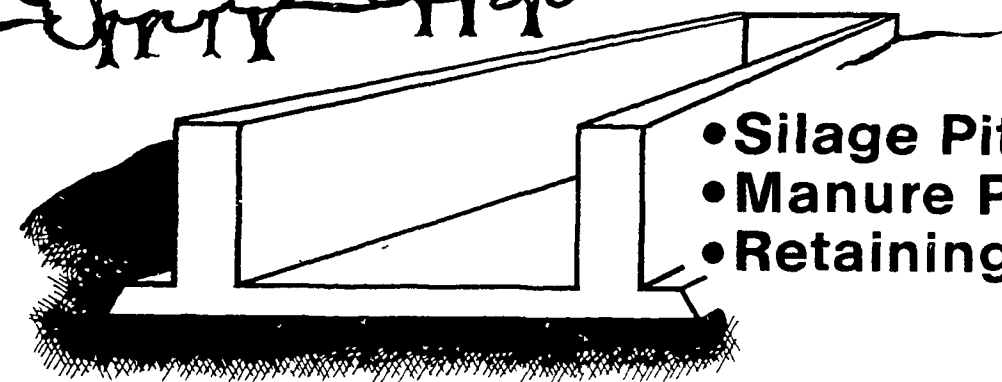
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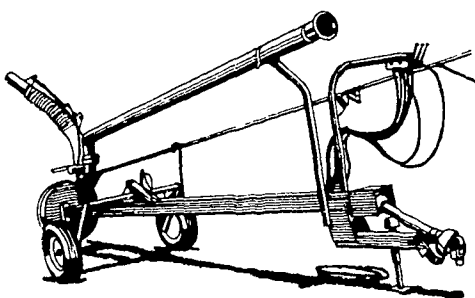
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