

Refton founded on Herr farmland

REFTON — When the Rev. Christian Herr, Jr bought his farm in 1810, he probably had little idea that a town would be founded on it. But in 1877, Refton was built on land belonging to the Herr family.

Daniel Herr, founder of Refton, bought the farm from Christian Herr in 1814 and built the still-standing

stone farm house. Beside this house stands the barn which was built in 1774

The farm, passed from generation to generation for 170 years, has slowly decreased in size. Refton took quite a sizable piece of land along with Route 222 which cuts through the center of the original deeded

plot leaving only 82 acres today

The farm is now owned by Martha Herr, wife of the late Maurice Herr who purchased the farm in 1950. Maurice is the great, great grandson of Daniel Herr.

The farm is operated by Kenneth Meck, a neighboring farmer, who grows corn and alfalfa on its land.

The barn remains unused except for storage of equipment and tools. However, the tobacco shed is rented by Lancaster Leaf, according to Mrs. Herr.

She also reported proudly that limestone from the farm was used to build the Millersville State Normal School.

The Herr's hope to continue to keep the farm in the Herr name, however Mrs Herr seems doubtful as she

says her two sons are a veterinarian and a dentist

"My daughter married Donald Graybill who is a farmer and they'd like to have the farm. But their farm is 12 miles away," Mrs Herr said "So that's almost

impossible"

Mrs Herr still enjoys living on the Herr farm She likes to play her late husband's collection of music boxes and to show people her collection of glassware when she isn't

busy keeping her farm in shape."

The Herr family will be among eleven other farm families honored Thursday night for owning a Lancaster County Century Farm.



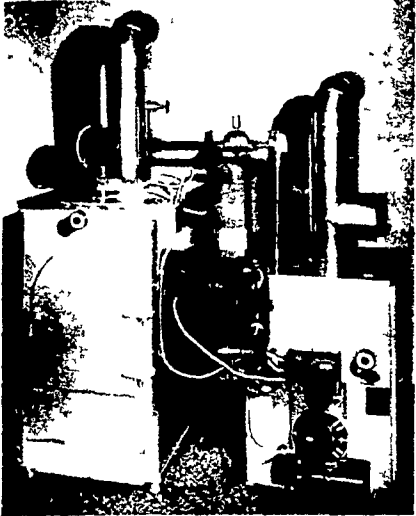
The 82-acre Maurice Herr farm, near Refton, has a deed dating back to 1810 when the Rev. Christian Herr, Jr. purchased the property.

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