

# Barns, vanishing relics of by-gone days?

BY SHEILA MILLER

HERSHEY — Anyone growing up in and around the Chocolate Capital of the world is familiar with another creation of the famous Milton S. Hershey. The entrepreneur of candy also was the benefactor of hundreds of homeless children through the creation in 1909 of the Milton Hershey School, an industrial school for boys who suffered the loss of one or both parents.

To house the boys and to provide them with the rehabilitating atmosphere of farm life with its hard work and responsibility, Hershey purchased 100 farms around his town, comprising 10,000 acres.

These farms, over the years, have been cared for under the guidance of Milton Hershey School farm directors like Al Dugan. And most of the original buildings still stand on the farmsteads — with barns of all shapes, styles and sizes gracing the beautiful agricultural area.

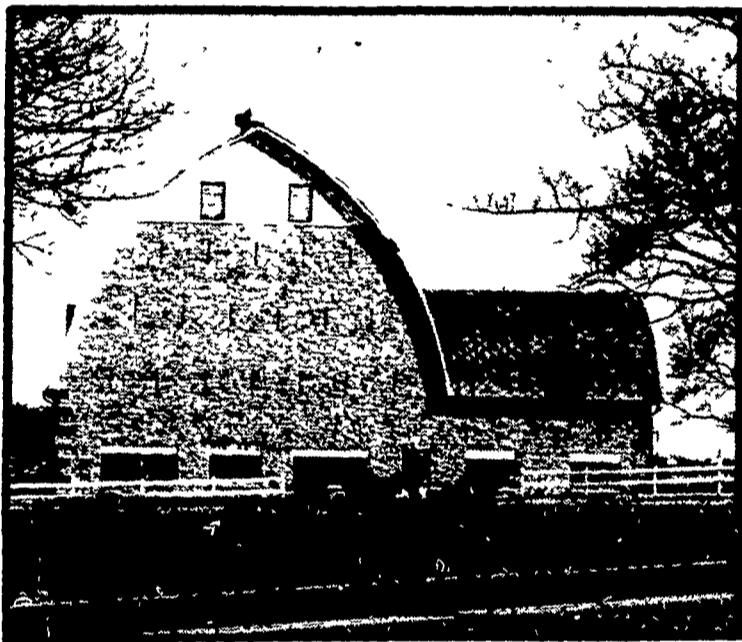
Captured on the pages of this week's *Lancaster Farming* are some photos depicting the varied architecture of the turn of the century when most of the barns were constructed. This type of structure is a vanishing work of art in the agrarian world. It's imminent extinction has been brought about by high costs of labor and materials, along with new theories on engineering farm livestock buildings for healthy ventilation and more specialized operations.

But no matter what the argument is against the old-fashioned Dutch-style barns, everyone will agree these barns are beautiful masterpieces of an era when pride and workmanship brought mortise and tenons together — a lasting tribute to agricultural history and an heirloom for future generations of farmers.

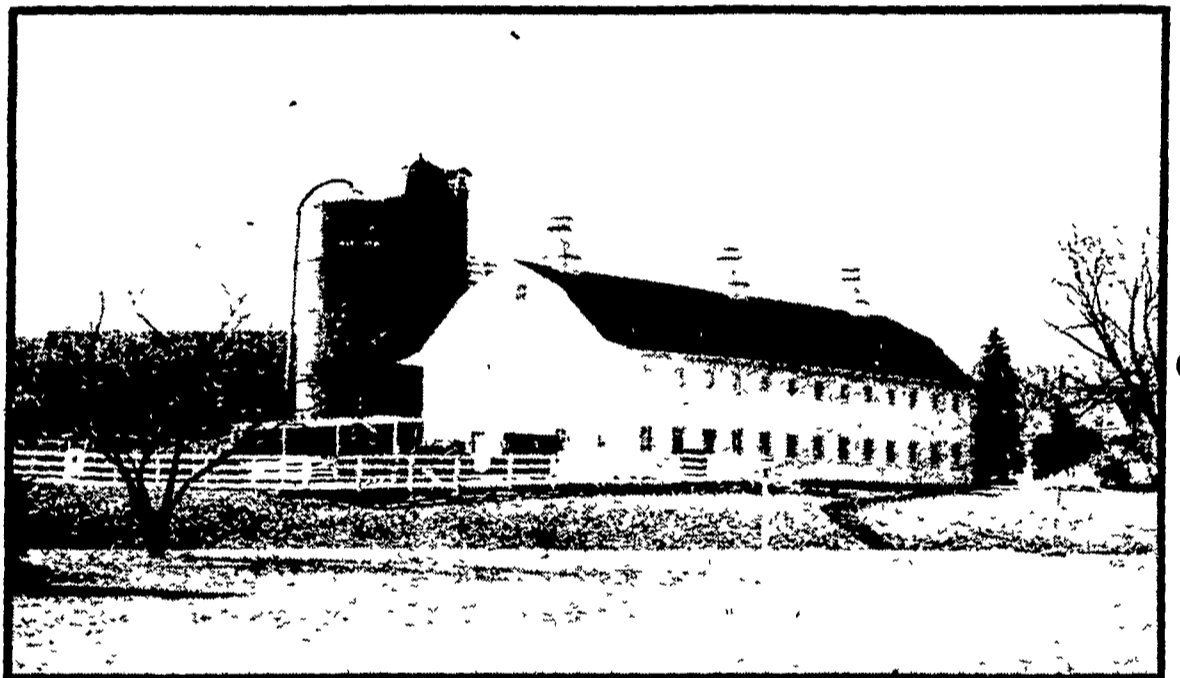


With grounds meticulously groomed and landscaped, the sign unmistakably identifies the proud owners of this limestone-sided barn. One of the more common styles of barns found on the MHS farms, the masons who pieced

these walls together stone by stone created a structure capable of withstanding years of wind and weather. Attached to the south side of the barn is a milk house, complete with glass block windows.



Some of the Milton Hershey barns have found their uses and ownerships change over the years. One magnificent stone barn built with a hip roof is this one located at the intersection of Routes 743 and 322, south of Hershey. The barn no longer serves as a shelter for livestock, but houses an antique business.



Adjacent to another Milton Hershey architectural masterpiece, Founders Hall, this agrarian architecture houses some of the school's Holsteins. Its modified hip roof tops

off the barn in graceful angles, another popular style for local barns at the turn of the century.



This Milton Hershey barn is disguised under a unique roof — four sides angle up at three levels before meeting at a center peak. This style roof matches the one on the adjacent house and smaller shed.



Corn crib, milk house, and other small sheds compliment this typical bank barn, located along Rt. 39. A stone-walled barnyard

surrounds the forebay area, where cows bask in the sunshine. Barns of this size and style are a rarity for contractors today.

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