



By Debbie Hoontz

Country Outings

and other brief escapes

Having been raised on a dairy farm, I learned at an early age that venturing from the homestead was to be regarded as a treat for the very lucky — in other words, we always had to be home to milk the cows, and vacations were restricted to afternoon or evening jaunts preceded by hurried showers, miss-matching of clothing and excesses in the speeding limit.

So it was with this in mind that I designed my column: a place for farmers and their families to learn of mini vacations they can take — places to visit in a day.

I chose my first stop at a place which featured things near and dear (more near than dear) to my heart — junk. But this junk is classy junk, so they call it "junque." "Country Junque" to be exact. But whether junque or junk,



it holds lots of memories for me because we always had a hefty supply around our farm and I filled my apartment with a lot of it when I moved here. I take junk with me everywhere I go, it fills my car, and my desk at work sports a great deal of it too. Junk seems to precede, surround, and follow me wherever I go. So with this in mind, I journeyed on my first visit.

I knew I was in for a fun afternoon as soon as I caught my first glimpse of "Country Junque," a 'sort of' antique, 'sort of' junk, and 'sort of' nostalgic store-in-a-home run by Glenn and Linda Eberly of 119 N. Ronks Road, Ronks.

As I drove along the quaint little town of Ronks, I passed block after block of charming, contemporarily-decorated homes, and then boom — a feeling of surprise much like that when you're riding a motorcycle and a fly hits you — I spotted my destination. How did I know? Easy. What other house on the block would have wagon wheels, a grinding stone and wooden barrels neatly arranged on the front porch? Wouldn't you have concluded the same?

I found the Eberlys to be an amicable, warmhearted young couple. Also a couple with, fortunately, a good sense of humor. I discovered this when, after in-

specting room after room of junque, (the kind my grandmother had and I threw away), I asked incredulously, "Don't you own any modern things at all?"

After a brief pause and embarrassed glances at each other, they responded, "Well... we own a tv... and... oh, a radio... and... ah... dishes."

Better than me I thought as I took in the yoke on the wall and the hay hooks and tools hung at the fireplace — the same kind my dad has hung in his barn decorated in early cobwebs. Give me the remote-controlled, plug-in, battery-operated, supersonic, automatic gadgets I keep in my little apartment any day.

But I soon was to eat my words as I began to appreciate the simplistic beauty of this junque.

Every room is another treat — a step into the annals of history. The sweat and the tears behind each piece of decoration on the ceiling, floors and walls came to life as I learned the purpose and especially, the value of each.

The business, open to the general public for those who appreciate such treasures and would like to buy them, is only a side hobby for this couple. Linda spends most of her time as an insurance

saleswoman and Glenn is a bricklayer.

Linda says, "Glenn loves to go to yard sales so he just began collecting. The stuff began to add up and it just spread through the whole house."

If you go just to look and not buy, you may soon realize what a fortune you have in your barn at home. Have any old hay forks cast aside? They sell for up to \$20. Do you still use the same feed scoop your father did? Guess what? It's an antique now. And the Eberlys have it all neatly arranged throughout their house. But as with all junk, the memories behind each piece are worth a fortune too. So if you're not there to sell or buy, you could find some great decorating ideas.

Though their home is open most hours, the Eberlys say they prefer people to call before visiting. If you do visit, you'll see pieces made from various materials such as tin, copper (their two biggest sellers), wood, glass, wicker and ceramic.

I hope you have enjoyed taking this little armchair tour with me through the Eberlys' Country Junque store. Come along with me on future jaunts as I visit new and interesting places all in an afternoon.



Glenn and Linda Eberly

Penn State research farm field day coming Wednesday

UNIVERSITY PARK — A dozen researchers and Extension specialists from Penn State's College of Agriculture will be on hand for tours and discussions Wednesday during a major field day at the Agronomy Research Farm on Route 45 some eight miles from here.

The event will be devoted largely to management of corn crops. For example, certain plots will show

the value of applying phosphate fertilizer to the soil surface in growing no-tillage corn.

"Yields and quality in no-tillage corn equal the results from conventional tillage, where phosphate has been applied to the soil surface," stated Jon K. Hall, who will show his plots on September 23.

Hall and associates have found that corn yields and phosphorus levels in corn tissue and grain can

be similar under conventional tillage, minimum tillage, and no-tillage.

Wagon tours and discussions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 4 p.m. Lunch will be available at the farm. The day's tours will include plots featuring soybean variety trials. Cultural tips for growing soybeans will be discussed.

Topics for the September 23 field

day include:

The effect of compaction on soil structure and corn yields.

Corn diseases, showing areas inoculated with common diseases.

Manure—its effect on weed control and on no-till corn yields.

Aspects of corn culture such as starter fertilizer, date of planting, and soil insecticide.

Treatment of corn bins, prior to

storage, for insect control.

Varieties and cultural tips for growing soybeans.

Tillage and fertility for maximum corn yields.

Fertility of forages, especially alfalfa.

The Agronomy Research Farm is a part of Penn State's Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, an area of 1,525 acres.

Energy efficiency audits available

HARRISBURG — Energy efficiency audits are now available to homeowners who want to know how they can save energy and money in their residences.

These comprehensive basement to attic surveys are being conducted by major gas and electric utilities in conjunction with the Residential Conservation Service Program (RCS).

The Governor's Energy Council is the lead agency for the preparation and implementation of Pennsylvania's RCS plan. The program expands the level of services which utilities offer their residential customers beyond conventional limits of energy supply.

The actual audit takes about two and a half hours and costs the homeowner \$15. It includes a complete inspection of the home to identify areas where energy conserving practices and materials can lead to savings.

The results of the audit will be given to the homeowner in writing and will include the measures recommended, estimated energy

savings, and payback period of any investment. The Better Business Bureau is compiling lists of contractors who have agreed to install conservation materials in conformance with RCS standards. Also available to the homeowner are lists of lending institutions to assist in financing the installation of RCS measures.

In Pennsylvania, the residential sector accounts for about 25 percent of all the energy used in the state. It has been estimated that residents in average homes could cut energy use by a third and those

in poorly insulated homes could save about half their current energy usage.

Ten utilities across the state are currently providing the audits. These are: Philadelphia Electric Company; Philadelphia Gas Works; Equitable Gas Company; National Fuel Gas Company; Peoples Gas Company; Duquesne Light Company; West Penn Power Company; Pennsylvania Electric Company; UGI, and Pennsylvania Power Company. By the end of August, all 17 large utilities will be offering the service.

Hinkle earns scholarship



Helen D. Tunison, Extension Home Economist, is awarding Joyce Hinkle, a senior in Home Economics at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a scholarship of \$250. Hinkle worked this Summer in the Consumer Affairs office of the Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg. The money was contributed by the 32 homemaker's groups distributed throughout the county. Joyce is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hinkle of York Springs and a graduate of Bermudian Springs High School.

