

Vineyard vision comes true for Cumberland man

BY BETH HEMMINGER
Staff Correspondent

SHIPPENSBURG — Wine Country.

When hearing those words most people envision the ancient vineyards of France and Italy, or the hilly terrain of northern California.

But Jene Cromer had another picture in his mind. He envisioned a vineyard on his farm of rolling hills and fertile terrain located 7 miles east of Shippensburg.

Just this month his ideas became a reality. In early December, Cromer opened the doors of the Quarry Hill Winery for business.

Cromer said his idea to open a winery developed about 10 years ago when he bought the farm on Quarry Hill Road in Cumberland County. The first summer he and his family lived on the farm he noticed all the wild blackberry's thriving, blossoming and bearing fruit. He hated to see the berries wasted, so he made a few bottles of wine.

Cromer said, "I enjoyed the first endeavor in wine-making, so I decided to plant an experimental plot of grapes to learn more about the juicy fruit."

"Growing grapes is not an overnight process," he proclaimed. It takes five years before any grape grower harvests a full crop from the vines. But

Cromer said those five years are crucial for grapes and their production for years to come.

After several successful years of growing grapes on the experimental plot, Cromer expanded the vineyard to four acres, adding four varieties - two French hybrids, the Chelois and Vidal; and two American hybrids, Delaware and Diamond. Cromer stated that the Diamond grape is the most recent addition to his vineyard and has not yet been harvested.

Cromer explained, "Grapes cannot be harvested from the vine until they are four to five years old." He continued that the first three years of growth are the most difficult for the vine and the grower. Weed control is the major problem during those years.

He noted that herbicides cannot be used in the early stages of growth, therefore, hand labor is the only alternative. During the second year, the vines are pruned. Cromer stated that the early pruning builds strong stalks adding stability and strength for years of service.

Growing grapes is like being a mother, said Cromer. You have to train them how to grow. Cromer trains his vines on a six-arm kniffin trellis.

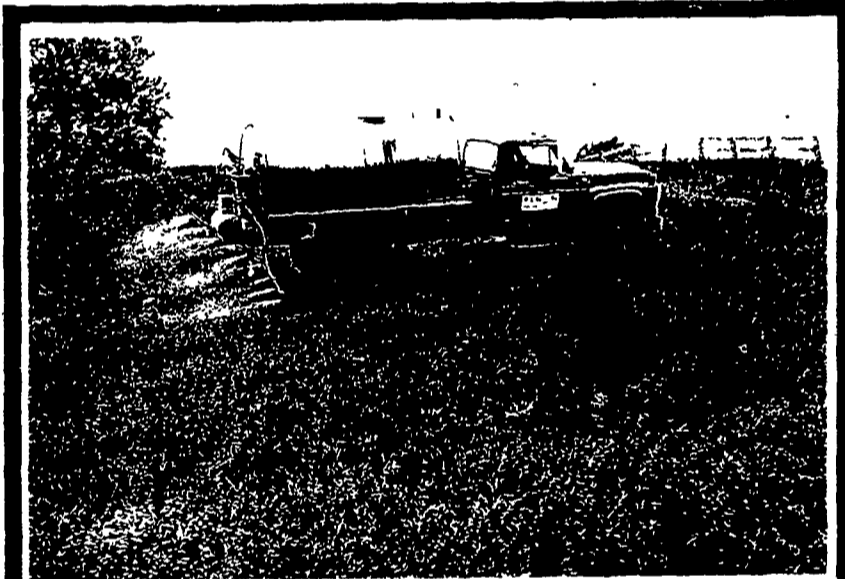
As the name implies, the six-arm kniffin is designed for the vines to

(Turn to Page B39)



Quarry Hill Winery owner Jene Cromer has turned a hobby into a full-time job. Here he makes an adjustment on his fermentation and holding tank — a remodeled, insulated milk tank. The juicer, on the right, stems and juices

the grapes in one process. This machine, an invention that took the fun out of stomping barefooted through the grapes, can hold up to a ton of grapes.



ARCADIAN® liquid gives a profitable boost to alfalfa by top dressing in the fall or winter.

Herbicides like Princep - Kerb - I.P.C. can also be added to control winter annuals.



Fortified With A New Combination of Power-Packed Ingredients!



- Grain Distillers Solubles
- Ammonium Polyphosphate
- Condensed Fermented Corn Extractive

ARCADIAN GOLDEN URAN 30%, Poly-N 10-34-0,
Wholesale & Retail

— ALSO —

Lime Sales & Spreading plus retail
Insecticides & Herbicides
Call Us For Your Chemical Needs.

MARTIN'S AG SERVICE

c/o JOHN Z. MARTIN
RD 1, Box 716, New Holland, PA 17557
Phone: 717-354-4996 or 717-354-5848

LONG JOHN BALMER INSULATION

Full Warranty On Insulation For Life Of Structure

- Fully Insured
- Free Estimates

We Can Do The Job Now

643 Penryn Rd.
Manheim, PA
(717) 665-4132

We Specialize In Aerial Work Using Our Twin Bucket Boom Truck

Extends To 55 Ft

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

Specializing in **AGRICULTURAL WIRING**

Also Residential, Industrial And Commercial Work.
Free Estimates

C.M. HIGH CO.

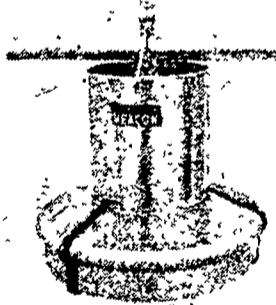
320 King St.
Myerstown, PA 17067
Phone 717-866-7544

We Have Poles In Stock . 25', 30', 35' & 45'

FARMER BOY AG INC.

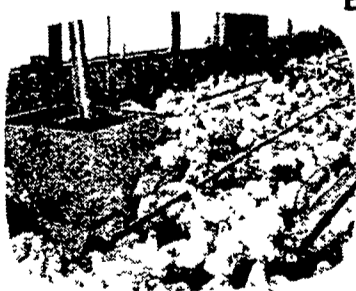
DISTRIBUTORS FOR:

BEACON STEEL PRODUCTS



Adult Turkey Feeder

"45 Years of Manufacturing For The Poultry Farmer"



Broiler Pan Feeding System

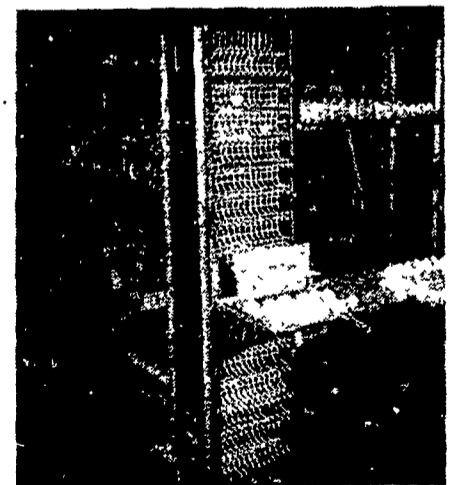
Featuring Equipment For:

TURKEYS AND BROILERS



- ★ DICKISON LAYING CAGES
- ★ DICKISON BROOD GROW CAGES

19 years of Manufacturing Experience of Poultry Equipment and will Custom Make to your Specifications



Collectors for hand gather or cross belts, 2, 3 or 4 deck made to your specifications.

Swine and Poultry Systems

FARMER BOY AG. INC.

Best in Design, Price and Experience
457 E. MAIN AVE., MYERSTOWN, PA 17067

1/2 Mile East of Myerstown

Call 717-866-7565 For An Appointment or Stop By Our Office. Our Trained Staff Will Do Their Best To Assist You With Layout And Design.