

Farming tradition

(Continued from Page A25)

Jeremiah Haines.

The Herr brothers ran a general farm, as was the custom in that day, and ran the store. In the store was the U.S. Post Office for the community, known at that time as Little Britian, and later as Pleasant Grove.

Today the Tindall's operate a dairy on the Pleasant Grove Farm. Milking 51 Holsteins in tobacco barn that has been converted into a stanchion barn the Tindall's herd averages around 15,000.

Labertha, who grew up on a farm "just over the hill" recalls working in the store. "The store was run continuously by the family or renters from 1882 to 1969. I used to help my mother-in-law in the store. We sold quite a variety of things, including sows ears and pigs feet. We even sold our own dressed chickens."

Digging through old store ledgers found in an antique safe, Labertha has learned much about how the store operated in the early days. The ledgers show the names of regular customers to the store. Many people bartered rather than paying cash for items. Research done by Howard Feather uncovered the occupations of many of the store patrons. They were farmers or were employed in operating the Peach Bottom ferry, at a fishery, two potteries, two

quarries, and six tanneries.

Labertha recalls while she worked in the store many of the patrons were migrant workers who came to pick local fruit and vegetable crops.

Chick fondly reflects, "When I was a boy there was a pot-belly stove in the store. The local men use to gather around the stove in the winter and swap stories while waiting for the mail to be delivered."

When a second power line came across the farm in 1969 the tenant house where Chick and Labertha lived was razed and they moved into the big stone house with Chick's parents. At that time they closed the store. Recently Chick and his son Rick have refinished the brick end into two apartments.

"What we hope to do is rent the apartments out for several years to pay for the remodeling," explained Labertha. "Then when Jeff gets married he and his wife can live there."

The Tindall's desire to see the farming heritage passed down through the generations, fosters this type of planning.

"You have to be lucky to have a farm in the family for generations," Chick relates. "You have to be born into it, you can't buy a Century Farm. But you also have to be interested in keeping your children involved. We are

trying to help Jeff get started. I know when a young man sees his buddies making more money, working less hours, it's tempting to leave the farm. I left the farm for about a year when we first got married, but there was a strong

pull back too. Farming is in my blood."

Delinda the youngest, feels the isolation of being located so far from the bustle and convenience of urban centers.

"I think I'd like to move to California," she spritely announced.

And yet, she knows the history and lore of the farm and house as well as her parents. Her pride in her family's heritage will likely bring her back, says her mother.

Labertha, 21 years ago, after Jeff was born, was given only three to six months to live when she was diagnosed with bone cancer in her left leg. After cobalt radiation treatments, she was told she would become sterile and unable to conceive any more children. Miraculously Delinda was born, and today Labertha is healthy and fit.

The Tindall's tremendous faith allows them to carry on the legacy of Pleasant Grove Farm.





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