

## Guesthouse

(Continued from Page B2)

modern living, but also the beauty of a 200-year-old home. There is a fully-equipped modern kitchen, and Evelyn remarks that it must have what people need because she rarely gets requests for other utensils.

Many people do enjoy cooking during their stay, especially breakfasts, and some cook three meals daily. Evelyn said she advises guests on local grocery stores, but also encourages them to visit Rutts Market if they are there on market day since it is close and

offers a taste of locally-grown food.

The guest house also has a walk-in fireplace, with wooden doors and frame. Although it is used occasionally for a Landis family get together, they do not allow guests to use it for safety reasons.

The entrance door to the house is an "Indian door," featuring a wooden panel that can be raised over the glass panes in case of an Indian attack. There is a similar door on the basement of the farm house.

The upstairs has two bedrooms, each with double beds, and a bath. The beds are covered with quilts, and with the board floors and Williamsburg colors, it reflects an

appropriate colonial atmosphere.

From the living room windows, visitors can look across part of the 87-acre farm, and since it is located along a little used road, there is plenty of privacy and open space for walks in the country.

Although it is not located in the heart of "tourist country," the farm's easy access to Route 283 makes it convenient for visitors who wish to see the surrounding countryside during their stay.

When asked how she decides where to advise tourists to visit, Evelyn responds, "It depends on what they want to learn." Because she gets asked for advice so often, Evelyn and her family have taken advantage of Lancaster county Hospitality Days to visit local attractions. "I've visited more of them than most people," she says with a smile.

Of course a large dividend for the family is the opportunity to make friends from around the country. "We could visit in every state," Evelyn says, referring to the many invitations they have had.

All the children enjoy the guests, but it is six-year-old Gary who probably spends the most time with them. "He shows them around," Evelyn says. "The girls used to do that but they are usually not available." The girls include Marilyn, 17, and Deb, 15. Both have penpals all around the country and hope some day to visit some of the friends they have made.

Ten-year-old Marvin says he enjoys making friends with their visitors and particularly enjoys playing with them in the hay when there is time.

Of course, having a steady stream of visitors means a lot of extra housework, but Evelyn says she and the children manage it. "It's not hard cleaning." Checkout time is 11 a.m. and check-in time is 1 p.m., so it sometimes means a limited time to get it sparkling for new visitors.

"You learn as you go as far as handling guests," says Evelyn, who does most of the reservations. As on any farm, she does a fair share of gardening and freezing, and says that between 5 and 6 p.m. is a good time to find her in the house.

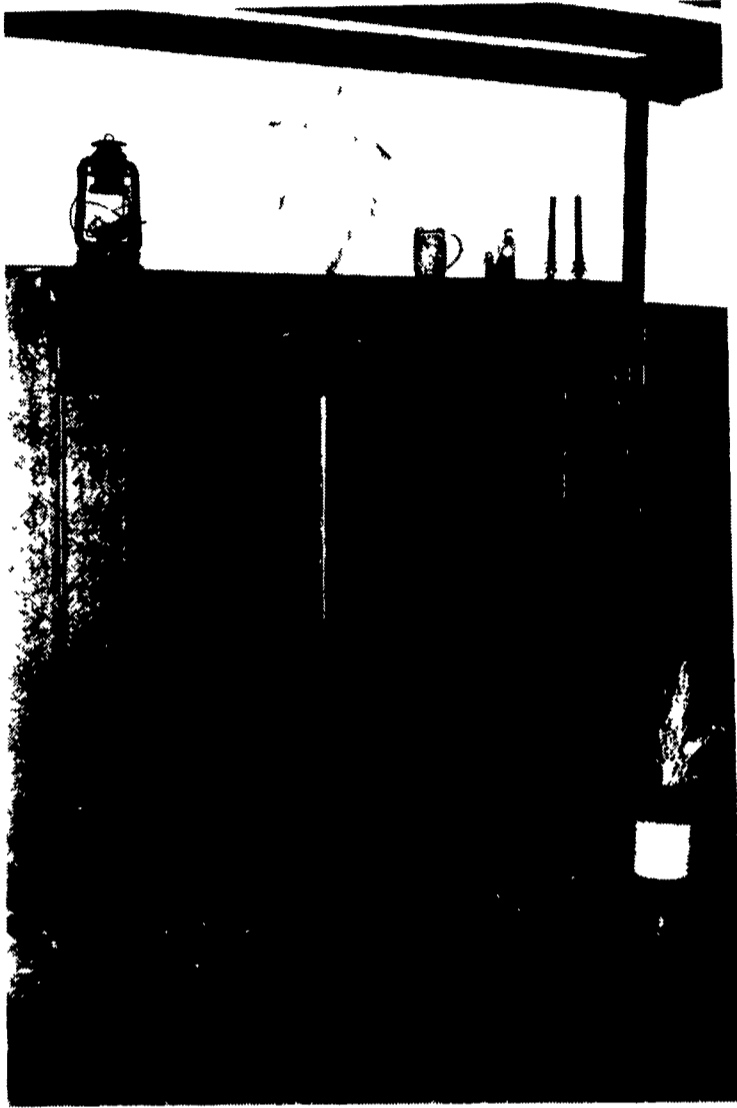
Both her own home and her guest

house display samples of the crafts which Evelyn enjoys making as time allows. She has made many of the folded stars which are popular, having some framed by Earl in tobacco lathe frames. She has even sold a few of her crafts to guests on request.

Basically, Evelyn and Earl like to make their guests feel at home and welcome. They do not plan activities around the guests, but do invite them to participate in some

family activities, including attending the East Petersburg Mennonite Church with them on Sunday, if the guests are interested.

Opening the guest house has proved to be a rewarding experience for the Landis family. As their love of farming and their rural way of life creates a deeper understanding of agriculture in their guests, the benefit reaches out to the entire community.



This walk-in fireplace, featuring original wooden doors and mantel, is the focal point of the living room of the guest house on the Landis farm. From the windows, guests can look out on tranquil pastures and fields, giving them the true flavor of Lancaster County agriculture.



Six-year-old Gray opens the door to welcome visitors to the Landis guest house. The Indian door is unique in that it has a heavy wooden panel which can be raised over the glass panes in case of Indian attack - a precaution any tourist is sure to welcome on a visit to the county!

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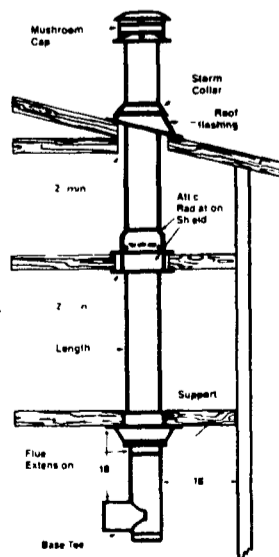
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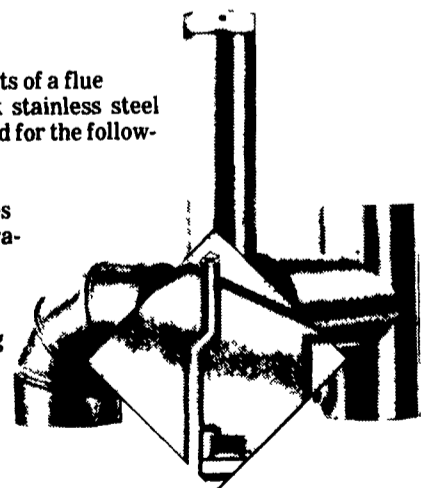
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