

## Chicora man

(Continued from Page B19)

An Amish man can be seen on the stairs of the mill that has "Mill Run Feeds" painted on its upperside. Many of the buildings are patterned after the Lancaster area Dutch styles, having white tops and stone or block bottoms trimmed in green, and green roofs.

A lumber yard in Chicora ripped out the individual pine boards in the widths and thicknesses George wanted. "I hand sanded thousands of little boards," George says.

The blocks that look like stone are individual pieces of sandpaper cut to the desired size, and each one is glued separately. The silo is completely made of sandpaper blocks.

Designing the complete layout himself, George drew on his childhood years, magazines and farm tours for his ideas. George included John Deere farm implements in his display, claiming he is partial to the green machines. The display does illustrate the progress the company has made since its first successful gasoline tractor in 1892, the Froehlic.

To secure this first engine, George constructed it himself. Everything on the tractor except the wheels and the fly wheels is made from wood.

George recently spent about three weeks making two blueprints of the display. One shows where all 38 18-inch stands go. The stands support the farm. The second blueprint shows the complete layout using color codes for all equipment and people. Using the blueprints, anyone can reset the farm without mislocating any piece.

And now George takes us on a guided tour of his farm. The house has two portions which lift off. On the second floor of the house there are three completely decorated bedrooms and a bath. The staircase is in the center. Going on downstairs, there is a kitchen, dining area and living room featuring a decorated Christmas tree. The patio and front porch are also completely furnished.

Directly behind the home is an old-fashioned summer kitchen where farmers always washed before going to dinner. Here the decor reflects the era with a coal stove, wooden ice box, sausage grinder, ice cream freezer and a wash basin on the porch.

Beyond this is the old smokehouse, which houses the 'real red door' on the Dutch oven.

A purple martin bird house towers over a lady making apple butter in the iron kettle, while another woman picks tomatoes in the garden. A team of matched horses pull a one bottom plow for the farmer of yesteryear.

If you can't wait until we return, better make use of the good old plumbing facilities, better known as the banshaney.

Paying tribute to the syrup producers, we can now see buckets hanging on the maple trees collecting sap. A team of draft horses are hitched to the maple sap sled that transports the sap to the maple sugar shed where we can see the evaporator that boils it down.

No farm is complete unless it has a spring house, and we can see it and the root center as we pass on our way to the Mill Run Feed Mill. On our way, we pass a farmer hauling his grain in an open horse-drawn wagon through the Mill Run covered bridge.

Along the creek a family enjoys a picnic and a little boy fishes, watching the bobbin float while the frogs play among the cattails made of toothpicks and beads.

Coming back we pass the hog barn where Hampshire pigs share two pens and play on the ramps. A green house brightens the farm tour with flowers, and a coal frame which features a set of stiles.

Beyond this we see the beef barn which features the overshot hang with hay mows on top and feeder racks below for the beef cows. The roof lifts off here for a better view.

Between the beef and main barn is a manure shed and a John Deere 730 with a manure loader and a John Deere hi lift attached to a utility tractor pulling the manure spreader.

The main barn took George 400 hours to make. It has a loft, two mows and a grainery finished off with a door to the right as we enter the bunk barn upstairs. "All doors on all barns work," George says, "and this one works on rollers."

Hay bales made of styrofoam blocks painted green are wrapped with thread for twine. They are also found throughout the fields.

Downstairs in the barn, the hired hand is hand milking nine cows in their stanchions. A lady is feeding the two pens of calves and two

horse stalls keep the one team of horses.

The milk house is attached and there is also a silo.

Just off to the side is the sheep barn with gates that really work, feeding racks and a few sheep.

Making our way back on one side is the brooder house. As George lifts the roof we can see the hens nestled in their nests. Special features here include a grape arbor with grapes hanging on the vine and a John Deere gas engine.

On the other side is a corn crib with a grain elevator and the grainery. The corn crib is built into the side where the slates are and the entire inside is finished with grain bins. A John Deere 3010 power take-off with a portable Trammer mill, a 1970 model, are centered in the middle of the grainery.

Directly in front of us we can stop by the "Mill Run Farm Market" to purchase produce and

see a little girl getting the mail at the mailbox while granpop rocks in his chair on the porch of the house.

Venturing along the roadside we see the unfinished workshop. George purposely left the building unfinished to expose the rafters. The roof here also lifts to show men working on a hay baler and tractor. Lots of miniature tools are hanging on the walls and lying atop the work bench.

Outside a view of two era's are seen as a rider and his horse and a Texaco gas pump with a Model D John Deere can be compared.

The display also has a one-room school house like the one George attended when he was a youngster. A pot belly stove stands in the center while two rows of desks and children can be seen. A blackboard and American flag along with the teacher and her desk are situated across the front. A piano and a globe grace the corners as does a

child standing in the back corner for punishment.

Outside is a flag pole, a woodshed and separate outhouses for the boys and girls.

The rest of the tour focuses on the fields and farm equipment spanning many years of progress. Toward the end of the tour we pass a small woods with a few wild animals. Later we see a saw mill.

It's easy to miss things on the first tour of the display. Even after several trips around you will see something new.

In the basement, where the display is housed during the rest of the year, a friend of George's son painted scenery on the three walls that surround it.

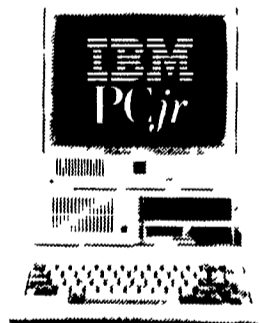
George is now working on an oil well for his display. Although it isn't yet completed, he hopes to add it to next year's display.

The man's tribute to the farmers during the holiday season is truly a remarkable one.



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