

# Century Farm

(Continued from Page B24)

the property, he leased it out. Israel, a shrewd man, made several unusual agreements with the various tenants. "One lease required the tenant to quarry and burn a specified number of barrels of limestone rock and spread the burnt lime on the fields in a suitable fashion," Becker related. "The compensation to the farmer was a \$50 deduction in the rent." In an agreement with a different

tenant, the cellar of a tobacco building was to be filled with ice cut from the creek during the winter and sold during the summer. The tenant split the profits with his landlord.

Israel Becker made one other agreement that has had a long-running effect on the farm and its owners. He made an agreement with Jacob Horst, owner of the farm to the north, that gave Becker the perpetual right to wall up a

spring and pipe water to the farm. "It has been flowing by gravity every since it was begun," stated Harry Becker. "It supplies running water to the barn and right in front of the house."

The Beckers have enjoyed being in farming. "It's been the ideal place to raise children," said Ruth. "It's helped instill a work ethic in them, which has helped now that they're out working." Son Merle and daughter Mildred have their

own farms, while Leonard is a welder and Dan is a truck driver.

Harry and Ruth hope that their property will remain a farm and in the family. "I'm hoping that one of our children would be able to con-

tinue the farming operation after we're finished with it," Harry stated. With his son, daughter, and a grandson working with him, Harry might just get his wish.

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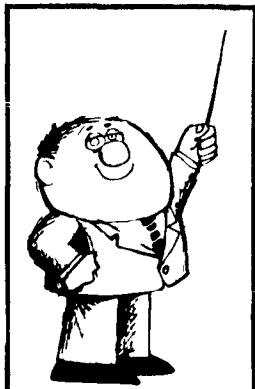
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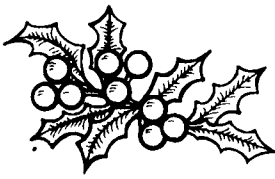
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Harry and Ruth Becker, center, own and operate a 112-acre farm that has been in the family for 109 years. Helping them are, left to right: Sylvia Trupe, Jeff Trupe, Harry Jr., and his wife, Sue.



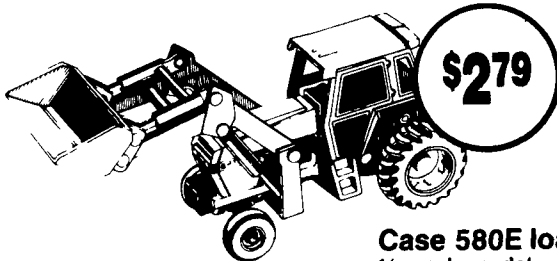
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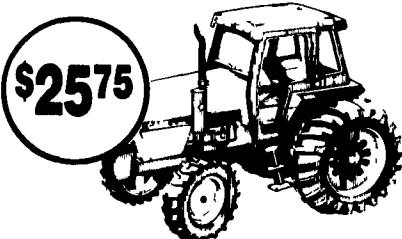
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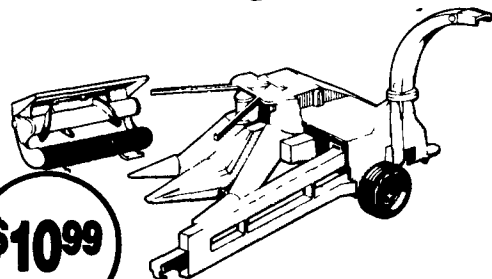


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