Store On Wheels For Those Who Shop At Their Door



Kevin Frymyer of Ephrata drives his van throughout Lancaster county to bring the store to the doors of his customers. BY LOU ANN GOOD PARADISE — A basket rests at the edge of a sidewalk leading up to a spacious farmhouse. Kevin Frymyer edges his International truck to a stop, picks up the basket and reads the note tucked inside. Below the listed grocery items,

a request is written, "Please put the butter in the refrigerator."

Kevin, better known to his customers as "the store man", delivers groceries and services to the doors, and in a few cases, to the refrigerators of his loyal customers.

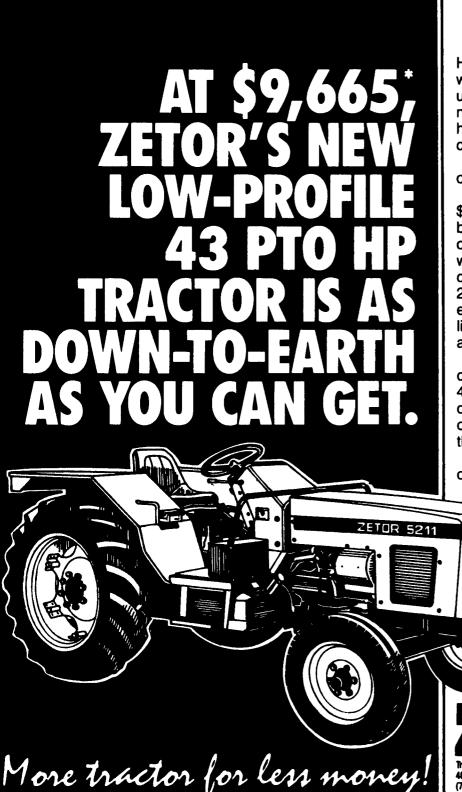
"Most of my customers are Amish," he explains, "They live in the tourist section and many don't care to mingle with tourists, so they find shopping from me



Frymyer's van holds about 800 different items to satisfy the tastes of his customers.

His van holds about 800 items

convenient."



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taste-tempting goodies for potential customers. Among the closely stacked shelves, customers will find fresh citrus fruits, carrots and celery. Mostly, his customers stock up on cereals and bulk foods like flour and sugar, but frozen juices and ice cream are available to satisfy the sweet tooth.

that include plenty of staples and

Every week, Kevin maintains the same scheduled stops although the time may vary by an hour or two. Basically, he stocks the same inventory because he found that his customers prefer traditional foods and aren't eager to try new things.

His biggest competitor is the small country store, Kevin said. His prices are less than a convenience store and a little more than a small grocery. No minimum order is required for his weekly stops, but the average customer buys \$30 to \$40 weekly. He accepts coupons and offers a 5 to 7 percent discount when items are purchased by the case.

For the past two years, Kevin has steered his truck around the Lancaster countryside. He purchased the established route from Leaman Place Store which had it for 26 years. Since then, it has grown through word-of-mouth advertising.

Kevin serves his customers with a ready smile and trys to adapt his services to whatever they require. "Some like to chat, others are quiet. Some like to browse and choose, others hand me a list and let me pick it out." Regardless of their requests, Kevin brings the store to their door.



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