



The living room offers spacious space for guests to visit.

## Guests Find A Home Away From Home At Maryland Farm

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DOWNSVILLE, MD. — Bed and Breakfast anyone? There is a spacious 13-room southern colonial style "home away from home" awaiting you at Lewrene Farm. Lewis and Irene Lehman live in a historical area of beautiful Cumberland Valley farming country just four miles south of Hagerstown, near I-70 and I-81. Nearby points of interest that attract guests to this lovely home are Antietam Battelfield, Harpers Ferry, Fort Frederick, C&O Canal, Gettysburg, Crystal Grottos Caverns, Appalachian Trail, antique shops, and outlet stores. They are also within easy driving distance to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. for daytime trips.

In 1969, the Lehmans began hosting students through Experiment International Living. Many came from Spanish countries such as Mexico, Bolivia, and Argentina, staying for two to five weeks. This was the beginning of what was to later become a bed and breakfast venture. When traveling to Europe, Irene and Lewis enjoyed staying in guest houses. Meeting people in this way, also added to the desire to have their own bed and breakfast inn.

A large 26'x30' living room with a fireplace for guests to experience family togetherness and two bedrooms with private baths were added to the Lehmans original home. Lewis designed the addition, and his three sons, Eldon, Donald and Ivan helped with the building. Three original bedrooms were converted, making

it possible to sleep up to seventeen. Irene has used many of her collectibles for decorating and furnishing each room and giving it a name such as Rose Retreat or Lilac Haven, indicating its color theme. Homemade quilts cover the beds. Quilted wallhangings and antique pictures hang on the walls. Homemade curtains, pillows, and other items accent the beautiful rooms. Treats and

are being transferred to the area, stay for several weeks. These folks become "family members". They have hosted persons from many occupations, and were surprised to learn they had hosted an employee of the FBI.

Irene serves a family-style country breakfast at their large dining table. Her guests enjoy a special casserole she makes of



This Bed and Breakfast operation has sheltered guests from around the world.

snacks are on the bedside tables. If the guests are newlyweds or celebrating an anniversary, Irene adds the personal touch of carnations or roses and a bottle of strawberry sparkler.

Some guests, who are in the area for temporary employment or

eggs, bacon, cheese, milk, crackers and butter. Irene also serves fresh fruits in season. A favorite of many is her homemade apple-sauce flavored with cinnamon hearts. To add variety, she also makes waffles, pancakes and homemade breads. Irene tries to make sure everyone's tastes are satisfied, even if it means serving corn on the cob for breakfast. Breakfast has become a fun time for everyone to get acquainted with those who have stayed the previous night.

In 1986, the Lehmans began with the Bed and Breakfast Association, Mennonite Your Way and the Wycliffe Bible Translators Association. Then in 1987 went to national advertising. Many guests are now repeats or are referred by others. They enjoy the thank you notes and correspondence from those who have stayed in their home. Irene says, "If you don't



Each bedroom is furnished uniquely for guests to enjoy.

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