

# Take A Buggy Ride At Detter's Farm

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York Co. Correspondent**  
DOVER (York Co.) — When Loren Detter began tearing out the old plaster and lathing of their summerhouse's loft, his wife Ailean was not convinced it was worth the trouble.

"It was the worst," she says of the deteriorating walls, crumbling window frames and open-air gaps of the structure.

Painstakingly remodeled, the summerhouse upper level is now the "Hideaway," a honeymoon suite of sorts at the Detter's newly-opened bed and breakfast on their Dover-area farm. Exposed beams, textured ceiling, delicate wallpaper and soft carpeting bely the loft's original state and pay tribute to this couple's vision of sharing with guests their home of 33 years.

A canopy bed in the Hideaway has been custom built by Loren to fit under the loft's sloping ceilings. He spent more hours than he cares to remember refinishing and restoring the heavy, original, wooden door to the enclosed stair entry and its antique hardware. A private bath, soft easy chairs and a view overlooking the farm's rolling meadows offer homey touches to guests in the cozy loft.

The Hideaway is one of three private rooms remodeled and tastefully decorated by Loren and Ailean in between crop and cattle chores on their farm along the Conewago Creek north of Dover. Although they have hosted guests periodically, including a Japanese exchange student who lived with the family for a year, their bed and breakfast at 6631 Old Carlisle Road "officially" opened on May 1.

Their Victorian and Country Brass rooms, which share a bath and dressing area, are named by Ailean based on the decorative theme of each. Antiques, stenciling and restored pieces, including Loren's own infant crib, add personal touches. Air conditioning, television, cold running water and fire safety equipment in each room offer modern amenities to the traditional feeling of the large, century-old farm home.

Layout of the house, with its attached summerhouse, lends itself ideally to a bed and breakfast establishment. A large family area, complete with fireplace and breakfast nook, connects the main portion of the house with the former summerhouse. Farm tools and

collectibles decorate the fireplace, which is kept burning for guests comfort and enjoyment. Entrances to the guest rooms open off the central gathering room, ensuring a measure of privacy for the Detter's personal living area.

"If our guests enjoy breakfast outside on warm mornings, I'll serve it in the gazebo on the lawn," says Ailean. Her breakfast specialties include fresh fruits served on family china and homemade bread baked fresh daily. An antique table in a secluded corner is kept stocked with a selection of beverages and tidbits for evening snacks. For visitors with musical inclination, a piano awaits willing players.

Their interest in people led them into not only opening their home to guests but also into a related sideline specialty of offering carriage rides. The Dettets have three Amish-style buggies, maintained for both their guests and for local folks looking for a unique, special-occasion, mode of travel. A few brides and grooms have already been delivered to their receptions in the carriages, a guaranteed spectator-gathering event.

"I've been around horses all my life," notes Loren, who grew up helping his family to farm with teams. "I was the youngest, so they gave me the horses to drive; my brother drove the tractor."

Two standard-bred driving horses wait in the exercise lot near the barns, one of them recently acquired after being retired from racing. Calmness in their driving horses is a top priority, since the mere sight of the horse and buggy always draws children.

Their new buggy was custom designed to their specifications by the White Horse Carriage Shop. Beautifully finished with crushed blue velvet, it features rollup sides for open-air rides in pleasant weather, ornately carved instrument deck, and a special, side-opening door and steps for the wide skirts and trains of bridal gowns.

Loren dresses for the carriage rides in dark suit and tie with top hat. He nearly froze, even dressed with extra layers of clothes, on a Christmas ride contracted by one customer. The ride was around Lake Meade, a 10-mile drive in itself, plus travel of many more miles to get there and back.

He also delivered an 81-year-old to a surprise, family birthday



Detter's Acres Bed and Breakfast is open for guests looking for a vacation on a working farm. A custom-made Amish buggy is available at the Dettets for both guests and special-occasion rides.

party in her honor and thoroughly enjoyed his part in a recent marriage proposal. The client wishing to propose plotted with Loren for a carriage ride along the Conewago Creek, complete with picnic basket, for his intended. Even the dreary, rainy, foggy conditions that set in along the creek that evening failed to put a damper on that memorable carriage excursion.

Recently Lorne and Ailean have been sharing a slide program on their trip last summer to Japan. Twelve years ago, the Dettets and their four children hosted Japanese exchange student Masayo Matsukawa for a year. They have kept in touch since then and last May were guests of her and her family.

"They treated us like royalty," Ailean says of the memorable visit. "The people were wonderful. They're in an area where many of the Japanese never had seen an American, so many people were fascinated with Lorne's blue eyes."

The Detter's bed-and-breakfast facilities serve the family well when the Detter children come to visit. Only daughter Sharon Shue lives nearby. Daughter Judy Brandenburg and her husband are ministers in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and Susan Phillips and her husband Rodney both assist as minis-



In her well-stocked kitchen, Ailean Detter bakes bread and prepares breakfast specialties for their guests.

ters at Dover, Ohio. Son David and his wife also assist as ministers at the church in Upland, California. Lorne and Ailean currently have nine grandchildren, and will soon become grandparents once again.

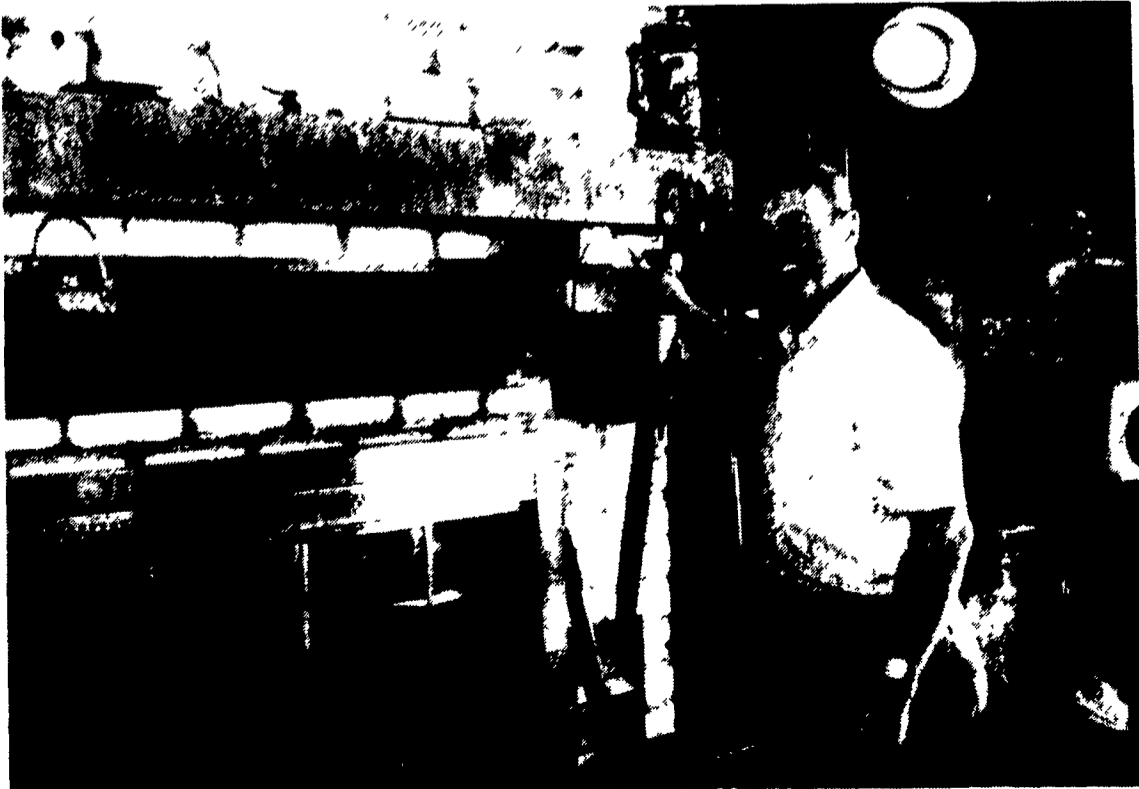
Accustomed to children in their gracious home, the Dettets welcome youngsters as guests and offer a wide expanse of lawn and a private meadow picnic area where they can romp and play. A herd of Charolais cattle and hay production keep Detter's Acres a working operation, giving visitors a chance to experience farm living.

Lorne and Ailean share a love of people, which is reflected in their backgrounds. Lorne was for many years a feed sales representative for Spangle and Sprenkle Feed Company of York, new

Hoke Mills, and served six years as a supervisor for Dover Township.

Ailean is secretary for the York County Farmers Association, handles local paperwork for 199th District Legislator Rep. John Brojous, and teaches painting from her own art gallery on the farm. A believer in community service, she is currently running for a township supervisor candidacy in the primary election.

Detter's Acres Bed and Breakfast is 10 minutes from Ski Roundtop and Pinchot Park. Historic York, Gettysburg, Lancaster, Hershey and Harrisburg are all within about a one-hour drive. The Dettets welcome inquiries and may be reached at 3361 Old Carlisle Road, Dover, PA 17315, phone 717-292-3172.



A focal point of the guest area at Detter's Acres is the large fireplace, decorated by items like the iron pot Lorne holds.

## Homestead Notes