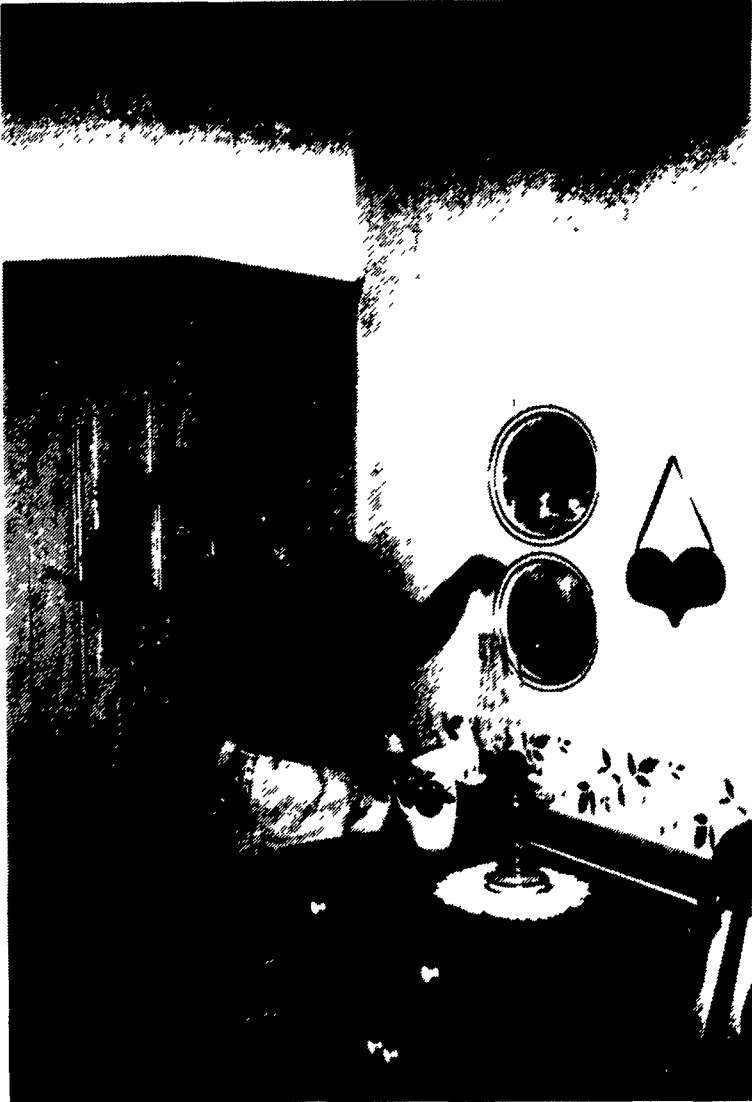


# Stranded Motorist Wooed From City To Farm



Seventeen years ago, Arlene and Bill Maule met when Arlene had a flat tire along Route 1 and Bill stopped to help her. Bill, who was a widower with three young children, convinced city-bred Arlene to marry him and become a full-fledged farmer's wife.



Seven layers of old wallpaper and paint were removed from the walls throughout the house. Then Arlene stenciled the walls in various patterns. Shown is the formal dining room.



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The front windows stretch from floor to ceiling. The bottom part of the window has glass that slides up and wooden doors that open and close. Arlene said that she was told that the windows were built in this matter so that a coffin could be moved in and out of the parlor for family funerals.

Touches of love and style are evident throughout the 1862 farm house. Arlene has removed the layers of wallpaper and paint on the walls, replastered the holes, painted and stenciled the high ceiling walls. She found that a barn scraper worked best for removing the paint and paper. She learned to spackle and plaster ceilings. She worked all hours of the night to strip paint with a heat gun and putty knife. The carved woodwork is painted in contrasting colors. And she has made curtains for several of the rooms.

The country decor is filled with garage sale finds and family hand-me-downs that seem specially selected for their coordinated appearance.

Because the original kitchen was too dark, the Maules had an addition added. Now the kitchen opens into a dining and sitting area with a fireplace and large windows that face the pond on one side and profuse flower beds and open fields on the other sides.

Arlene is known for her warm, outgoing personality and loves to entertain. "Everything that I am, I owe to my mother," Arlene said.

"She was the best cook around, and she taught me everything I know."

### Farm work

When Arlene first married, her mother-in-law warned Arlene: "Never start helping the men in the barn or they will expect it all the time."

Arlene confided sheepishly that she didn't take her mother-in-law's advice and so she does carry milk in pails from the 53 cows, forks hay, makes sure the cows are in the right staunchion, and rakes hay with the tractor. So far, she is able to convince the full-time hired man and her husband that she is not a permanent worker.

Although Bill's dad had Guernseys, Bill made a gradual shift to all Holsteins, "whose disposition aren't as nice but they are reliable milkers."

The Maules raise corn, alfalfa, and wheat on 120 acres. They have a staunchion barn and the second oldest silo in Lancaster County.

Although Arlene took five years off from school teaching when the children were young, she is now teaching computers part time. She has taught 23 years in a parochial school and finds great fulfillment in being able to teach the children of former students. She also finds it rewarding to see how some former troublesome students turn into stable, law-abiding citizens.

Arlene said, "I try to make the classroom as pleasant as possible for students because you don't know what they go home to face."

Her efforts have not gone unno-

ted. Arlene's home is filled with gifts and she has numerous notes and letters from students and parents in appreciation for her caring attitude and her ability "to make learning fun."

### Farm Women

When Arlene married Bill, her mother-in-law said, "You're a farmer now so you must join Farm Women."

Today, city-bred Arlene is a full-fledged farmer's wife and president of the Lancaster County Society 15 of Farm Women.

Society 15 was established in 1938. The society started the Solanco Fair, the only one in the county that is considered an agricultural fair since they do not permit amusement rides. The society raises funds by selling funnel cakes at the Solanco Fair and at other annual community events. With part of the money, they provide one \$500 scholarship and two \$100 bonds to students in ag-related subjects.

Arlene said most of the Farm Women members are elderly so she can learn so much from them. "They have been through it. They make me feel so comfortable."

Arlene recalls that she grew up appreciating the older generation because her grandfather lived in their home for many years.

Whether it's old or young people, Arlene has the ability to make each person feel special. "I love people. Everyday I learn something from someone," Arlene said. "Life is so interesting."



In the parlour, windows stretch from floor to ceiling. The lower wooden doors may be opened or shut. The bottom windowpane may be raised. The Maules were told that the windows were built in this way in 1862 so that a coffin could be easily moved in and out for family funerals.

# Homestead Notes