



Sometimes Darlene and daughter Katy dress in authentic garb to greet guests at The Country Stay, a bed and breakfast in a beautifully furnished 1880

Victorian-style home.

## High Bidder To Get Two Nights' Sleep At The Country Stay Bed And Breakfast

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MAYTOWN (Lancaster Co.)—  
Treasured items, gardening supplies, and works of art will cross the auction block at the annual benefit auction of the Kraybill Mennonite School on May 13 and 14. One of the more unusual items will be a certificate for two nights' lodging at The Country Stay Bed and

Breakfast.

Unfortunately, auction-goers will not be able to preview the Victorian Bed and Breakfast with its elegant touches by hostess Darlene Landis. The Country Stay is located on a .98-acre farm where Darlene's husband Lester raises soybeans, corn, and wheat for his 165-head steer and 120-head sow operations.

The Landis' purchased the farm with its stately brick house in 1970. Only part of the house was used until eight years ago, when the unused part was renovated for a bed and breakfast.

The Landises did not cut corners when they sought to restore the 1880 house to its former beauty. Crown moldings, chair railing, and molded baseboards were made to

match the original. Antiques were carefully chosen to enhance the atmosphere evoked by the 10-foot-high ceilings and deep-seated windows.

Son Doug, 16, mows the spacious lawns surrounding the home and does the trimming. Darlene keeps the many flower beds in showmanship shape. Even 9-year-old Katy helps by daily watering the flowers in the window boxes during the summer months.

Another son, Donavan, 21, lives at home and works full time off the farm and but spends a few hours daily helping his dad with farm work.

Most guests spend two to six nights on the farm. A different breakfast is served each morning, but a typical one includes baked oatmeal, fresh fruit cup, waffles with blueberry sauce, sausage, pastry, juice, and coffee. Other favorites are apple dumplings, pancakes, pecan sticky buns, banana streusel, meat and potato quiche, and dried beef gravy.

Darlene spends two hours preparing each breakfast from scratch. Although she is an excellent cook, it is not her favorite thing to do. She prefers cleaning and decorating. She certainly excels in that area.

Two bedrooms plus a suite are tastefully furnished.

The sitting room for the private Victorian Suite is elegantly formal with Queen Anne chairs, and touches of lace, marble, and roses. In keeping with the era, an armouree is used to hang clothing instead of ruining the architecture with built-in closets. Full-length shutters can be closed for privacy or opened to view the rolling farmland and lawns surrounding the property. A step stool to reach the high bed is representative of the era, when beds were placed high for added warmth.

The sitting room that is shared by two of the bedrooms is furnished more with the country look. A school desk serves as an end table, a wooden wagon as a magazine rack, and pegs on wall hold a wooden chair, baskets, and a wooden stocking form. Tin lights, dried herbs, wreaths, and candles complete the country decor. A player piano that still works is ready for guests to use.

Guests generally leave the home by 10 a.m. to view the surrounding tourist attractions. Darlene often helps guests map out stops not located on tourist handouts. For

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Couples searching for something special will find it in The Victorian Suite, which includes a bedroom with a private bath and this sitting room. Notice the deep-seated windows with indoor shutters in keeping with the era. Darlene and her daughter page through a book from the Victorian era, one of the many elegant touches placed there for the pleasure of guests.

# Homestead Notes