

Spring Garden Farm Establishes Bed And Breakfast After Barn Burns

LINDA WILLIAMS

Bedford Co. Correspondent
MARTINSBURG (Blair Co.)

— When the world serves you lemons, you make lemonade. Or, when an arsonist burns down your barn destroying your livelihood, you find another use for the farm.

Such was the case with Albert and Doris Kauffman, who, having raised eight children in a spacious five-bedroom historic house, decided they had the perfect spot for their Spring Garden Farm Bed and Breakfast.

The picturesque stone home was built in 1824 but, with few changes, provides the kind of comfortable setting usually seen in travel magazines.

Doris Kauffman is the first to admit a Bed and Breakfast is a lot of work, but quickly adds, also a lot of satisfaction.

Surrounded by the beauty of Morrisons Cove's farmland, the Kauffmans had always maintained a picture perfect lawn. They also had an abundance of bedrooms.

Establishing a vacation spot, however, called for some facelifting such as new paint, bed spreads, and other accessories. Each bed was outfitted with a new box mattress and air conditioning was a necessity despite the cool breezes that usually flow through the large windows.

Comforts are many, but the Kauffmans have kept the price as low as possible with a night's stay

starting at \$25.

To make more room for their guests, Doris and Albert built themselves a bedroom in the basement.

Each room is also equipped with its own thermostat for the comfort of the guests.

For those who wish to lounge on the farm, there are spacious porches and inviting farm animals that welcome attention.

Children often visit the Spring Garden with their parents and find only the parlor off limits.

"We have spent years furnishing the parlor with antiques and collectibles," Doris said. "And for our own comfort and that of the children, we keep them out of there."

The family/dining room is comfortable and inviting. It is here that guests find the table set with a continental breakfast featuring fresh canned fruits and jellies and homemade muffins or breads.

On weekdays, guests serve themselves because Doris is at work on her school bus driving job before most people think of getting out of bed.

Weekends, the breakfast menu includes rib-sticking bacon, ham, eggs and hotcakes.

One of the most inviting residents of Spring Garden is a dachshund who recently gave birth to a new litter of puppies. Guests may also enjoy or purchase a vast assortment of crafts created by



Spring Garden Farm Bed and Breakfast as viewed from the outside.

Doris and displayed in the front hall.

Nearby attractions include Old Bedford Village, the Horseshoe Curve, The Altoona Railroad Center, Raystown Lake, and Blue Knob.

In order to acclimate themselves with the Bed and Breakfast industry, Doris and Albert began their new adventure by attending seminars.

"We were told to remove all personal belongings from the walls of the bedrooms," Doris recalls.

"Personally, I thought that was a bad idea. I left my family pictures, the framed copy of our marriage license and my youngest son's hat collections on the walls. And, they have always been a source of conversation."

Problems with guests have been neither numerous or absent. On one occasion a family asked to use the house over Christmas. The Kauffmans had gone to visit one of their children, but knowing the family, decided it would be "okay".

Luckily, a daughter who lives nearby stopped in before the house became a total disaster.

Guests have also done such inconsiderate deeds as removing a quilt (a 40th anniversary present

from their children) from the banister and sitting on it; turning up the heat while they open the windows; or carrying food into the rooms.

"But for the most part, our guests are wonderful people who we very much enjoy and welcome back anytime."

Among them, a lady pilot who flew freight during World War II, has flown for vice president Dan Quayle and flies her grandchildren to Europe on a regular basis.

The Association for the preservation of the chestnut tree in America also recently used Spring Garden for accommodations while convening in a nearby town.

"It's a good life," Doris says. "You meet so many interesting people, you could write a book."

"And most of all, we've learned that even something as disastrous as a fire isn't the end of the world. You just pick up the pieces and go on from there."



The bedrooms are cozy with homey touches like photos of her children. "We were advised to take them down, but I chose to do otherwise," Doris said.



Doris Kauffman puts a finishing touch on the parlor prior to the arrival of guests at Spring Garden Farm Bed and Breakfast.

Yuletide Singers At Longwood Gardens



Yuletide singers stroll through the conservatories during "A Christmas Past" at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square. The singers perform period music on most weekends during Longwood's holiday celebration of the Victorian era, from now through January 1, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, including Christmas and New Year's Day. Longwood is on U.S. Route 1, 30 miles west of Philadelphia. For more information, call (610) 388-1000. Pictured from left are Cal Brackin, West Chester; Deborah DeHart, Wilmington, Del.; Paul Goodman, Wildwood, N.J.; and Susan Zaleski, Kennett Square. Longwood Gardens Photo by L. Albee.