

(Continued from Page B2)
has nine rooms, and the side where Clair's father, Samuel, lives has seven rooms.

The family has the sheepskin deed that shows that Penn's son sold about 400 acres to a Cook before it was purchased by an Oberholtzer. The farmland and the woodland were distributed to various family members in early generations of the Oberholtzer family. In the late 1960s, terraces and waterways were installed. But, much of the old-time charm of the sprawling farmsite was kept intact.

The children still remember when free-range chickens roamed in the yard.

"And we still have two working outhouses," Heather joked.

Clair was born in the farmhouse and when he married, he rented the farm until 1981 when he purchased it from his father.

In 1993 a new dairy barn was built and attached to the older barn. During renovations, the stone gabled end of the barn collapsed.

"It's a miracle that it didn't smash the milking equipment or hurt any cows," Clair said.

A vacuum line broke, a replacement pump was found, and the

milking schedule progressed smoothly after that.

The collapse of the stone wall resulted in the wall being rebuilt with cement blocks, which allowed them to install windows for circulation.

The first day that the dairy barn was completed, it took three hours to coerce the cows to enter the stalls.

"They didn't want to step across the gutters and the cow mattresses," Clair said.

After a few days, the cows relaxed and the job went faster and smoother.

"I like stalls because I can watch the cows individually. You can tell when a cow is eating or not. You can give them more individual attention and the cows are tamer," Clair said.

Jesslyn said, "Before we couldn't keep them clean because we didn't have enough stalls. We switched half of them at night and the other half went to the manure pack. Now, it's much more convenient and the cows stay cleaner. Plus you can tell the cows are more comfortable," Clair said.

Ventilation fans are used to pull air through. Even in high tempera-



Clair stands in front of the new dairy barn that was attached to the older barn. During earlier renovations, an accident resulted in Clair "technically dying" before his body revitalized itself and started up again. During his recuperation, neighbors and friends helped with the farm work.

tures, it feels comfortable in the barn because of the air flow, Clair said.

Heather, who will be a senior this fall at Elizabethtown High

School, is FFA president for her chapter.


She plans to attend either Delaware Valley or Wilson College for pre-veterinary studies.

Heather and Jesslyn share a close friendship as sisters. Heather said that when Jesslyn became the county's alternate dairy princess two years ago, she made it a goal to

become the county dairy princess.

The night after she was crowned, the family left her sleep in as they thought it only fitting for a princess. Otherwise, Heather and Jesslyn are expected to milk every Sunday morning and relief milking — a chore they both enjoy.

Being a dairy princess has its (Turn to Page B4)




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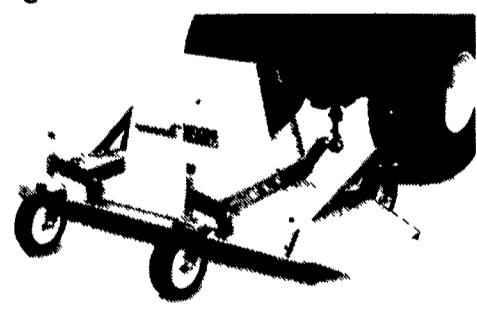
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