

# 'Logged In Love' Is Handicapped-Accessible Bed And Breakfast

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NARVON (Lancaster Co.) —

"Inky" Ruhl knows what it's like to maneuver a wheelchair around. She knows that handicapped people are sometimes limited to where they can go.

For this reason Inky and her husband "J.R." opened up a Bed and Breakfast in their spacious log home situated on 7½ acres of woodland on two townships—Carnarvon and Brechnock.

Their home is part of the upcoming tour of homes called "Home Is Where the Heart Is," sponsored by Hinkletown Mennonite School. It's the school's third annual tour, which is used for a fundraiser. The tour is on Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"Many people have never been in a log home and are curious to know what it looks like inside," Inky said. "We offered our home to be part of the tour so people can see what it's like."

The Ruhls' dream had always been to have a log home. In fact, when they first married, J.R. gave a miniature log home with the promise: This is all I can afford now, but someday I want to build you a real log home.

In 1995, Inky was involved in a serious motorcycle accident, which has required five surgeries and months of physical therapy. Although much better from the accident that broke both bones in her leg and tore the heel off, she has diminished circulation, degenerate arthritis, and other debilitating injuries.

The Ruhls had planned to build a handicapped accessible home because Inky's mother, who had lived with them, used a wheelchair. Unfortunately, her mother died before the house was finished, but by this time, Inky herself was temporarily confined to a wheelchair because of the accident.

They built their log home 2½ years ago with this in mind. It is handicap accessible throughout. The master bedroom has a large bathroom with an 8x8-square foot shower room in which to wheel in wheelchairs. A two-person whirlpool tub is available for therapeutic use.

About a year after the Ruhls moved into the home, they decided to share it with others by operating it as a bed and breakfast.

In building the home, the Ruhls worked with a company called Lok-N-Logs, using hand-hewn red pine logs in which the bark is removed.

Spacious openness in the 3,000 square foot home features a birch wood kitchen with an adjacent dining area and a sitting area.

J.R. has worked for Armstrong Industries for 27 years, and put his expertise in tile to use by having the bathroom tiled with a large pink heart surrounded by multi-colored tiles. J.R. also did the electrical and telephone wiring in the house, no easy task for drilling holes through the hefty logs.

A friend of the family used a wood burning tool to carve in tumbling bears and assorted hearts in the wooden window frame of each window.

"I like bears and hearts—every one is different," Inky said of the rustic carving.

The home is furnished in what Inky calls "Early American junk yard." She said, "The only two new things we have in the house is an oven and dishwasher. Even the Jenn-air stove is a bargain counter buy."

The benefits of living in a log home is that no insulation is needed because the logs are a natural insulator. Eight-inch logs are used outside and split logs are used in the interior. The logs also muffle the noise and are maintenance-free inside. Outside is a different story. The outside walls need to be stained every 3-4 years to prevent insects from burrowing holes.

The Ruhls have no lawn, preferring the natural wooded setting. Guests can sit on the roofed porch and see birds, squirrels, chipmunks, and deer. A stream is also stocked for avid fishers.

Inky is from the city. "I'd never go back again. I love it here," she said of the secluded wooded area where wildlife abounds.

"We had our drinking water tested and were told it's better than most bottled water," J.R. said.

In addition to the master bedroom, three bedrooms with full baths are furnished with phone and remote control colored television for guests.

The Ruhls have three adult children, seven grandchildren, and a dog Jasmine, which is a Keshour and mixed Black Lab.

The Ruhls offer a made-to-order breakfast. A printed menu allows guests to circle extensive choices such as a variety of juices and hot beverages, homemade doughnuts, pastries, and bread from Amish neighbors. A variety of cold cereals and baked oatmeal, scrambled eggs, French toast, ham or sausage is served.

"The only three 'no's' in our home are no smoking, no pets, and no children 12 years or younger," J.R. said.

Guests do not need to be handicapped to spend the night in the Ruhls' Logged With Love home.

The home sets up on hill, which has its advantages and disadvantages. While it offers a great view, winter weather encompasses a hard-to-maneuver driveway in which even a tractor is known to get stuck.

Despite Inky's injuries, the couple remain motorcycle enthusiasts. They travel by cycle with a group called the Retreads, which Inky describes as "recycled teenagers" over 40 years of age. The

Ruhls have toured 34 states and five Canadian provinces on cycles.

In addition to the Ruhls' home located at 2262 Laurel Road, Narvon, the following homes are opened for tour:

Ray and Gloria Boll, 147 Sheaffer School Rd., Ephrata; Sam & Nancy Russell, 148 E. Farmersville Rd., Ephrata; Hinkletown Mennonite School, 272 Wanner Rd., Ephrata; George & Susan Manderbach, 1400 Landis Rd., Ephrata; John and Lois Nolt, 1061 Steffy Rd., Stevens; The Artist's Inn & Gallery, 117 E. Main St., Terre Hill; Voneida Mill, corner of Voneida St. and Reading Road; and John and Mae Weaver, 160 Boulder Hill Road, Mohnton.

Tickets will also be available at the school the day of the tour. Proceeds will benefit Hinkletown Mennonite School. No children or cameras will be permitted on the tour. Persons taking the tour are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes.

Hinkletown Mennonite School is located at 272 Wanner Road, one-half mile north of Route 322 in Hinkletown. For more information on the tour, call the school at (717) 354-6705.

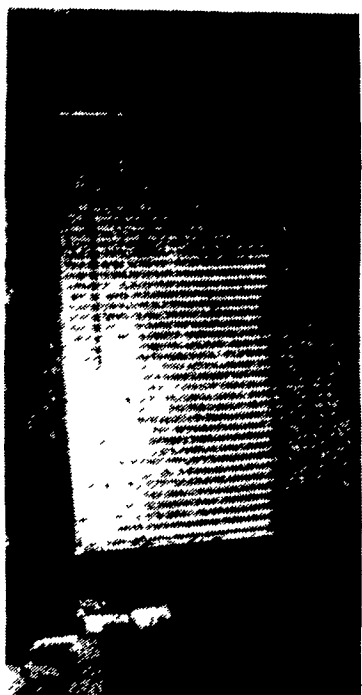
For more information on the Bed and Breakfast, call the Ruhls at (717) 445-5855.



J.R. and Inky Ruhl stand at the entrance made handicapped-accessible to guests at the Logged In Love Bed and Breakfast. The log home is one of nine stops included in the Tour of Homes sponsored as a fundraiser for Hinkletown Mennonite School on May 17, from 1-5 p.m.



The 3,000 square foot home has an open floor plan, which makes it easy for Inky who is sometimes reliant upon a wheelchair because of accident injuries.



Because Inky loves bears and hearts she had a friend wood carve tumbling bears and hearts into the woodwork surround the log house windows. None are the same.