

Santa Gertrudis Cattle

(Continued from Page D4)

Road, which adjoins the farm she grew up on and the first one they bought, had been sitting vacant for 30 years.

"When we bought it in 1986 it had no plumbing or electricity. We think the one part was built about 1840 and the big house and barn were finished in 1880," she said.

Gene, a former builder, restored the house to its current 4,000 square foot status working in the evening after he was finished with the farm work. And that includes all three floors of the house plus an addition that connects the old homestead and the big house.

Linda said with a chuckle that it took so long "I thought we

were never going to live long enough to get moved into it."

The barns were falling down and the fields were "so grown up with honeysuckle and multiflora rose that when my husband mowed, all you could see was his hat going down through the field. There was not a fence on the farm. We spent the next three years building fence, trying to get the pasture established, and rebuilding the barns," she said.

In 1992 they bought their

third farm on Cunningham Road, about one mile from the first two, and this one was in disrepair. They have since restored a very old home on the property that was probably used as some sort of facility during the Civil War and continue working to get the fields into shape.

"We feel strongly about preserving old historical houses and it breaks my heart to see a barn

burn because you know you're never going to replace it. We feel strongly about the land, too. We believe in organic farming and believe the land is good to us and we should be good back to it.

"Our farm has a lot of weeds that probably shouldn't be there, but we're getting it down naturally and don't believe in spraying or using herbicides or pesticides. It shows, but it's a healthy place to live," Linda said.

July 4
Issue

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July 4
Issue

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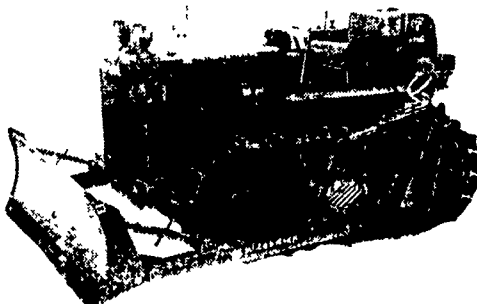
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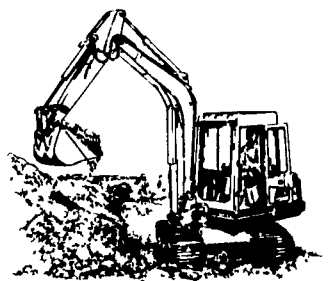


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