



The Atkinson Craft Resource Log House was the site for the Fall Fest held in the small village of Conestoga recently.



A new hemp cover is placed on the Conestoga wagon during the Fall Fest.

Conestoga Celebrates History With Fall Fest



A Civil War Encampment during the Fall Fest was enjoyed by the community.

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
CONESTOGA (Lancaster Co.)
— An 18th century log house in the town of Conestoga is proof of what a small town can do when the people work together.

Not only was the log house reconstructed but also it was completely furnished with donated authentic crafts from local craftspeople to show how people lived during the 18th century.

Named The Atkinson Craft Resource Log House, it sits adjacent to the Heritage Resource Museum. Local residents recently celebrated on site with a Fall Fest in gratitude for the community's tireless efforts in completion of the hall and log house.

The celebration included a Civil War Encampment and Ball, and local craftspeople portraying blacksmithing, spinning, and weaving.

As Kenneth Hoak, president of the Conestoga Area Historical Society (CAHS), explained how the log house was reconstructed after it was condemned by city officials, he talked about the purpose of the house and why it was erected by the Conestoga Area Historical Society, which includes Manor, Martic, Pequea, and Millersville townships.

The house was erected next to the Heritage Resource Museum, which tells the history of the area.

Almost everything that was accomplished by the Historical Society was done backward, according to Hoak. First, he said, the Historical Society was given a Conestoga wagon. But they had no place to exhibit it. The Society was then offered a tobacco shed for storage, but the property was soon sold and the wagon needed to be moved again.

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Buffalo Festival Includes Southwestern Artifacts

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
SCHELLESBURG (Bedford Co.) — When Ann Darrow married a buffalo farmer, she didn't know she was going to become a marketing expert.

Richard and Ann Darrow began raising buffalo 10 years ago, five years before moving to the spacious Falkland Farm in Bedford County.

Four years ago, the Darrows began marketing their own buffalo meat with a small shop located in the backyard of their spacious farmhouse. With four children, Ann found it very inconvenient to work away from home. However, manning the shop from her window was within the realm of reason.

Adding a wide array of southwestern gift items made both locally and on Navajo reservations, Ann found the shop to be an immediate success.

The idea of a Buffalo Festival held in conjunction with the local Fall Foliage Festival attended the first two weekends in October each year in nearby Bedford was Ann's.

"We get the overflow crowd from the thousands who attend the festival and a lot of people who are just driving by on Route 30," she says.

This year the event was the best ever with various activities and events. The Wills Mountain Renegades held a black powder reenactment. A storyteller from the Lancaster area wove tall tales while a dreamcatcher artist showed off the skills of her craft.

There was a huge teepee, owned by the Darrows, to be enjoyed by kids of any age.

Local craftspeople displayed various forms of art and baked goods while fall apples were in abundance at another stand.

Antique tractors from the

Darrow collection brought back memories to old timers and tum-tummies were filled with buffalo burgers or buffalo hot dogs.

If you were lucky, you just might win a buffalo hide or a skull to adorn a southwestern spot in your home.

"It's an event that just seems to keep growing," Ann says.

And, as the event grows, so grows her shop with most of her customers being travelers who are traversing Route 30.

"Most of them have never eaten buffalo meat or have only had a sample before," Ann explains. "However, they are aware that it is low in fat and cholesterol and no one has ever been known to have an allergy to buffalo meat."

"Once they stop, they are hooked and many drive back just to pick up more meat."

While the Darrows do some mail orders, they find shipping the frozen meat to be expensive. "We do ship jerky and we have no problem with the gift items," Ann adds.

During the holiday season, Mother's Day, Father's Day or other special events, Ann enjoys making up gift baskets, which include a variety of items from her shop.

She does little advertising locally but does do private mailings and advertises in gift guides.

"It's been a good way to market our meat," Ann emphasizes and agrees that it is a help to cut out the middle man.



Ann Darrow says the teepee is her favorite part of the Fall Festival, which they hold on their buffalo farm. Getting into the act, Ann dresses in Indian attire.

Homestead Notes