

Old Barn Finds New Home At Carroll County Farm Museum

KAREN BUTLER

Maryland Correspondent

WESTMINSTER, Md. — A barn once slated to be demolished has found a new home and a new lease on life, thanks in part to a Carroll County agricultural museum. The 19th century barn has been completely disassembled and is being rebuilt on site at the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster.

The barn survived its near-fatal brush with progress thanks to the involvement of a series of different groups of people who each in their own way have contributed to the edifice's new life. Each worked through different channels to make their own unique contribution to the barn's survival.

Originally erected around 1840 at a 93-acre farm owned by the Jacob Mearing family at the crossroads of Rt. 31 and Uniontown Road in Westminster, the barn is a typical 19th century bank barn. It measures roughly 42 by 60 feet, and originally sat on a fieldstone foundation. Fifteen posts support the barn downstairs, and up above there are the typical center open area with two mows and a hay fork track running the length of the barn. A lean-to had been attached to one end for equipment and crop storage.

In the 1970s the farm was subdivided, and several parcels, including a 45-acre piece containing the home and outbuildings, were acquired by Uniontown Road Associates, a real estate development group. Uniontown Road Associates is now developing the property into single family homes. After over a century of usefulness, the barn sat vacant awaiting demolition.

According to Jonathan Fink, of Uniontown Road Associates, there were some people in the community who expressed an interest in the historical aspects of the barn, and were reluctant to see the building torn down.

"There was some sentiment from a few people in the community that we should save it," said Fink. He said the development group was motivated to perform some type of goodwill gesture in the community. "When you come in and do a development, everybody has a varied interest in it. Normally a developer likes to make a goodwill gesture."

In the first of several steps on the road to preserving the structure, Uniontown Road Associates looked into the feasibility of donating the barn to a group that would maintain it as it had originally been used. Since the farmstead is actually within the city limits of Westminster, and is not on any historic register, there were no regulations prohibiting the developers from doing what they liked with the house and outbuildings. "There were basically no hoops to go through," said Fink. By contrast, the entire town of Uniontown, several miles away, is considered a historic district and his heavily regulated.

Fink approached the Carroll County Farm Museum, a local museum dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of the rural culture of Carroll County, about accepting the barn in a donation. Dottie Freeman, manager of the Farm Museum, explained that the Farm Museum, situated on 142 acres, is a living history museum that focuses on the agricultural heritage of the county. The collections of the museum include more

than 10,000 horse-drawn implements, many exhibit buildings including a farm home, barns, and a one-room schoolhouse, and a flower and herb garden.

The Museum serves more than 100,000 visitors each year. The Museum decided the barn would make a welcome addition to its exhibit area, and accepted the donation.

Once the decision was made to accept the barn, though, the logistics of actually disassembling and moving the massive structure had to be considered. To deal with the intricacies of the barn's tear-down and reconstruction, the Museum would have to rely on the expertise of a barn builder familiar with traditional construction techniques. That is how Henry Stoltzfus and his company, W.W. Builders, became involved.

W.W. Builders is a company out of Christiana, Pa. that specializes in barn repair and metal roofing work. John Crowl, a local farmer and special consultant to the Farm Museum board, knew Stoltzfus and approached him to see if he would undertake the job. Although Stoltzfus said this was more or less his first time doing a complete disassembly and reassembly of a barn, he agreed to take on the project.

The first step was to disassemble the barn. Each piece was painstakingly labeled to tell its position and each joint was given a number. Stoltzfus explained that the post and beam construction technique used when the barn was constructed is basically the same as new post and beam construction. Most of the time, he said, when we say post and beam, we actually mean mortise and tenon construction.

"You really appreciate what the original builders put into it," said Stoltzfus. He said there are four main frames running crossways in the barn. "When I go to number

the joints in the barn, and each joint gets a number, by the time I get to the opposite end of the barn, there's like 60 for each of the four frames. And someone made each

one." He explained that if a builder was off by an inch or so, none of the joints would meet up.

Overall, the deconstruction phase of the project went well. A

local company, Cox Steel, volunteered time and the use of their portable "roustabout" to help take the barn apart. The man-powered

(Turn to Page A37)

ZIMMERMAN

MFG. CORP.

125 King Court/
Hollander Rd.
New Holland, PA 17557
(717) 354-9611

Contact Us For
Literature Or
The Dealer
Nearest You!

WELL BALANCED, RUGGEDLY BUILT FOR MANY YEARS OF TROUBLE FREE SERVICE

380 SERIES
PORTABLE ELEVATORS

A Versatile Economical
Elevator For Bales
and Ear Corn



880 SERIES
BALE ELEVATOR AND
MOW CONVEYOR

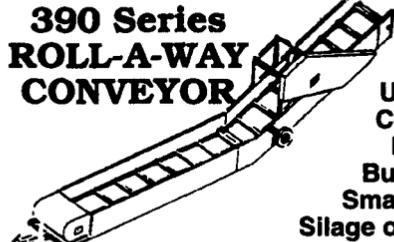


ZIMMERMAN HEAVY DUTY
HAY TEDDER - 790 SERIES



Increases hay crop
value with
faster drying
time...

390 Series
ROLL-A-WAY
CONVEYOR



Useful For
Conveying
Ear Corn,
Bulk Feeds,
Small Grains,
Silage or Manure

A Full Line Of
EFFICIENT BELT DRIVE FANS



Exhaust Fan
w/Housing & shutter
24", 30", 36", 48"



36" & 48" Portable
Circulating Fans

ZIMMERMAN CUSTOM BUILT UTILITY TRAILERS



RT SERIES



FRT SERIES

RT and FRT Series Trailers Available In 5000# thru 12,000# GVW
We Also Build Other Models, Sizes, and Capacities. Call For Information

Patz

The New Dimension in Chopping

The Extra Dimension in Chopping

One-Piece Quadra-Shark™ Rotor Blades

- Unique 4-point, reversible, serrated blade designed for chopping -- no bolt-on sickle blades.
- Blades are through-hardened 3/16-inch thick steel for longer life.
- Chops newspaper, hay, straw and other material.
- Easy and quick to reverse or replace blades.
- Hinged deck for easy access to blades.
- External bearings on rotor shaft.
- Choice of adjustable grates.
- Length-of-cut option.
- Unmatched serviceability.
- Convenient controls.
- Gasoline engine or electric motor.
- Patz Credit makes it affordable.

Contact us for a brochure or to see this chopper. Quadra-Shark™ is a trademark of Patz Sales, Inc.

Patz

Cedar Crest Equipment

608 Evergreen Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

717-270-6600 or 1-800-646-6601

Parts Outlet - RD 2 Box 271, East Earl, PA 17519

717-354-0584