

Lancaster Farming Antiques Center

167-Year-Old Homestead Houses Family Heirlooms



The front room of the Aurand homestead features a Victrola from the early 1900s, a reverse painting lamp on the left, and a Tiffany-style lamp, made in the 1890s, on the right that once belonged to Nancy's great grandmother.

GAIL STROCK

Mifflin Co. Correspondent
LEWISTOWN (Mifflin Co.)

— There's no better way to display and enjoy family heirlooms than in a house that's been in the family for 167 years. That's what Nancy Aurand of the Ellen Chapel area of Mifflin County loves about her house.

"This board-and-batten house was built around 1833. I remember my great grandfather living here, but until I moved here, the house was vacant since 1972. My dad is the only one of six generations not to have lived here," Nancy said.

Nancy's father, Lynn, took photos of the restoration process, starting with a photo of the weather-beaten vacant house surrounded by overgrown trees. Nancy describes the restoration process as she steps from the

new 28x28-foot kitchen and bedroom addition into the old part of the house.

"There's no plumbing in the old part. We rewired the electricity. The fireplace mantel had been exposed but the opening was covered. You could see the different ways the families had heated the house through the years. The cookstove, which is still here, was the main source of heat. Then there was terra cotta pipe put in at one time. Then a heater was installed in the front room." Nancy points to the exposed beams overhead.

"These are character holes," she said laughingly as she pointed to the nail holes. "We put on a new roof and reinforced the floor. The old part of the house was good structurally. Even the shutters were in place."

Nancy said the old basement features hand-hewn logs and a stove fireplace that was once painted pink!

Nancy uses the small summer kitchen to display a family Hoosier and her grandmother's gathering baskets for collecting eggs, her egg scale, and egg traveling case made of tin.

In the front room of the house, two chairs original to the house flank the now open fireplace. At the opposite end of the room stands her grandmother's floor-model Victrola, built around 1904.

On one wall hangs the framed marriage certificate of her grandparents (Betlyon). Upstairs in the old part of the house, Nancy uses one room to store childhood toys her mother, Dottie's, baby carriage, her own dollhouse, old dolls, the hutch her uncle built her, and her child-size set of china dishes.

In what was once her grandfather's bedroom, Nancy points to the linoleum on the floor and room-size pieces in several rooms that were found during remodeling. Nancy chose simply to clean and polish them. The brass bed in her grandfather's room once belonged to her



Nancy Aurand

mother's aunt.

"I call this my bee room," Nancy says about the next room. "There were always dead bees in here, even when our grandfather lived here. About 15 years ago, they put a bee box outside and that took care of the bees. So I decided to decorate in the bee motif."

Her father's childhood brass bed is along one wall while the dresser is covered with Nancy's aunt's hats and jewelry.

In the next room, Nancy points to her mother's grandfather's desk and some artifacts kept from the store/post office her great-great-grandfather operated across the road.

A huge double globe oil lamp from Nancy's Grandmother A (Aurand) sits on an antique wicker table that once belonged to her Grandmother B (Betlyon). On two walls in Nancy's bedroom hang two quilts from her Grandmother Betlyon.

Earlier last year, Nancy celebrated her finished house by hosting the Aurand family reunion. More than 100 people, some from Kansas, came to hear the 167-year history of the Henry Aurand family, (which included Issac who had 11 children and from whom all of the Ferguson Valley Aurands descend), and to tour Nancy's

(Turn to Page B24)

Display And Decorate With Collectibles



For a bold decorating statement, combine collections such as agateware with old tins and other treasured items. When artfully grouped together, the display adds eye appeal rather than pack rat disarray.

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)

— Maybe your collectibles aren't officially considered antiques, but the pieces are definitely treasured.

Ignore the age-old debate of what defines a true antique and boldly decorate with collectibles. Instead of timidly setting a piece here and there in your decorating scheme, group items together for dramatic effect and eye appeal.

Collectibles lend themselves to all decorating styles, from 18th century English to contemporary.

Cindy Wegaman of Exeter and Judy Kurtz of Denver have an eye for displaying items to their best advantage. In fact, they go into client's homes and arrange the home owner's collections.

Both Cindy's and Judy's homes contain collections interspersed among family heirlooms and handcrafted items. For them, there is always room for another flea market find.

"Don't seek perfection in every purchase," Judy's said. She believes the more primitive a piece looks, the better. Worn areas on wooden boxes, battered tin ware, and a dented milk pail recaptures a past era.

An old quilt with tattered areas can be folded to hide the worn area and stacked in an open cupboard for display. Or, a piece can be cut from a worn quilt and framed, turn into a cushion cover or used to dress a tea-stained muslin doll.

When attempting to capture a bygone era, Cindy said, "You don't need all old stuff. Put together things that you love."

Old wooden boxes, tinware, and agateware are some pieces that can mix well with newer

(Turn to Page B25)



Nancy Aurand uses the old cookstove to show off her grandmother's pie rack, ladles from the farm, a scale and bolt of twine from her grandfather's store, a nut grinder, square-handled liquid measure, and kerosene light.