

# Miraculous Mine Rescue Changes Everyday Life For Somerset Dairy Farmers

(Continued from Page A1)

ty, not only took care of her two small children but also tried to accommodate the rescue workers as much as possible with food and beverages and restrooms.

"It was an experience I'll never forget," remarked Lori, who has been married to Bill for the past eight years. The two met while Lori was working at Agway as a dairy nutritionist. Bill, a 1986 Penn State graduate, came in one day to Agway and learned that Lori was also a Penn State graduate.

The couple bought Dormel Farms, named after Bill's parents Dorcas and Melvin Arnold, from his parents in a purchase agreement, while the elder Arnolds retired from farming and built another home on the property. They have a New Zealand style swing-over parlor and use a rotational, seasonal management intensive grazing program. They own 135 acres and rent 300 acres.

The farm itself, located six miles north of Somerset, is listed on the Pennsylvania Historic Registry for historic homes. Absalom Casebeer was the earliest

settler known to the homestead, building his impressive two-story brick home in 1790.

John N. Casebeer, one of Absalom's eight children, inherited the farm. He and his wife Mary built the barn in 1837 and donated land for the construction of the Casebeer Lutheran Church in 1845. The nearby Christ Casebeer Lutheran Church was where the ceremony was held for the miners after their safe return.

Subsequent owners of the farm included A.J. Casebeer, who owned the farm from 1876-1883; Elias G. Bittner, from 1883 to 1906; and Elias' daughter and son-in-law Simon Baker acquired the farm in 1906. Clark Miller, a family relative, then purchased the farm for about 25 years before it was sold to the Moore family for a short time. Melvin and Dorcas Arnold, along with Melvin's father Albert, purchased the farm in April 1963.

Melvin and Dorcas, who have been retired from farming for a few years, have been quite active recently with the entourage of tourists who stop by the farm every day to see where the miners were pulled to safety and talk to

the Arnolds about their experience. The Arnolds have dedicated one of their garage buildings to receiving tourists. According to Bill, about 150 people stop daily. On weekends, that number usually goes up to about 1,500 tourists. The Arnolds charge a minimum tour fee for their time.

Each of the miners was paid by Disney for their rights to make a television movie of the story. The Arnolds are negotiating with Disney about using their farm as the location.

Many times, those who stop by the Flight 93 temporary memorial in Shanksville stop by the mine rescue site, too. The mine rescue was the second cause for international media attention in Somerset County within one year. Last Sept. 11, one of four airplanes crashed into an abandoned field, ironically a former mining site, near Shanksville after terrorists struck America in an unforgettable attack.

"People ask me, 'how do you feel now that your farm is a part of history?' and I tell them 'this farm has always been a part of history.' We are just fortunate

enough to be the caretakers during this phase of that history," said Bill. "There has been a high cost of human life on this soil in Somerset County when Flight 93 went down with Americans aboard. They sacrificed their lives

for us. This time the outcome was different and we in Somerset County and as Americans should be thankful."

The farm is located six miles north of Somerset on Rt. 601/985 to Haupt Road.



Bill Arnold of Lincoln Township, about six miles north of Somerset near Sipesville, stands by the spot where nine miners were pulled to safety after 77 hours of being trapped in a mine underneath the farm. Bill and his family give tours of the site to a continuous flow of tourists everyday.

## Trust Sets Picnic Sept. 21

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Looking for a unique and fun family outing? Come to Lancaster Farmland Trust's 11th Annual Old-Fashioned Farm Picnic Saturday, Sept. 21 from noon-5 p.m. at the farm of Lowell and Daphne Fry in Manheim.

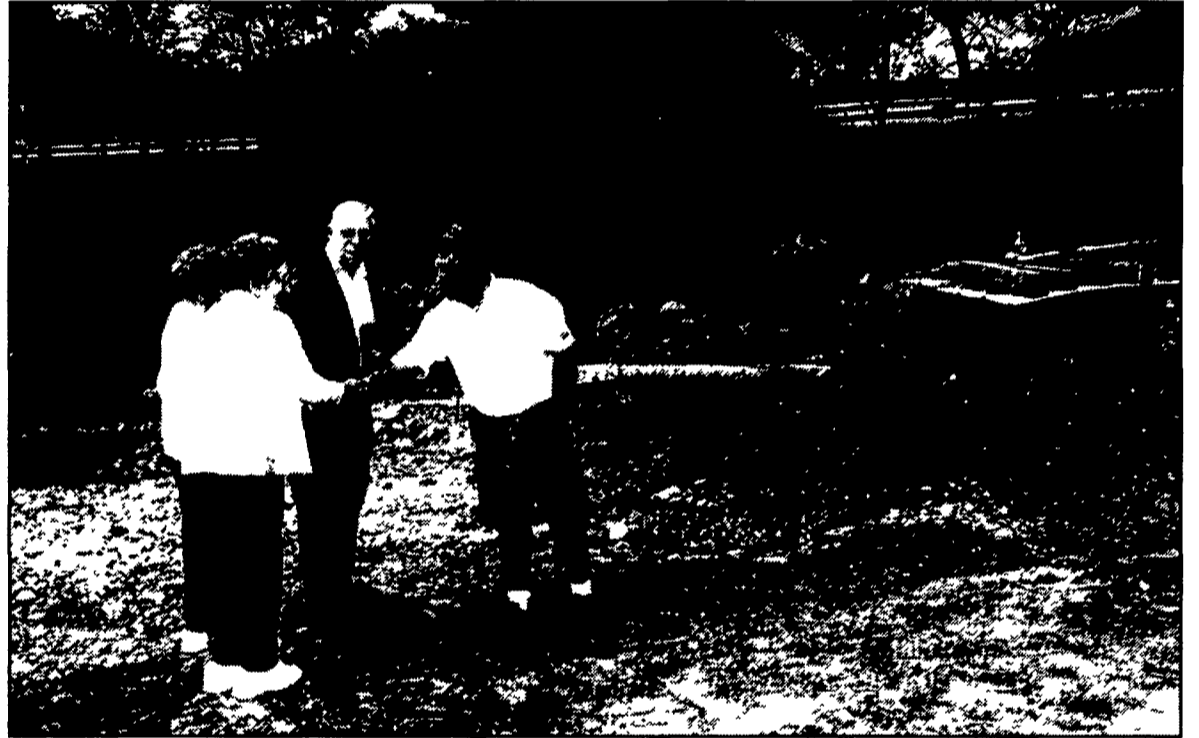
Fry is a farmer and ag lender for Fulton Bank. He serves as board secretary for Lancaster Farmland Trust. He and his wife are in the process of preserving their farm.

The picnic, sponsored by Turkey Hill Dairy, features wagon rides, a petting zoo, square dancing, face painting, games, and

more!

A lunch of roasted pork with all the trimmings will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by a baked apple pie contest and homemade ice cream (made on-site by Amish preserved farm owner).

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 6-11 (children 5 and under are free). To register call (717) 293-0707 or visit [www.savelancasterfarms.org](http://www.savelancasterfarms.org). All proceeds benefit Lancaster Farmland Trust, a nonprofit organization that has preserved 150 farms since 1988.



Here, Bill Arnold of Lincoln Township, right, shows people from Michigan who stopped by while traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike last week, where nine miners were pulled to safety after being trapped for 77 hours in an underground mine.

Lancaster Farming's Dairy Plus, an exclusive publication for large-scale producers, has an exciting lineup for the fall booklet, scheduled Sept. 21, the weekend of the Pennsylvania All-American.

Scheduled: a focus on housing with information about heifer housing improvements, the latest in milking parlor design, and large-scale housing.



## 2002 DENVER FAIR

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Monday, Sept. 9**  
 6:00 PM Rabbit Show

**Tuesday, Sept. 10**  
 6:00 PM Swine Show  
 6:30 PM Baked Goods Auction  
 7:00 PM Opening Ceremonies Featuring Nancy Martin  
 Miss Denver Fair Coronation  
 Sponsored by Country Lane Flowers of Denver  
 Buddy Night Ride Special  
 Two Rides For The Price Of One  
 Super Peanut Scramble

**Wednesday, Sept. 11**  
 6:00-10:00 PM  
 8:00 PM  
 9:00 AM  
 -3:00 PM  
 5:00 PM  
 7:00 PM

**Thursday, Sept. 12**  
 4:00 PM Sheep Show  
 6:00-10:00 PM Family Night Ride Special  
 "Ride All The Rides All Night For One Low Price"  
 WJTL FM 90.3 Family Night Entertainment  
 Featuring the "Kids Cookie Break"  
 Tug-Of-War Competition

**Friday, Sept. 13**  
 6:00 PM Beef & Swine Animal Auction  
 7:30-9:00 PM Free Entertainment Featuring "The John Bressler Show"

**Saturday, Sept. 14**  
 9:00 AM Pet Show Sponsored by Happy Tails  
 10:00 AM Bobby Parade  
 Sponsored by Sun Valley Landscaping Service  
 12:00 Noon Kids Pedal Power Pull  
 Sponsored by Adamstown Equipment  
 Saturday Matinee Ride Special  
 Ride All The Rides All Afternoon For One Low Price  
 2:00 PM Celebrity Hot Wing Eating Contest  
 Sponsored by Wild Wings of Ephrata  
 7:30 & 9:00 PM Free Entertainment Featuring Mudflaps  
 Old Time Rock n Roll  
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 10:00 PM Spectacular in the Sky" Fireworks Display

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