



"If you want to eat, you must go to work," Pam tells her animals and birds as she prepares to take her "zoo" to a party as entertainment.

Barnyard Inn Offers 'Stress Busters' — Animals

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ADAMSTOWN (Berks Co.) — The name Barnyard Inn Bed and Breakfast conjures up the image of a typical farm. But the barnyard of Pam and Jerry Pozniak is anything but ordinary.

Strutting around the fenced in area surrounding the barn is an Alexandrian Ringneck that looks like a parrot but is from a parakeet family. Forty unique animals are housed on the property. Included are a chinchilla, a hairless, skinny pig, a miniature possum, a miniature horse named Bibbs, miniature sheep, Buddy the alpaca, King the llama, and a featherless Turken chicken.

"I grew up not allowed to have even a dog," Pam said. "I started with owning one goat when we lived in Long Island, N.Y. Then I saw a llama that I just had to have. And, of course, you can't have just one llama, so I got two, and everything just sort of snowballed from there."

In order to support her growing animal population, Pam came up with the idea of transporting a petting zoo to private homes and events as part of party entertainment.

"I tell my animals that if they want to eat, they must go to work," Pam said. "I take my animals wherever they pay us."

Her concept of taking a petting zoo to parties became popular among New Yorkers looking for a novel party entertainment, and for awhile Pam was content. But Long Island was not quite country enough for the Pozniaks' liking.

Jerry didn't share her love for the animals. His passion as a restaurant chef was food — not animals.

"We decided my love for animals, Jerry's for food, and our shared love for people would make a great bed and breakfast concept," Pam said.

The Pozniaks looked at many different Pennsylvania sites as a possible place to establish a bed and breakfast.

Six years ago, when the Pozniaks peeked through the windows of an empty Adamstown house, they knew they had found their home. The rocky hillside in the rear of the property is perfect for grazing animals — although the

potbelly pig is known to occasionally roll down the hill.

It took the Pozniaks about one year to turn the property into a bed and breakfast. Jerry did most of the remodeling himself. Pam had the fun part — shopping the local antiques markets and sales for furnishings.

"When we purchased the property, we didn't know Adamstown was known as the antiques capital. But it's been so much fun searching the area that is so rich in antiques for the right items to furnish it," Pam said.

The large Victorian-decorated livingroom boasts some great finds: An elaborately-carved fireplace mantle, a pump organ that still works, an old barber chair, and several china closets are packed with a collection of Depression and Carnival glassware.

Each guest bedroom is named after an animal on the farm. The room's decorating theme is built around the animal it is named after. For example, the pig room is filled with "pig" collectibles. The cow room, sheep room, and llama room are filled with representative memorabilia.

It's difficult to believe that the farmhouse with an old-fashioned front porch is a former schoolhouse.

"When we purchased the property, we didn't know that. But some of our first guests were two brothers, more than 70 years of age, who had gone to school here. Their parents eventually purchased the property and turned it into a home.

"When they pointed out the original floorplan of the school, it helped me to understand some aspects of the house, such as why there was a spigot behind the family room sofa. Also the inside stairsteps are extremely wide and steep, just like those of other school steps from that era."

The Pozniaks added unique touches such as four doors tacked to the ceiling with molding trim to give it a custom-design appearance.

The animals provide never-ending entertainment for guests.

"I have a miniature possum that I tell people is a miniature hippo and they believe me," Pam said.

"Animals are stress busters," Pam said. Guests find great de-



Situated in the outskirts of Adamstown — the antiques capitol of the world — the Inn serves as home to the Pozniaks, their assortment of animals, and a place for guests. The old-fashioned porch stretches across the front of the inn beneath spreading shade trees. It's a place where guests can relax on the wooden porch swing or settle in the wicker sofa and chairs. The porch is decorated like an indoor room. In addition to the wicker set, the furnishings include an old school desk, school bell, plants, and wrought iron end tables.

light in sitting on the back balconies watching the animals.

It would seem that the name barnyard bed and breakfast would appeal to guests who like animals, but Jerry's culinary expertise is just as much influence on returning guests.

"We serve a good breakfast. Jerry creates original recipes, and every day's menu is different," Pam said.

Potato pancakes is one of Jerry's specialties.

The Pozniaks envisioned that their bed and breakfast duties would mainly be serving guests meals and providing a clean bed.

"But we found out that our guests like us to sit down with them and talk," Pam said. They have many repeat guests who also invite them to go to dinner with them.

Adult clients only are accepted in the house, but a carriage house on the property has rooms for families with children.

The Pozniaks said their biggest surprise in the bed and breakfast industry was finding out how much work it is. They hire help for cleaning and the care of the animals.

"At first we tried to do everything ourselves, but it was a 24-hour-a-day job and we didn't get to go anywhere. We learned to take some time off," Pam said.

She found out that it's better to allow laundry to accumulate and take it once a week to the laundromat where everything can be done at one time. It requires four hours — but because it's a once-a-week job, it's 'doable.'

"It's a real panic if a helper gets sick, and we need to cook two breakfasts, clean, take care of the animals — and squirt on some perfume — before the next guests come," Pam said.

In addition to the bed and breakfast, Pam continues taking her animal collection to parties. She takes what she calls a small zoo of 20 caged animals or the large zoo, which includes 30 large animals.

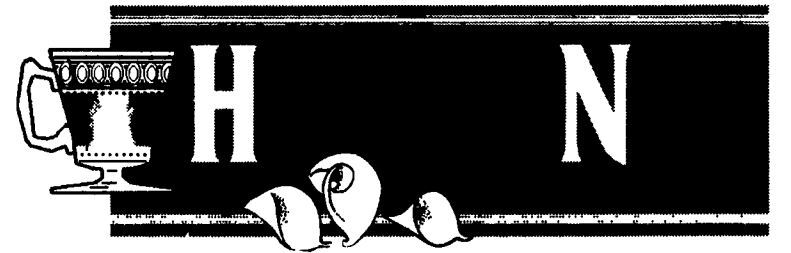
"We thought operating a bed and breakfast would be a great way to retire," Pam said. "Wrong!"

"It's so much work." Nonetheless, Pam said, "I don't miss New York, and neither do my animals."

For more information on the Barnyard Inn, call (888) 738-6624.



Guests are often gullible enough to believe that this miniature possum is a miniature hippo.



Guests can relax in the upstairs balcony that overlooks the barnyard and its assortment of animals.



The Denver Fair, Denver, offered elephant rides last week to the delight of children and adults.