



Bev Turner admits she's different. She lives in a 1920's farmhouse at Harveys Lake with no central heat. Until last year, she cooked on a coal stove. Today, she uses a 1935 gas stove and keeps her food cold in a 1920 refrigeration machine.

Bev Turner
FOCUS

By **DOTTY MARTIN**
Advertising Projects Writer

A former Junior Leaguer and member of the Westmoreland Club, Turner was into natural and health foods long before they were readily available. She once belonged to a food co-op, buying food from a warehouse in Binghamton, and distributing it among co-op members.

Turner, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, married Neil Turner just after receiving a degree in chemistry from Duke University and worked for a short while as a research chemist for the DuPont Corporation. When Neil wanted to return to Northeastern Pennsylvania, Turner spent 20

years as a stay-at-home mom, raising four children.

"I married a Yankee," Turner said, talking of Neil's work as a construction manager and admitting she has come to love the Wyoming Valley. "Because of a lack of work in my field and with a young baby, I chose to stay home and be a mom. And I had the privilege of doing that for 20 years."

Today, Turner is owner of Perennial Pointe in Plains, an old-fashioned, rustic-looking acre of land along the Susquehanna River where plant lovers can choose from more than 2,500 different kinds of perennials.

Having inherited her love of horticulture from her grandmother, in whose garden she used to plant and play, Turner said everyone in the south

has a garden.

"It's in my blood," she said, remembering the neighborhood gardens of her childhood and talking about her frequent trips to Atlanta to visit her mother and her best friend from high school who both still reside there.

Turner, who will celebrate her 60th birthday on New Year's Eve, got her start in the business 10 years ago by convincing her brother-in-law, Lee Turner, that his landscaping business needed a perennial section.

Turner took formal classes at Longwood Gardens and the Morris Arboretum, both in Philadelphia, and learned more and more about the plant business.

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