

The sun looms over Botsford Inn. The historical restaurant and Inn still attracts patrons from around the state.

The tradition continues

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Behind the old structure, the stable was recently converted into a banquet and reception hall for wedding parties and other large gatherings. The stable has actually been encased by the brick building in such a way as to preserve much of the atmosphere of the interior.

Free trunk sized beams hold up the rafters. The beamed roof is fully visible through a plateglass ceiling running the length of the old barn. Mammoth doors at each end are as they were when the hall was used for horses.

Outside, a three-foot-high stone wall, built to last forever, encloses the Clara Ford formal rose garden. Beyond it, owner Anhut has added an outdoor swimming pool for guests. There is also a private club membership open to community residents.

TWENTY YEARS ago, Anhut bought many items of furniture and decoration from Ford's Fairlane Estate and added them to his collection. It is an appropriate location for Ford's beautiful things to be displayed since he admired the old place for the nostalgic feelings it gave

him. A Swiss Stella music box, which plays large metal discs, was Ford's most valued possession.

In the grounds is displayed a wooden stagecoach with leather side curtains and iron tires. A melodium (small, foot-pump organ) and a delicate 1801 Nunns harpsichord, a collection of old bottles and mugs, as well as a hand-carved alabaster lamp and china and porcelain dishes are among the interesting and unusual attractions for those who stay at Botsford Inn.

One distinctive touch of Henry Ford is the Paneled Dining Room, done in white pine colored by corn cob smoke. Ford had seen the ham smoking process on his Georgia plantation and decided it could be adapted for the treatment of wood paneling. The idea worked remarkably well; the coloration is rich and the wood needs only to be rubbed occasionally.

Converting Botsford Inn for modern conveniences (heating, bathrooms, and air-conditioning) was not terribly difficult according to Anhut. "It was so typical of the kind of thing Henry Ford would do," he said.

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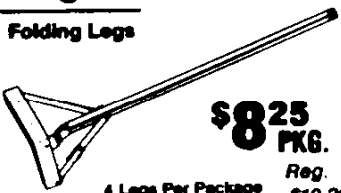
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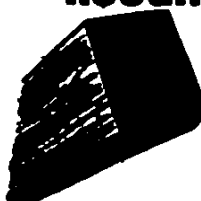
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