

Ford antiques at Botsford

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tracted the rougher types.

Henry Ford bought the inn in 1921 and restored it in the manner for which he has become famous. Ford had taken a fancy to the place to some extent because it played a part in courting his wife Clara.

A SUITE of rooms on the second floor was kept for his friend Thomas Edison for his use whenever he came to visit. The original beds and dresser, of gothic style in fumed white oak, used by Edison are retained in the rooms. The suite is available for occupants as are almost all of the inn's 62 rooms.

The John Anhuts, father and son, bought the handsome structure in 1951. They have since managed, maintained, modernized and added to the Botsford Inn. The West Wing extension was done in the same architectural style as the old inn, a modern banquet hall was an ingenious mix of old and new.

Enter the inn through the colonial doorway. The porch is lighted with an early lanthorn lamp. The door with its original brass locks and knobs is flanked on both sides by leaded glass panels.

In the tap room, now the entry hall, a collection of old machines and utensils is laid out on a table. Included are several types of coffee grinders, a cherry pitter, tobacco cutter, candle molds, iron trivet, bows and even a collar crimper.

Hanging on the walls are a stagecoach jack for changing broken wheels, several early tin lanterns, a copper hunting horn and 50 antlered deer head. Two flintlock muskets are on display, one is dated 1861, from the Civil War era. Glass display cases are crammed with jewelry, decorated silverware, glassware and bottles, nicknacks and sundry memorabilia.

FURNISHINGS in the inn are from many places. An old, heavy Chickering piano belonged to the sister of ill-fated Gen. George Armstrong Custer. A buffet is from the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. A writing desk in the entry hall is from the Springfield, Ill., home of Abraham Lincoln, and is dated from the time of his law studies.

Fascinating and beautiful objects abound in every room. Tables and sideboards of inlaid woods, a horse-hair sofa, four-poster beds, mahogany dressers, mirrors with heavy, carved frames all add to an air of rare charm and bygone originality.

One of two beautiful grandfather clocks looks freshly made, though it is 18th Century English. Another is a British-made 1875 clock from the hands of master Simon Willard, whose duplicated workshop is one of the feature buildings at Greenfield Village.

Willard was also the inventor of an ingenious rotisserie which can be seen in the tap room. The device was placed before a fireplace and coals were put into the bottom so that the meat could be cooked from two sides. The meat, hanging from a hook, could be turned slowly by a clock-spring mechanism for even roasting and then measured for shrinkage by a hand-held scale similar to the ones used by fishermen.

THE ORIGINAL kitchen has a fireplace of handmade bricks and a pair of massive andirons. It is equipped with a small baking oven for bread and pies.

Wide wainscoting, pegged floor planks, hewn rafters complete the traditional kitchen's appearance. A small section of the plastered wall has been left exposed to show the hand-split lathing which is part of the old structure. Woodenware and gourds, churn and scale are some of the old cooking utensils.

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