

Glenlaurel — A Scottish Inn That Is Open For Business

Now that tourists and local residents have had a full day of hiking, exploring and shopping and find themselves exhausted and are looking for an exquisite lodging experience — they may want to stay at the newly opened and dedicated Scottish country Inn called Glenlaurel located at 15042 Mt. Olive Rd., Rockbridge.

The facility is owned and operated by Michael Daniels who relocated to Hocking County from Columbus.

He explained, "I knew exactly what I wanted to build and I just had to find the perfect place to do it.

"Before inspecting this acreage, I was also looking at property in Breckenridge, Colorado — but I was captivated by the gorge area located on the property."

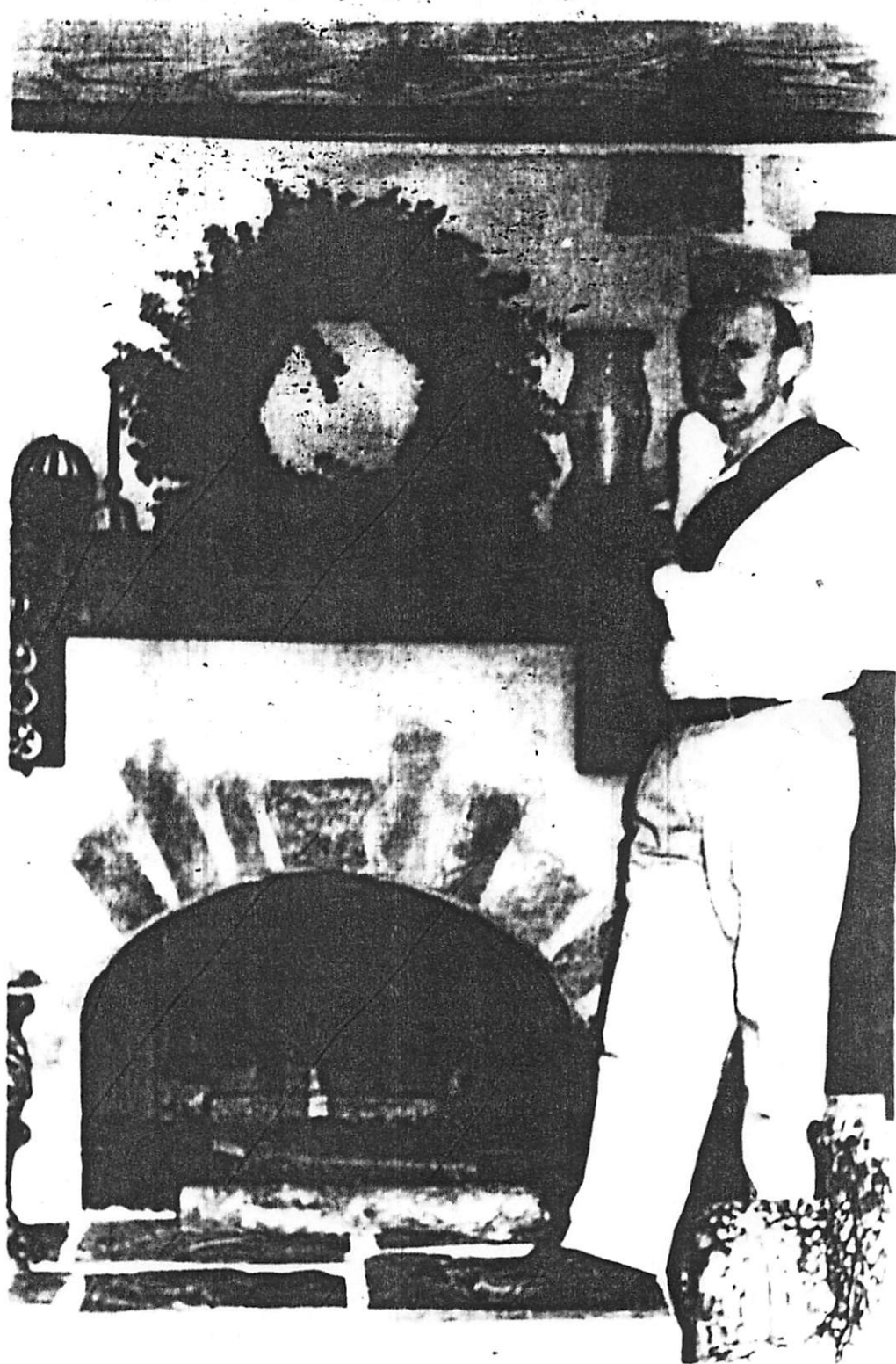
Daniels added, "The cliffs and waterfalls are a short ten minute hike from the lodging facility and the awesome sight is well worth the walk."

The innkeeper noted that being of Scottish descent, there is a phrase in Scotland that is pronounced 'Camusfearna' which means that it is the will-of-the-wisp that I have followed here. "When I first saw the gorge — that is the term that immediately popped into my head and I knew from that point on that this location was what I had been searching for. In fact, that is the name that I have given to the gorge area."

He said, "When the architect began to capture the vision of my description of the dwelling that I wanted to construct — he became convinced that I had lived in this house before — maybe 300 years before — somewhere deep in the Scottish highlands."

And so begins the story of Glenlaurel — a playground for dreamers, a hideaway for romantics and a resting place for the weary.

When asked how the Inn was named he revealed, "The word 'glen' refers to a secluded valley so I com-



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When asked how the Inn was named he revealed, "The word 'glen' refers to a secluded valley so I combined it with the term 'laurel' because my property is located in Laurel Township."

Visitors will find a beautifully decorated and landscaped home that is open to guests for their comfort.

The Manor House offers three bedrooms, each with private bathrooms that feature whirlpool bathtubs and shower facilities.

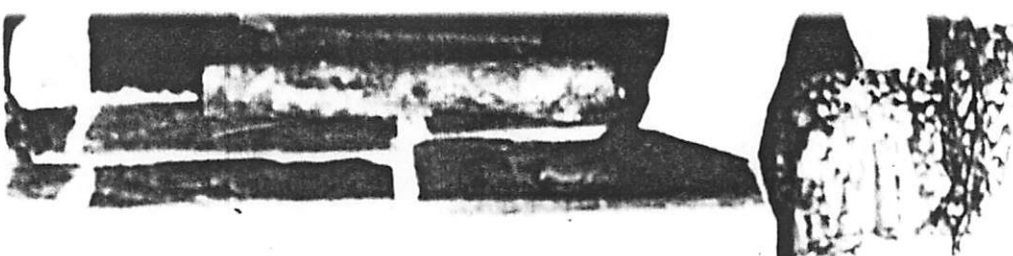
In addition, a private nearby Carriage House is complete with two bedrooms, and an adjoining sitting or reading room is available for rental.

One of the bedrooms in the main house is labeled as the bridal suite. The room features a bed accented with drapes at two corners, an old-fashioned fainting couch and a wood burning stove.

The eight stone fireplaces scattered throughout the Manor House and its guest rooms add sparkle and a touch of coziness to the dwelling.

Michael stressed, "I want to open my home to my guests with open arms. When they leave here they will no longer be strangers — they will be my friends."

A mantle that decorates the wall in the dining area greets visitors as



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they enter the front door. The phrase "How can I warm thee — if thy heart be cold" is carved in the mantle which expresses Michael's sentiment.

"My goal is to make everyone who enters here feel welcome and comfortable. I want them to be part of the dinner conversation or if they feel like curling up on the sofa after dinner with a good book, or to take a leisurely stroll to the gorge — then I want them to do so."

Currently, the facility houses a dining area with brunch being offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays, by reservation only. Guests may eat in the dining room or dine on one of the lovely designed decks that surround the home.

The Innkeeper plans to expand the dwelling's dining area, providing additional space which will be utilized as a restaurant that will be open to the public on a regular basis.

He commented, "I think we have a perfect place for a wedding and reception in the courtyard and we can accommodate both the wedding couple and bridal party at the same location."

He added, "My ultimate dream is to construct a stone chapel that overlooks the gorge area for marriage ceremonies. It would certainly have the beginnings of a marriage

made in heaven in that magical setting."

Daniels advised, "I take that back — that is not just a dream; that is my goal before I am totally finished with the plans for Glenlaurel."

The facility also has a pub with guests invited to bring their own spirits and a conference room that can accommodate 30 persons.

Daniels has a staff of five employees who must be versatile enough to perform each other's jobs if necessary, and he requires that the staff of personnel have a good working relationship.

He admitted, "As an employer, before I actually hire an individual I have them come to the residence to work for several days to see if that person is compatible with the other staff members. Dissention among staff members can cause uncomfortable feelings among my guests — I will do everything in my power to prevent that from happening."

The Innkeeper also noted that 85 percent of the work involved in constructing the facility included local contractors and materials. Without the dedicated efforts of many individuals — this project could not have become reality.

Daniels grew up in southern Ohio and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in communications. He served as a professor at Ohio University for several years and has been employed by Warner Cable and Communications in Columbus for the past 10 years.

He became familiar with the Hocking Hills area because of his association with Athens and Columbus.

He concluded, "This is the ideal location — just one hour from Columbus to paradise."

To make a reservation or to inquire about the facility, contact Daniels at 385-4070.

Farm Scene

By MARGARET SCHERF
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fresh fruit exports are ripe with potential, says USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

"U.S. fresh fruit exports dropped slightly in 1993 but remained near 1992's record level and markets are expected to grow with continued trade liberalization, rising incomes

this month's AgExporter magazine.

The leading U.S. fruit exports in terms of value are apples, oranges, grapefruit, grapes, cherries and lemons.

Canada and Mexico accounted for more than 40 percent of U.S. fruit export value, the report said.

Canada is the largest U.S. market for grapes, strawberries, peaches and pears, and it is among the top