



GREAT AUNT HARRIET (above) keeps a stern eye on the upstairs landing with its curved railing.

WHITE GEORGIAN home of Bob and Mary Merry (left) has the original stone house in rear.

Merrybrook farm

Stately Georgian home in Hollywood setting

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOYCE BEATON

The stately white brick Georgian home of Bob and Mary Merry overlooks 400 acres of rich rolling farmland at the corner of Five Sideroad and Fourth Line in Esquesing. The approach to Merrybrook Farms is straight from a Hollywood movie with what seems like miles of white board fencing and a long treed lane.

The expansive front lawn rolls down to two man-made ponds at the front of the house where, appropriately enough, white geese swim. Even the barn is white. The barn roof holds a round louvered cupola, perhaps a belfry at one time, topped with a weather vane.

Closer inspection reveals rustic snake fencing inside the white boards and an old stone house attached to the impressive main building. This is the original homestead built sometime after 1817 by Robert Murray. The crown deed was changed to the Murray name in 1852, the large addition probably built around 1890. Mrs. Stewart Murray of Martin St. Milton came to the house as a bride in 1922. It has changed hands four times since she and her husband left in 1928 and was bought by Harland Merry in 1954.

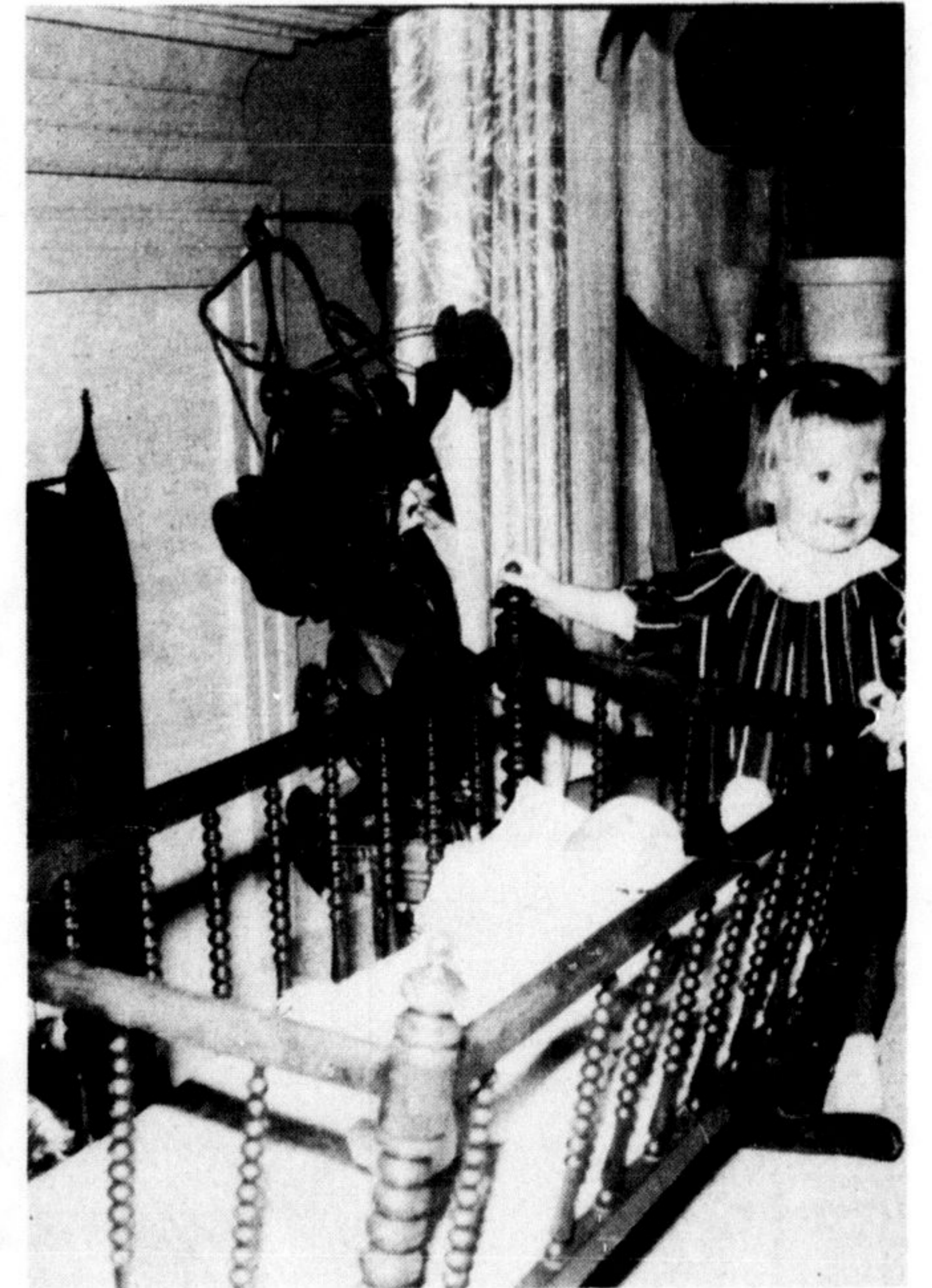
are members of Boston Presbyterian Church.

The combined houses have a total of 11 rooms and three bathrooms. The Georgian front is typical with its wide centre hall, living room to the right, dining room to the left and kitchen behind. The stairway rests at a small landing and continues its curved railing to the three bedrooms and bath on the second floor.

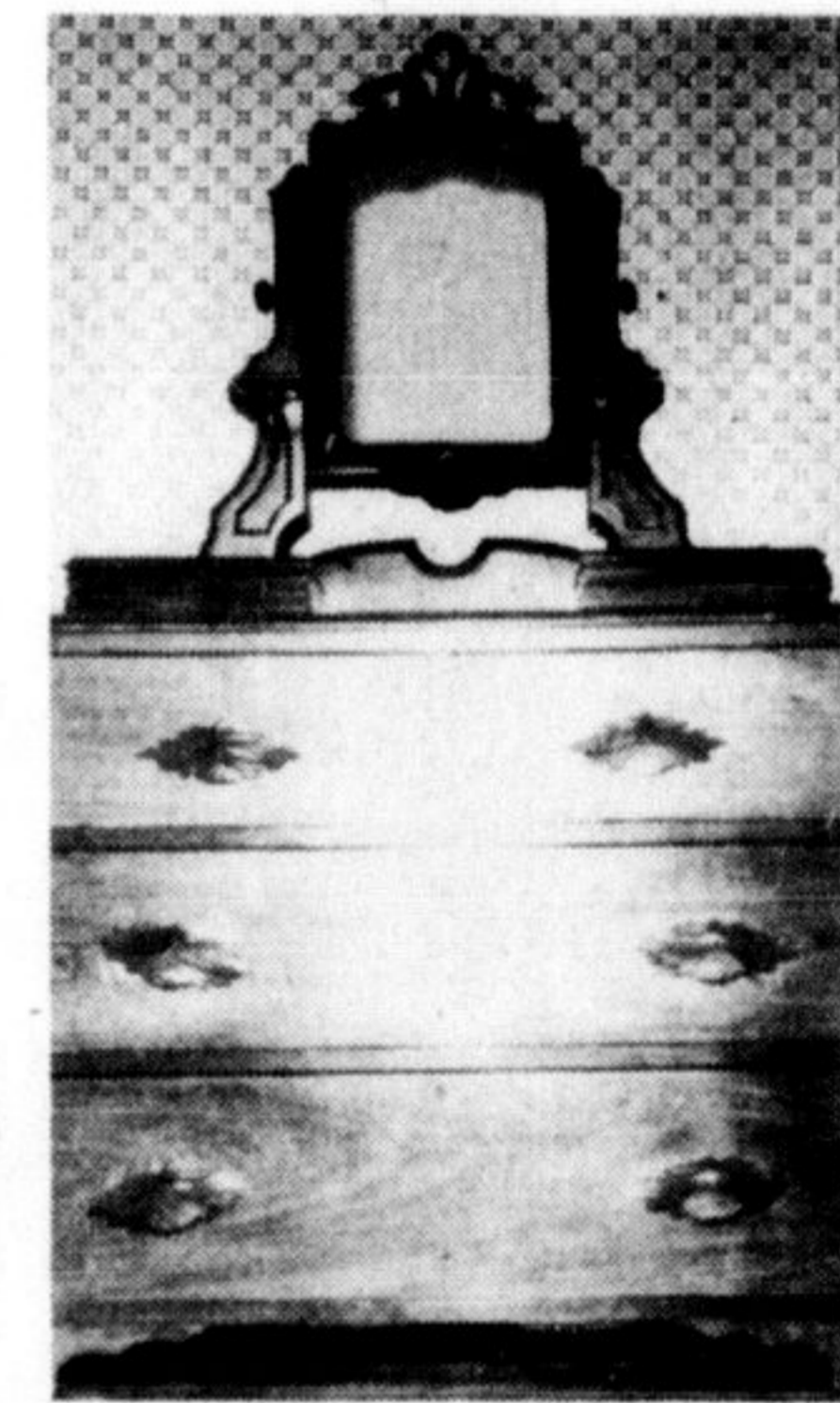
The stone portion of the house is panelled downstairs and divided into an office and family room. At one time it was the kitchen and dining room of the house. Upstairs, entered now by the main body of the house, there are two bedrooms and a bath.

The pine walls and beamed ceiling of the family room are a perfect setting for the Merry collection of nostalgia. Reminders of the past include an old gun collection, wooden rake, flail, oil lamps, spinning wheel, hand-made fork.

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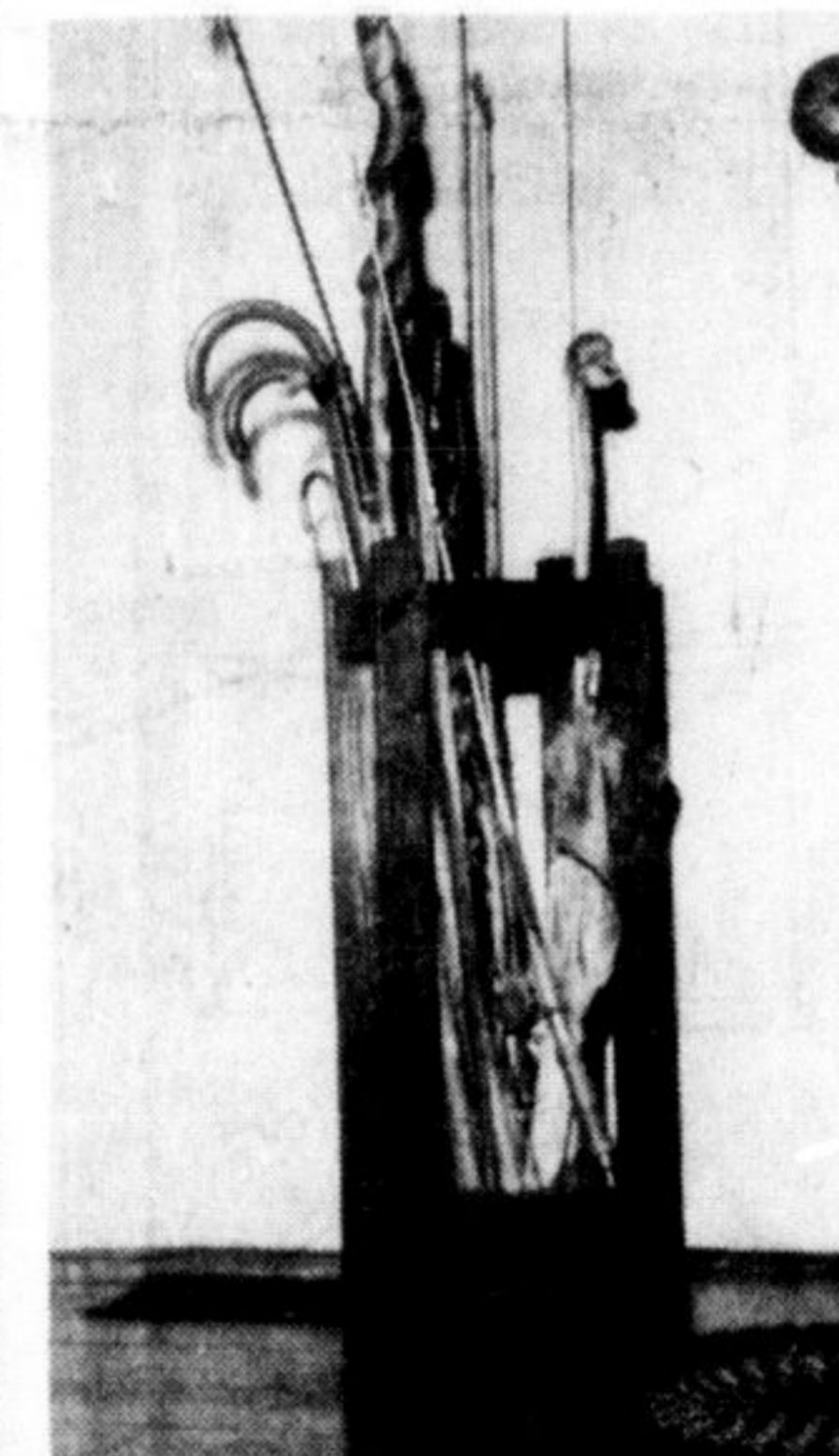
JULIA ROCKS BETSY in an old spool cradle still very much in style in the living room of the beautiful old farmhouse.



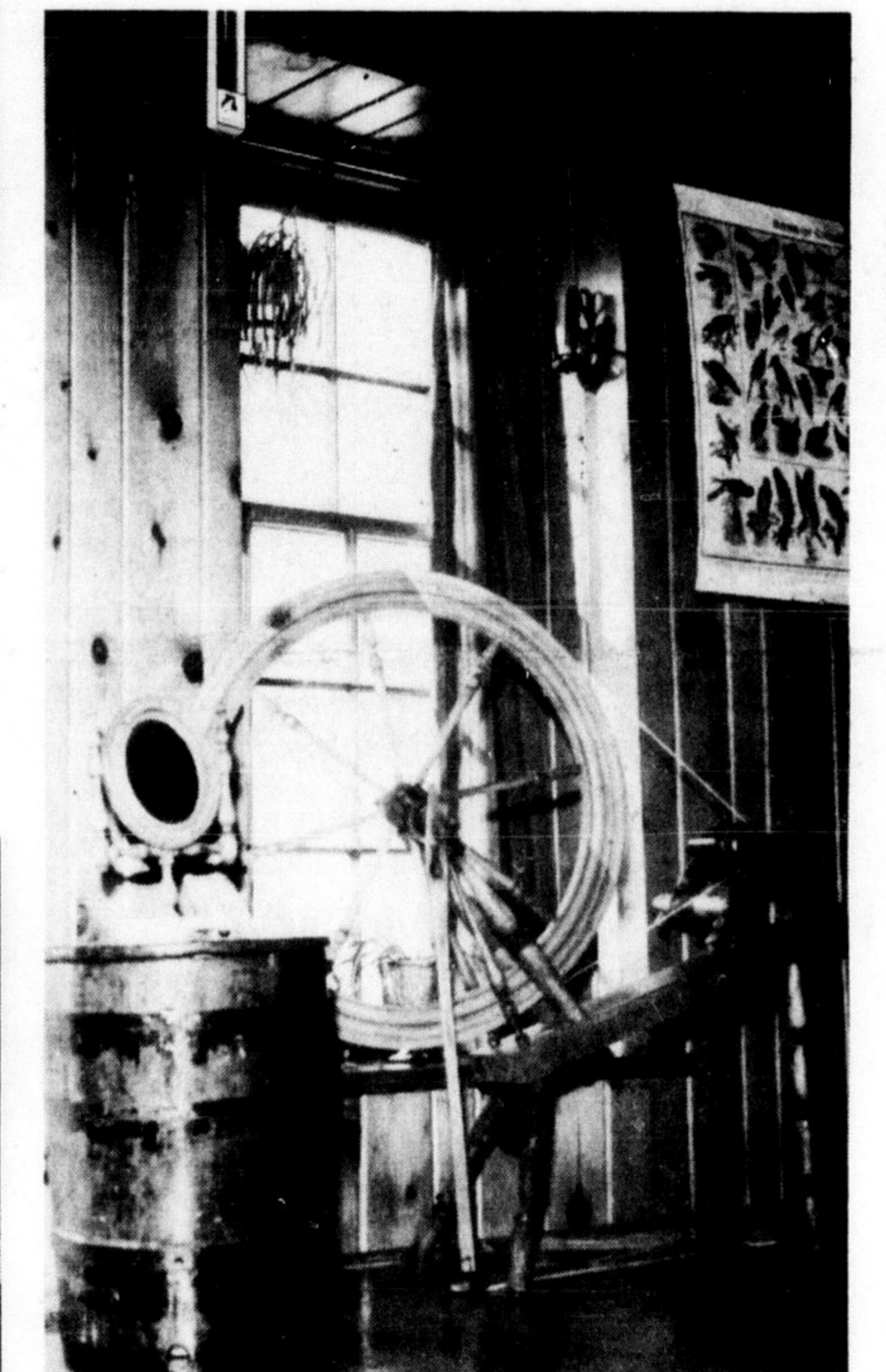
In the family Bob Merry has lived most of his life on the farm. His father died in 1960 leaving the farm to his mother who ran it until her death in 1967. At that time Bob purchased the farm from the family estate. In 1969 he and Mary married and are happily raising up their two daughters, year and a half old Betsy, in the most ideal conditions.

Bob is a full-time farmer raising Shorthorn cattle, pigs, and cash crops. An active community worker, he is second vice-president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture and a leader in 4-H and Cub work. He and Mary

CHESTS OF drawers in the old Merry house are hand-made and most unusual. Above the Sheraton tradition is evident in the attached swing mirror. Below, the age of the furniture can be determined by the hanging knobs used frequently in the mid 19th century.



UMBRELLA STAND in the front hall holds many unusual walking canes as well as fishing poles in readiness. Wide pine floors can be seen.



BRIGHT DEEP WINDOW in the family room is a perfect setting for the spinning wheel, butter churn, and old shaving mirror.



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FAMILY ROOM gets plenty of use by Bob and Mary and their two daughters. Julia enjoys her old rocker as Mary feeds baby Betsy. There is a fine collection of horse brass on the mantel front. Bob's father, Harland Merry, is shown in the portrait.