

More than 80,000 lights illuminate hundreds of displays on over 4 acres.

**60,000 OR MORE PEOPLE VISIT
THE ONE-OF-A-KIND DISPLAY EACH YEAR**

Thousands Thrilled By Farm's X-Mas Display

"We started in the 50's with a few lighted characters and it just continued to grow," says Paul Mullins, Ingraham, Ill., about his family's incredible Christmas display that now consists of more than 80,000 lights and hundreds of displays covering over 4 acres.

Each year the Mullins kept adding to the display until in 1970 they decided to invite the public to visit. The first year they had 3,500 visitors. Now they welcome over 60,000 visitors a year and they continue to expand the display, which now takes more than 650 man hours to set up.

They start setting up the display at the end of October and open to the public the day after Thanksgiving, continuing until the first weekend after Christmas. They're open from dusk to 10 p.m.

Silos, barns, windmills and other structures are outlined with lights and just about every Christmas theme is shown somewhere on the farm. Elves work outside Santa's Workshop. A near life-sized nativity scene sets in a field with a 3-dimensional Bethlehem on the horizon. Reindeer pull Santa's sleigh at one end of the display, and at the other a one-horse open sleigh is ready to go dashing through the snow.

The barnyard is a 3-ring circus of fun with dancing ballerinas and prancing horses. The Statue of Liberty proudly surveys the

show. A more modern Santa is ready to take off on deliveries in a huge red airplane. Dozens of cartoon characters seem frozen in play on a Disneyland stage lit by floodlights and huge stuffed animals endlessly ride a large model train and a running ferris wheel. Everything is outlined in lights.

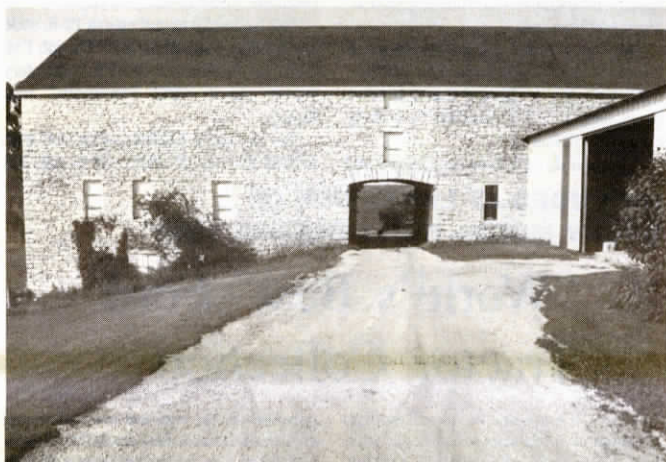
To power the display, the local power company set up 4 extra transformers along the road by the farm. Paul Mullins won't say how much it costs to operate the display each year but they did decide last year for the first time to ask for a \$1 a head donation to help cover costs. They also sell popcorn and souvenirs to guests who warm themselves by a huge bonfire while they admire the display. Mullins says he plans to use any money made above and beyond the cost of operating the display to buy more displays and lights to improve the display even further. Last year they improved access to the display by building a parking lot across the road from the farm.

Visitors from 40 states and 16 foreign countries have stopped by to visit. "Some world travelers have told us they've never seen anything like it anywhere in the world," says Mullins.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Mullins, Rt. 1, Box 33, Ingraham, Ill. 62434 (ph 618 752-2460).

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To get to Gary and Debby Anderson's farm yard, you have to drive through this 100-year-old stone barn.

BUILT BY ORIGINAL SETTLER IN THE 1800'S

Their Driveway Runs Through Old Stone Barn

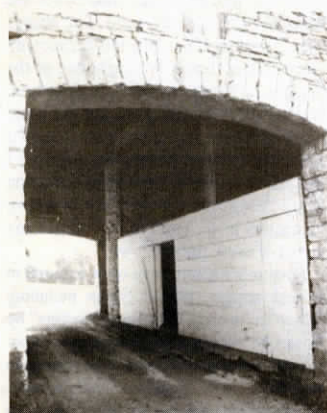
If you ever visit Gary and Debby Anderson, near Chatfield, Minn., you'll have to drive through one of their barns to get to their house.

The old stone barn is a local landmark that was built in the late 1880's from quarried limestone. It's 100 ft. long and 40 ft. high on the south end. The north end is built into the side of a hill and has a ramp doorway. A 12-ft. dia. round stone silo stands inside the barn next to the driveway.

"It was built over a 22-year span by Thomas Ferguson who moved here in 1871. He lived in a log home at first and was hired by the county to build a lot of bridges and school houses, and even a church. He also built houses and stone barn foundations for neighbors who finished the barns off with wood," says Debby.

"Ferguson built the barn in two sections. The two-story north half and house was constructed first. The south half is three stories high and was completed in 1912, according to a date stone on the barn.

"Ferguson laid every stone in the barn himself and added a simple gable roof. He died in 1927. The 2-story house was never



Passageway through barn is walled off. A 12-ft. dia. silo still stands inside barn.

finished. The limestone was quarried in Iowa and shipped by train to Chatfield."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Debby Anderson, Rt. 1, Box 152, Chatfield, Minn. 55923.



Human Tractor Pulls Catching On Fast

Last year FARM SHOW featured the first "human tractor pull" held at a Chatham, Ill., festival (Vol. 15, No. 6). The contest pits men against machine - a team of pullers tows a tractor over a 100-yard course, competing against other teams for the quickest time.

Joe Marley, Nokomis, Ill., picked up on the idea and staged an "International" tractor pull last summer with teams of men pulling an International M.

On July 12, five men's teams pulled. The women watching said they'd like to compete, too, so three teams of five women each were organized to pull over the same 100-yard course, which was set up on a city street.

Marley says it was a very popular event and that other nearby communities have also picked up on the idea.

He says the most important thing to remember is to use enough rope to keep the event safe so that if anyone falls down, the tractor "driver" will have plenty of room to stop the tractor.