

Making a Living

Most people in the community make their living from farming. Many fish as well, and a few of their neighbours work in the Michelin Tire plant in New Glasgow, thirty miles away.

Don finds that, "Things cost quite a bit up here, but living on a farm we don't need as much."

A skilled contractor and carpenter, Don has not had much trouble finding jobs. He works about five months out of the year, just enough to make ends meet, and spends the rest of his time working on the farm.

He belongs to a "loosely-knit co-operative" in which people trade work—no money changes hands and they don't really keep track of the hours. He helps his neighbours with hay, cattle and grain, and gets help with his pigs. The neighbours pitched in when he was building his house.

Adjusting

Patty describes the land as "beautiful, like Scotland—tight valleys with rolling hills," but she finds that, "Life on a farm is a lot harder than we thought it would be. It's not idyllic." When they first visited the farm in the summer, while living in Washington, they enjoyed taking long walks, but since they moved they haven't had time. She and Don had a "Whole Earth Catalogue" image of living on a farm—baking bread, making soap, sitting by the fire—but she admits that it was very unrealistic. The animals take up a lot of time, and the summers are so short that there is an intense period of trying to get all the work done in a limited amount of time.

"You become less pure and buy an automatic washing machine. You take what you want from

modern technology and leave the rest behind."

For Don the hardest aspect was the move itself—picking up and moving a family from the city to an isolated farm. He also found the friendliness of people a little disconcerting at first; it was a change from Washington, where people more or less keep to themselves. "It's a different scene altogether up here."

People

Don: "We have good neighbours, that's for sure, very friendly. You don't meet many 'ornery' people up here."

Patty: "We know our neighbours very well and depend on them—for help in the summer and to pass the time during the long winter. Everything is an event here because you don't have the automatic social contacts you would in a city. People make efforts to see one another. When we have a party, people of all ages come."

"The area is very Scottish and very traditional—they take tea in the afternoon—and a few of the older people think we are doing some weird things." Patty works in the barn with Don, although traditionally women in Scotsburn don't do that—"if you have a good man, you shouldn't have to." People are not used to eating raw vegetables, and the Hawken's fondness for salads is considered a bit strange.

Patty: "They just roll their eyes and say 'that's kind of different' but accept what we do. We are very well accepted—everyone is very kind."

Their next-door-neighbour, Lloyd MacIntosh, a sixty-three-year-old bachelor, is daughter Emily's godfather.

This is Home

Patty and Don are very enthusiastic about their new life. Don appreciates having time to spend with his children.

Don: "If we had searched around for years and years, I don't think we could have found a better place for us. The move was not well thought out or planned but it has worked out very well. This is home. Things may change, but right now I don't want to ever leave."

Patty: "We feel very safe up here. We don't regret it at all—oh no, not at all!"

