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keys, hippos, rhinos, ibexes, meerkats, macaws, and toucans.

One of the larger pieces is the llama, which we have had up near the iris field for a couple of years. We call her Dolly. We plan to keep Dolly, but now Dolly has a mate ("Ollie"?), so we do have one to sell. Actually, for all we

know, Ollie is a Holly.

It is clear that Bob has put a lot of study and thought into each of his creations. He has captured the essence of each animal, complete with facial expressions in many cases. We hope that you will enjoy his delightful menagerie as much as we do.

For Your Dining Pleasure

People are always asking us about good places to eat in this area. We are happy to tell you about two places that have opened in the last year. Both have great food and excellent atmosphere, along with a full bar.

The first is Dillon's Dinner and Drinks, located on U.S. Route 6, just a few miles east of I-180, near the little town of Hollowayville. Chef Scott Zelenik and his wife, Jodee, own and operate the restaurant. They are open Tuesday through Sunday, starting at

4:00 P.M. The phone is 815 894-3000. Dillon's is only around seven miles away from our gardens.

Further east, in the city of Peru, is Mark Allen's American Kitchen, located at 1402 Peoria St., a few blocks north of Peru's downtown business district. Mark Allen's wife, Ann, is a Princeton native, and they own and operate the restaurant. They are open for lunch Tuesday through Friday, and for dinner Tuesday through Saturday. The phone is 815 220-0642.



Benches For Your Bottoms

Every garden needs a bench so that your friend, who just dropped by, will have a place to sit and watch while you work in your garden. And we have a whole bunch of granite benches this year, including several new designs that will look great in your garden. They are all lined up along the parking lot for easy loading.



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The Art Of Robert Cumpston

We are pleased to have a whole new batch of Robert Cumpston's metal sculptures. Bob refers to his works as 'Sculpture from the Farm'. The farmers among you will recognize various mechanical parts being used in many of the animals that Bob has sculpted. Bob, himself, retired from farming several years ago, at which point he concentrated on creating his metal animals.

Several are farm animals, including pigs, cows, bulls, roosters, hens, chicks, and ducks. But there are many more, such as squirrels, foxes, rabbits, dogs, coyotes, armadillos, herons, pheasants, road runners, owls, ravens, pigeons, and gulls. There are turtles made from army helmets.

Some of the animals are not native to the U.S. They include penguins, mon-

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March of the Penguins

Iris Season Right On Time?

Mother Nature is keeping us guessing. Early warm weather pointed to an early iris season, but then that cold snap slowed everything down. It now appears that the iris bloom will be at its normal time. Several of the Standard Dwarf Bearded varieties were blooming during the last week of April. This would indicate that the peak of the

bloom for the Tall Bearded varieties will be during the last half of May, as usual.

Please note that we will be closed on Sundays, even during the peak of the iris season. However, we will be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29.

For those of you who have never purchased irises from us, a short explanation is in order. We take orders for the irises here in the spring. Customers walk through the field during bloom time and select the varieties they wish to order. The orders are placed and paid for now, and we dig the orders in July, usually a few days after July 4. We can ship the iris rhizomes to you, or you can pick them up. Most of our customers pick up their orders in July so that they can see the daylily field blooming at that time.

Open House June 7, 8, And 9

Our Annual Open House and Hosta Walk will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 7, 8, and 9.

We hold the Open House during the second weekend of June because, by then, the hostas are opened up and looking great, and all of the display gardens are in great shape, as well.

We will have a good list of specially priced items for the Open House, including hostas, perennials, trees and shrubs, and gift items. We will try to get the list posted on our website a day or so before the Open House starts.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



We accept

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