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## A little R&R

### Couple houses guests at Zane Trace Inn in Somerset

By *HOLLY RICHARDS*  
*Staff Writer*

SOMERSET - "It's my sister's fault."

Sitting in an ergonomic chair in the cropping room, Christi Eyerman said this with a smile as she explained how local craft getaways came to be.

A few years ago, Christi and her husband Ken started thinking of ways to enter the hospitality business, specifically agritourism. They didn't know how to get started, but after Christi's sister took her to a scrapbooking retreat near Columbus, the big idea hit.

Just as the Eyermans began their search for prospective properties to create a bed and breakfast-like inn for scrapbookers, they stumbled on a spacious 19th century home just feet from Somerset's town square.

After closing on the home, located at 129 W. Main St. just two doors down from the Clay Haus restaurant, the Eyermans embarked on a total renovation project on the 200-year-old building. Ken likened the experience to many scenes in the 1986 comedy "The Money Pit." Four months and countless hours of work later, the Zane Trace Inn opened on Oct. 5, 2006.

For women hoping to enjoy a relaxing weekend while working on crafts or just kicking back, they need only look to the large white brick building with a purple door.

"Our slogan is no men, no kids, no laundry, no problem," Ken said. "We intended to open it for scrapbooking, but it's more than that. It's a women's retreat - a women's golf trip."

Ladies won't have to worry about a thing as a weekend getaway includes five meals and care from several of the Inn's 13-member staff.

The warmly decorated inn features an indoor spa, a spacious kitchen and dining room, as well as a large, state-of-the-art cropping room. Complete with comfortable ergonomic chairs, overhead no-shadow light vents, computer, high-speed Internet and color printer, the cropping room provides a relaxing work environment for scrapbookers, quilters, beaders, and other craft-makers.

With the Hometown Crafts and Scrapbooking shop right next door, the ladies can purchase essentials they need or may have forgotten to bring with them.

Directly beneath the cropping room is the activity or relaxation room with comfortable couches and chairs, flat screen TV and exercise equipment. The back wall is actually the home's original sandstone wall that Ken said "adds character to the room."

The inn's second floor features three bedrooms - the purple and yellow rooms that both sleep three people, and the green room that sleeps six.

With a focus on art and crafts, many walls are adorned with original paintings and area scenery by local artist Joy Alcalde.

Ken and Christi said they found themselves so busy with the inn, they often had to turn away business. Then they decided to open up a second venue, transforming their own home to fulfill their dream.

The Craft Farm, located about five miles away from town on Ohio 669, offers identical amenities as the inn, accommodating 10 people. This transformation only took 35 days, and it opened almost two years to the day of the inn in early October last year.

One Craft Farm feature the Inn lacks is sprawling outdoor scenery. Patrons can sit in rocking chairs on the front porch overlooking the Perry State Forest, or relax on the back deck next to an outdoor fire place to take in nature.

"We thought there was a need for it," Ken said. "It's out in the country and it's got a different feel. Since January, we've been booked every weekend."

Women have traveled not only from Ohio, but from numerous states across the country to visit the inn and farm.

This venture into the hospitality business has become a welcomed way of life for the Eyermans.

"We've embraced that it's 24/7," Ken said. "I enjoy all the different people. Some women have been here seven times; they're not only our clients, they become our friends."

Christi has also bonded with many of the women by sharing her experiences as a special education teacher at Junction City Elementary School.

"It's rewarding and fulfilling on so many levels," she said. "We're helping women relax, kick back and just have fun."

## Additional Facts

### BOOK YOUR RETREAT

For more information about Zane Trace Inn and the Craft Farm, visit [www.zanetraceinn.com](http://www.zanetraceinn.com) or call 740-743-9230.

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