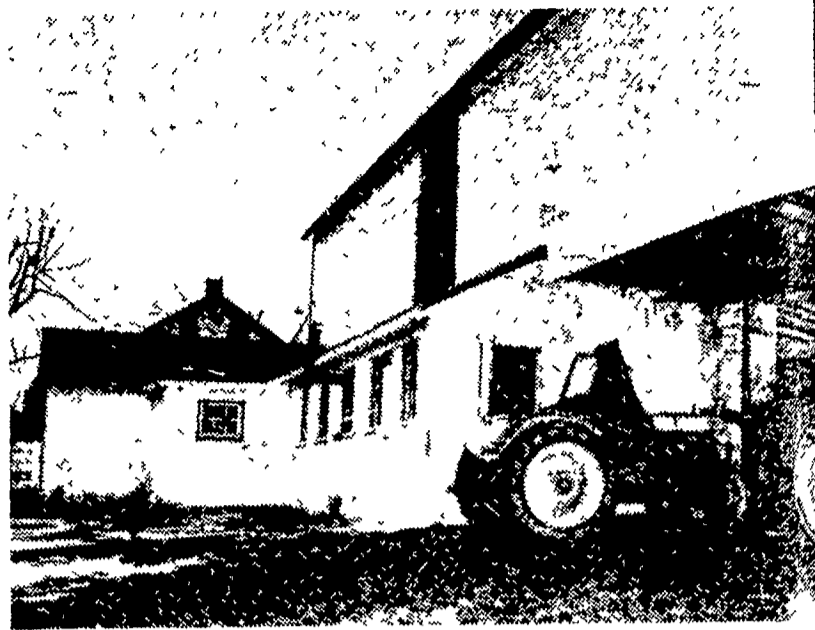




THE REGISTERED HOLSTEIN Hostetter herd is intended to have more than 100 square feet per cow in this loafing shed. Elimination of long, constant stanchioning on concrete and ease of exercise in loose housing are listed by Robert as his chief reasons for this herd practice. —LF PHOTO



HOSTETTER REMODELED the 19th century barn on his building his concrete-block, poured-concrete parlor under the foot of the barn. He added a loafing shed inside, by tearing out old stables and stanchions, then lowered the floor of the loafing shed to permit cleaning by a tractor loader. —LF PHOTO

● **Sold On 'Parlor'**

(Continued from page 1) loader.

With this system he scatters fresh bedding straw regularly and then uses power equipment to clean. A feature aided by water flushing of the milking parlor. This eliminates expensive gutter or pit cleaners and shovel work, he reports.

Bob plans to plow herd profits into automatic bulk feeding equipment and addition of an exercise yard outside the loafing shed. He does

not foresee bulk handling for his milk anywhere in the near future.

He came out of the service in 1946, apparently stuck with town-living, but with an urge to return to the farm where he was brought up. He became a trucker and "custom farmer" from '46 to 1951, when he and his town bred wife moved onto their farm.

From '51 to '54, he operated a pair of milk routes and continued with his custom work. Then in 1954, after careful study of various herd

management methods, Bob started work on his "parlor"

At one time since then, he has had the herd up to 15 milkers, nearing capacity limits for the barn and farm. With the added exercise yard and rented cropland, he hopes to reach the 18-cow limit he has set before too much longer.

After the unit limit is reached, he figures to expand via the production-per-cow route. Hence the reason for purebred stock and DHIA records.

At the same time, he'll

utilize spare time in custom combining, hay baling and trucking sidelines.

After four years of experience with this system, Hostetter is emphatic in his reasons for preferring it over individual stall housing and milking.

"First of all," he says, I think loose housing is healthier for the cows. They have a chance to exercise, plus clean soft bedding, instead of being fastened in a stanchion on concrete where you can't always keep them too clean.

Sometimes we slip up and

don't keep the bedding as it should be, but in the long run, I feel the cleaner and far more profitable.

"Then, the cost of milking equipment is greatly reduced. My parlor stalls use less milking equipment than half of what individual stalls would have. They use every hardware dollar twice as far for me."

"And when it comes to easy milking, this is what I have to do is pull the cows and the cows are still

(Turn to page 7)

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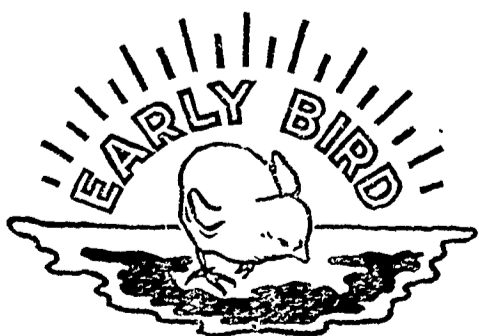
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