



COWS NOW LOUNGE IN THE SUN in the enclosure once formed by the half mile exercise track used for training the fine Standardbred horses raised at Speedwell Forge. In the distance, the Manor house stands much as it must have stood two centuries ago. The carriage horses are no more, but much of the opulent splendor of the old Ironmaster's mansion remains. Such modern farming aids as a bulk milk tank and a baler with bale thrower are blended with the architecture which includes red sandstone quarried and hand hewn two hundred years ago. —L. F. PHOTO

● **Speedwell Forge**
(From page 7)

shorter and use the random stacking method of storage in the barn.

The hay mow is 80 feet long, but with the conveyor the hay will all be unloaded at one spot on the barn floor.

A 400 gallon bulk tank holds the milk until the Sylvan Seal truck picks it up. Milking is done in a stanchion barn set up, but the cows are held in a modified loafing pen barn.

All hay is fed in the loafing barn, but the silage and grain are fed at milking time in the stanchions. This is to avoid the problem of bossiness in the cow herd.

At present time, the Darlington's keep their own bull but do breed some of their cows artificially. During the past year, the herd was put on the Dairy Herd Improvement Association testing program. Up until now, most of the replacement heifers were purchased, but as soon as some complete lactation records are available, the Darlington's plan to raise most of their replacement stock.

The stallion barn, used to house the famous Middletown, son of Rysdyks Hambletonian in the days when some of the finest trotting horses in the eastern United States were bred on the farm is now a dwelling house. Most of the iron workers cottages have been sold for private dwellings as well. The breeding of Standardbred horses was discontinued in 1896 when the last sale was held. Now only two horses remain, and they are only for the pleasure of the occupants of the proud old mansion.

But Speedwell Forge is by no means living on past glory. For several years and several tenant farmers much of the fertility of the rolling hills was lost to the ravages of the weather, but with the use of modern methods the productivity is coming back.

"We planted 45 acres of corn and got only about 550 bushels the first year we were here," Darlington said. Now the farm will average 75 to 80 bushels per acre, and the fertility is increasing each year.

From all indications, the 12 room house with its five fireplaces and its red sandstone outbuildings, and the 450 rolling acres will be producing a living for its owners when Steven Gerald Darlington III, eight, and William Reese Darlington, seven, realize their ambitions to be, like father and grandfather, the country gentlemen of historic old Speedwell Forge.

Water is the cheapest livestock feed. Give animals plenty of it.

The average farm worker has nearly tripled his production in the past 30 years! In 1930 he produced enough for himself and nine others. Now, due to mechanization, development of higher yielding, hardier crop varieties and improved soil fertility, he produces enough for himself and 25 others.

Fearlessness is the mother of confidence.

Dairymen with medium to large herds probably can save money by installing a silo unloader. Six years of research at Purdue University have shown that corn silage can be fed with satisfactory results to bred sows and gilts during gestation.

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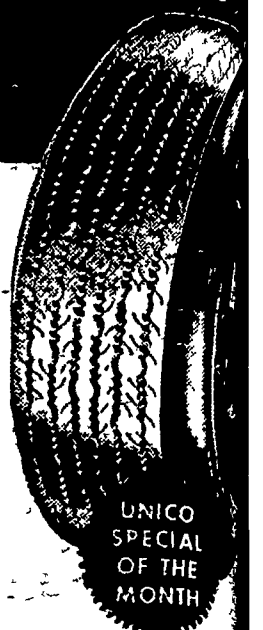
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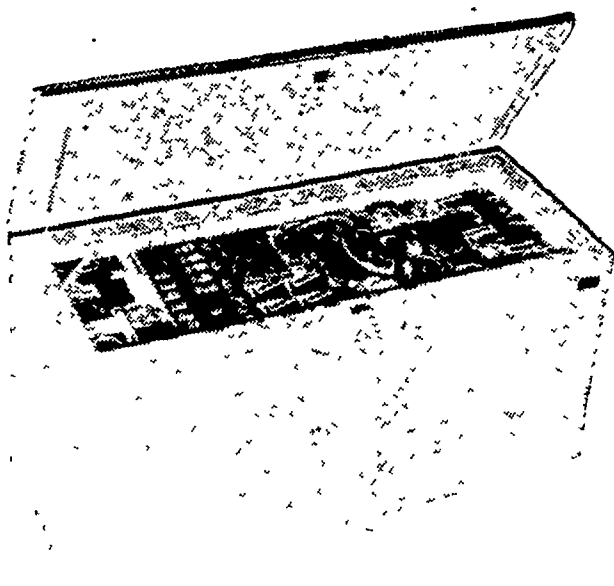
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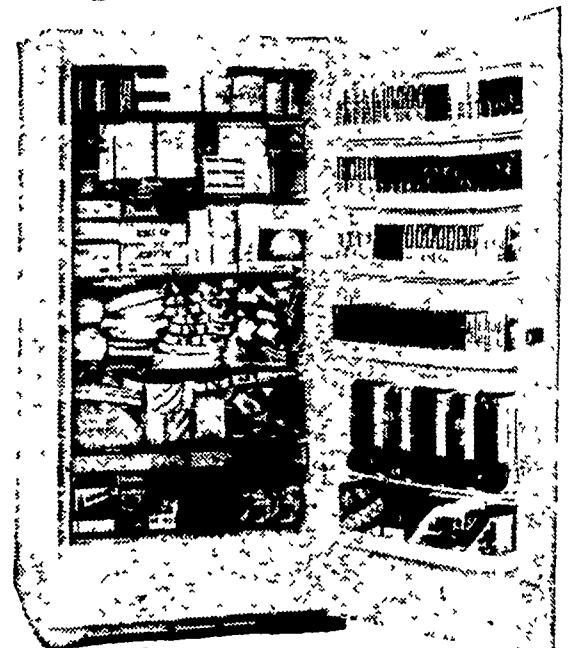
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