

Local Guernsey Group Tours North-Central Pa. Dairy Farms

On Tuesday morning, 37 Guernsey Breeders left Lancaster County for a tour of Guernsey farms in north-central Pennsylvania.

Driving north through Ashland, the strip mining area, the group went to the Robert Book farm, Millville.

Book was a native of Lancaster County until four years ago. His farm consists of 230 acres and he raises mostly all corn and hay. Much of the hay he produces which he doesn't need he sells in Lancaster County.

The Books have about 50 cows including two which classified

Excellent and the Great Bonncow that produced 22,000 pounds of milk. Book's farm has a trench silo and two upright silos for corn silage. His is a unique system for feeding silage from the trench; the barn floor is lower than the outside level. This enables him to unload the silage with his unloader directly into the feeding carts through a large opening in the wall.

The group reported that Robert and wife Malinda and four children were very glad to see everyone.

The second stop was at the Christ Wolff farm, located one mile from the Book farm. Wolff was also a Lancaster County native until 20 years ago.

Wolff has a 90-cow tie stall barn, presently milking 84 head of Guernseys. Ten of his first calf heifers are producing over 10,000 pounds of milk or over 40 pounds per day.

When Wolff moved to Millville, he had a mixed herd of cattle. Because of their gentleness and because they consume less feed and produce a better quality milk, Mr. Wolff said he decided in 1964 to sell the other breeds and concentrate on an all-Guernsey herd. At that time many of his neighbors thought he couldn't make a living, he said, but he proved otherwise.

Wolff now has his own jugging operation and sells all his milk as homogenized and pasteurized. Daily sales are between 200 and 300 gallons of milk, white and chocolate, selling to the

residents of the large surrounding area.

In 1969, on a state-wide survey of all juggers, figures showed Wolff was producing his milk at 35 cents per hundred less than juggers all over the state.

Wolff demonstrated how he bottles his milk, as well as other steps involved in the jugging operation.

In the barn, the group saw Wolff's huge Master Chief daughters.

Wolff demonstrated his unique self-propelled cart which he uses for two purposes, to feed silage as well as bedding the cows with wood shavings. He also demonstrated his tractor-operated gutter cleaner which cleans two gutters at one time. This is his own invention.

Samples of the haylage and high moisture corn stored in two big Harvestore silos were shown to the interested group.

Wolff told the visitors, "It's the money that's left after all the expenses are deducted that is really what counts in the dairy business."

At the Girton Manufacturing Plant in Millville, the completion of tanks from the flat pieces of stainless steel to the finished product was observed.

The group found out why tanks cost so much. Stainless steel is expensive, plus the time spent buffing, sanding and smoothing over the rough spots, particularly the welded joints.

Young Mr. Girton told the group 60 per cent of the Girton Tanks are being sent overseas. The Girton plant in Millville is the only plant in the United States.

The next stop was at the Wyno farms, Muncy. This farming operation consists of approximately 90 cows, which are separated into two groups, high producers and low producers. Both groups are kept separately in an Agway free-stall barn where they are fed corn silage and alfalfa hay. The grain is fed during milk-

ing in a flat parlor, which is a stall barn with pipeline milkers where half the herd is milked at one time. After each milking, the barn is washed out with two high pressure hoses.

In the Wyno barns, the Lancaster County group reported they saw some of the "largest cows they ever saw."

Calves are kept in a tile walled calf barn.

Manager of the Wyno farms is Lee Yost.

After a stop at the Dutch Pantry at Selingsgrove for the evening meal, the group arrived back in Lancaster County at 9 p.m.

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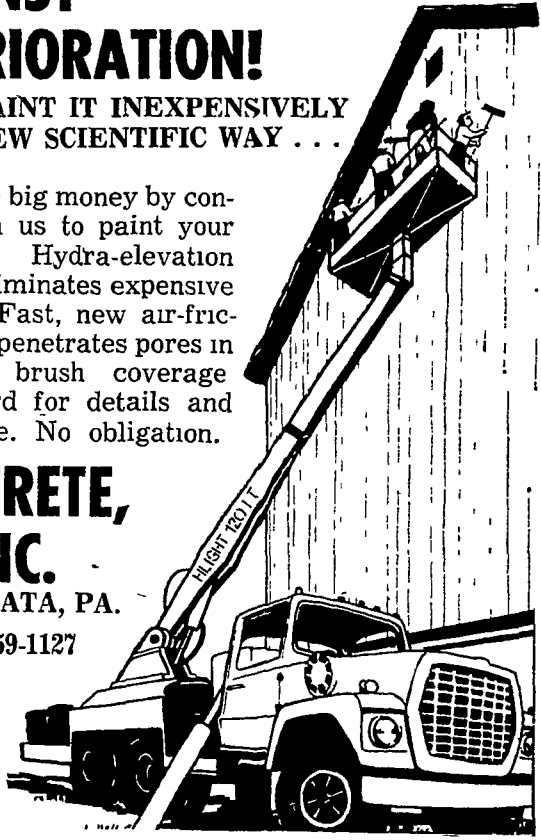
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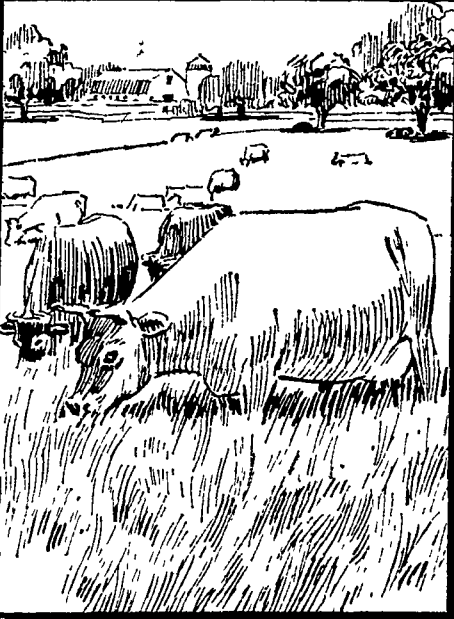
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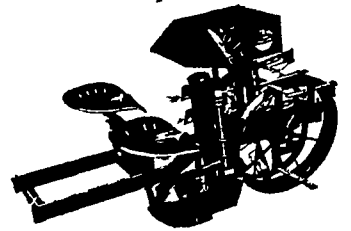
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