

Witmers Are Well Known for Their Outstanding Guernseys

By Mrs. Charles G. McSparran
Farm Feature Writer

Lancaster County can boast not only some of the richest farm land in the state, but also some of the finest, well-kept farm buildings to house some of the very best dairy herds in the world.

A man and his wife who were born and raised on a farm and have made a success of dairying are Raymond F. and Louise A. Witmer.

They live on a 125 acre farm they named Penn Del which is located along Route 222, just north of Refton.

Raymond's father, Clair H. Witmer, came to this farm 73 years ago and developed a fine Guernsey herd. Raymond was born on this farm and lived there all his life. His parents are now retired and live in Strasburg.

His brother Paul lives on a nearby farm and has a Guernsey herd. Another brother, J. Rohrer, has Guernseys but has added a number of Brown Swiss to his herd.

This is a fertile farm with the Little Beaver Creek flowing down through it and joining the Pequea Creek there on their farm. Thus, dry seasons pose no real threat to their crops and meadows because they have an adequate irrigation system to tide them over.

Witmers are well known among Lancaster County dairymen, particularly among Guernsey breeders, because down through the years they have set some fine production records for their herd and some

excellent records for individual cows. Raymond says, "Our job is to improve the breed, we're trying to develop a better cow."

Louise and Raymond were married 20 years ago and took over the farm that year. Louise has been a real partner in developing their fine Guernsey herd. She feeds the calves and heifers and helps with milking and other barn work. She names the animals, takes care of their registration, including drawing their markings on the registration papers, and helps to keep the farm records. She has also taken prizes judging animals in the women's contest at the Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Field Day. She attends the county, state and national events with her husband and helps to buy animals when they want to add another line of high producers.

Louise was a daughter of the late Peter and Elizabeth Zetler who retired and resided at Refton. Their history is one of fortitude and zeal. After losing everything in World War I in Germany, Mr. Zetler came to America. His wife joined him in this country a little later. He farmed largely cotton for one year in the state of Texas.

They moved to a farm near Ashland, Wis., where Louise was born. They lived there three years. They moved from there to a farm between Doylestown and Perkasee in Pennsylvania and lived there a couple years. At one time their home burned and they lost everything.

In the thirties they bought a



Mrs. Raymond F. Witmer shows "Naefflands Kelly" which they bought at Bob Neff's dispersal sale near State College, Pa. Her best 365 days records, when she was 7 years and 3 months was 16,483 pounds of milk and 862 pounds butterfat.

She was born August 1961 and is still in the herd doing very well. Witmers are using her son, "Penn Del Prince Charming," in their own herd and his daughters are starting in production.

farm near Elkton, Md., which had over 200 acres. They had about 50 Guernsey cows there and a total of about 100 head of cattle altogether. They farmed there about 12 years, until World War II broke out and their land was needed to store ammunition which was produc-

ed nearby. They then bought two other farms with a total of over 600 acres of land. Later they sold this and bought a 710 acre farm near Glasgow, Del., bought the dairy herd and everything. On this farm they had Guernseys and Jerseys. They left there in 1951

and retired at Refton. Louise helped her parents feed the calves and heifers and helped with the milking and barn work. She took care of registering the cattle, as she still does. Uniting this Pennsylvania (Continued on Page 23)

Dairy Recipes This Week; Cherries Asked June 19

Our recipes column this week, in keeping with our dairy issue, features recipes using dairy products.

The recipes include puddings, custards, ice cream and pies. We also received a reply to a request previously made in this column.

But before we get into these recipes, we want to make an appeal for recipes for our June 19 issue. Our column at this time will feature cherries.

Cherry season is fast approaching and we're sure that

our readers will be looking for some new and tasty ways to prepare this early summer fruit.

Send your favorite cherry recipe right away to the following address: Lancaster Farming Recipes, P O Box 266, Lititz, Pa 17443. We are continuing to send potholders, marked with the Lancaster Farming emblem, one per household limit, to everyone who sends a recipe.

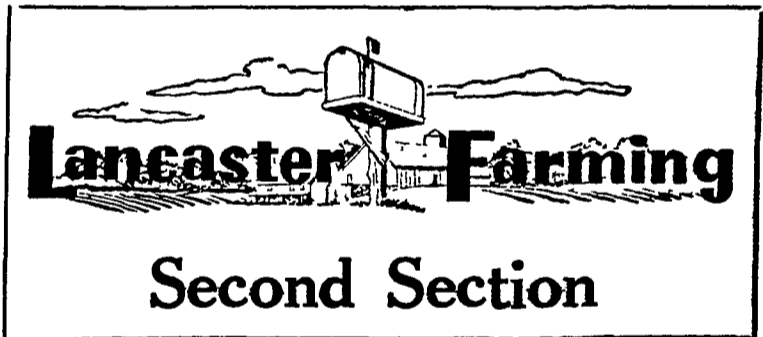
Back to our dairy recipes, we received a reply to a request for a recipe on how to make cottage

cheese that can be sliced. The request previously appeared in our May 22 issue and was from R. G. Kamoda, Monongahela, Pa.

An answer from Miss Helen H. Keller, 48 E. Main St., Lititz, including the following, "I have a recipe for something called Sweet Curd. I thought it might be what they had reference to." The Sweet Curd recipe is as follows:

Sweet Curd
2 quarts sweet milk
1 pint buttermilk

3 eggs
Heat milk until it boils. Beat eggs, add to buttermilk and stir. (Continued on Page 22)



More Cows, Faster Milking, Pooling Equipment, Changes, Care With Layout

Pondbank Farm Expands, Changes to Remain Efficient



This is the view of Pondbank Farm from the rear looking toward Beaver Valley Pike. At the left is the new addition to the dairy barn and the farmstead is at far right.

Local dairymen, according to most available figures, have an average herd size of about 40 milking animals. The number is rising gradually.

But some dairy educators have been saying that during the 1970's the number of dairy farms nationally will be cut in half and the number of animals on the remaining farms will rise sharply.

One local dairyman who has already expanded his herd is John M. Harnish. He operates Pondbank Farm at 1036 Beaver Valley Pike south of Lancaster.

The Harnish farm includes about 96 milking registered Holsteins. He recently expanded his barn and is gradually working toward 120 milking cows.

With this many animals, speed and efficiency of operation become extremely important.

When he remodeled, Harnish had a pipeline milker installed, enabling three persons to use six (Continued on Page 25)