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The Greenhand initiation ceremony was held last week at Pequea Valley High School. Greenhands receiving degrees were: (left to right, front row) Larry Stoltzfus, Don Beane, Steve Hylton, Albert

Ressler, Kevin Loveless and Steve Diener; (back row) Elvin Weaver, Ron Stauffer, Don Hershey, Dale Miller, Larry Dalmas, Galen Sweigart, and Dean Kauffman.

## Ideal Research Pig Discovered

The "IDEAL" PIG for swine research has been found. It is derived from the nearly extinct breed called the American Essex.

Several lines of "miniature" pigs have been developed and readily accepted in medical research. However, experience has shown that these "Mini" pigs generally have one or more shortcomings. They are either rare and hard to get, do not adapt well, do not like to be confined in small areas, and as important as anything else, most are mean and intractable.

By contrast, the new line, named the Greer-Radeleff (G-R) pig, adapts well to small pens after freedom on the range, and is extremely docile, a major

consideration in research that requires frequent handling. A small herd has been established at College Station, Tex. Veterinarian Harry E. Smalley is in charge of the herd.

The G-R pig is economical to feed, weighs only 40 to 50 pounds at 6 months and about 160 pounds at 2 years, about the same as the "mini" pigs derived from such exotic lines as the Yucatan, Vietnamese, and Corsican pigs. At 3 and 4 years of age, however, "mini" pigs generally gain weight more rapidly and soon weigh as much as 25 percent more than the new line.

The G-R pig breeds readily, has normal gestation length, farrows easily, and has smaller litters than standard breeds. It has normal hematological and biochemical values. It appears to have become, through isolation in nature, specific pathogen free, ectoparasite free, and troubled only by an internal parasite—the roundworm.

The new line was named the Greer-Radeleff pig after the

owner of the parent stock, J. Leo Greer, Rock Springs, Tex., and Rudolph D. Radeleff, ARS veterinarian who initiated the project and conducted the long search for the right animals.

The herd is now being increased and maintained at College Station.

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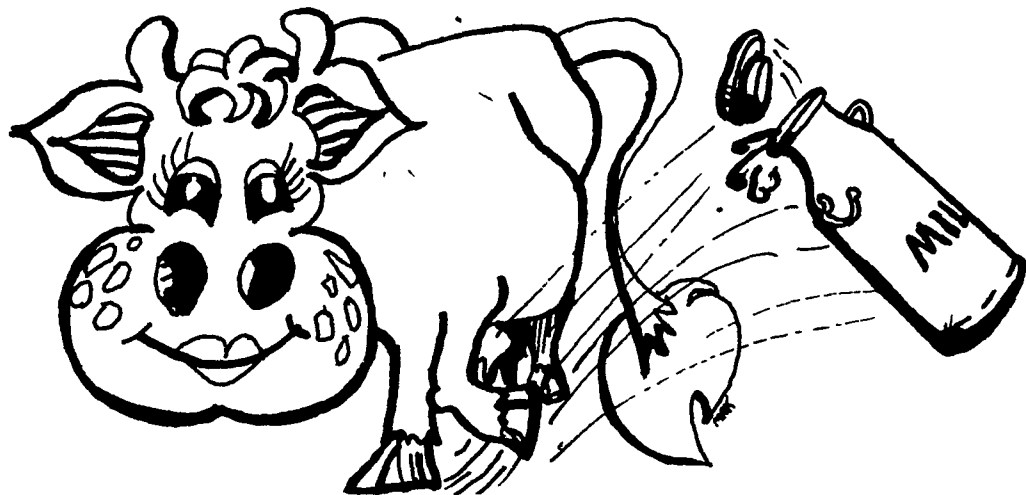
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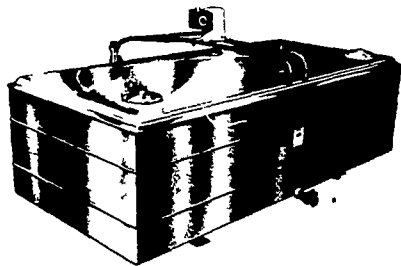
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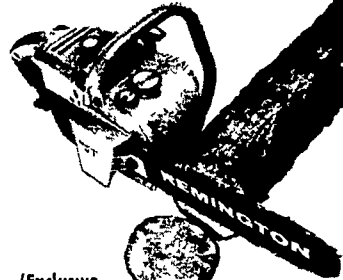
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