

# Milk haulers - the link between

## They're on the go no matter what, facing big resp

By Dieter Krieg

What was it they used to say about the U.S. Mail? I believe it was something about neither hail, snow, rain, hell, or high water stopping service.

Well, the Post Office has pretty much abandoned that motto. If the catchy, complimentary phrase holds true about anyone's service these days, then the nation's milk haulers are undoubtedly on this select list. They work on Sundays and holidays. Their trucks roll, skid, and slide on ice-covered roads during the winter. Trainers and tractors bog down in muddy farm lanes during a summer downpour. Drivers wait in drab snack rooms for their tankers to be unloaded while their wives and children celebrate Christmas without them.

A blizzard howling fiercely may keep everyone else home, but milk truck drivers must brave the dangers and coax their rigs up and down treacherous hills and around sharp turns. While most dairymen can milk in comfort on even the coldest day, the milk hauler wrestles with stiff milk hoses and icy snow chains. A wrong move on a slick surface and he ends up in a ditch or jack-knifed across the highway. He leaves early in the morning, and if things go wrong won't return until after dark. Sometimes, during very bad weather, he's stranded 50 miles away from home for over a day or two at a time.

Nothing stops the milk truck except an actual physical block such as an impassable snow drift or a sea of mud two feet deep. Even during the 1974 truckers' strike, the bulk milk haulers excluded themselves and faced bricks, bullets, and rocks.

The mail may not have to move. But the milk does. And a milk truck driver knows it.

One of the men who faces all of the responsibilities and dangers of hauling milk is William R. Maule of Quarryville RD3. I accompanied him this past Labor Day on one of his routes — from start to finish. Like many a dairyman, his day begins at 5:00 a.m. If bad roads are expected, he starts earlier.

Maule works for Lloyd C. Welk, who has a fleet of milk trucks at his garage in Georgetown. Arriving there at 5:15 a.m., Maule raises the garage door, turns on the lights and taps each of the 18 tires on the truck with a hammer to make sure they're inflated to satisfactory pressure.

Climbing into the cab, the big diesel engine under the hood snaps to life as the ignition key is turned. The cab vibrates gently in accompaniment to the six cylinders beating out a low, steady rhythm. Maule touches a few

switches on the dash and the rig "sneezes" loudly several times as the air brakes are released. The rumble under the hood increases and you can feel the strain as the 68,000 pound tractor and trailer inches forward.

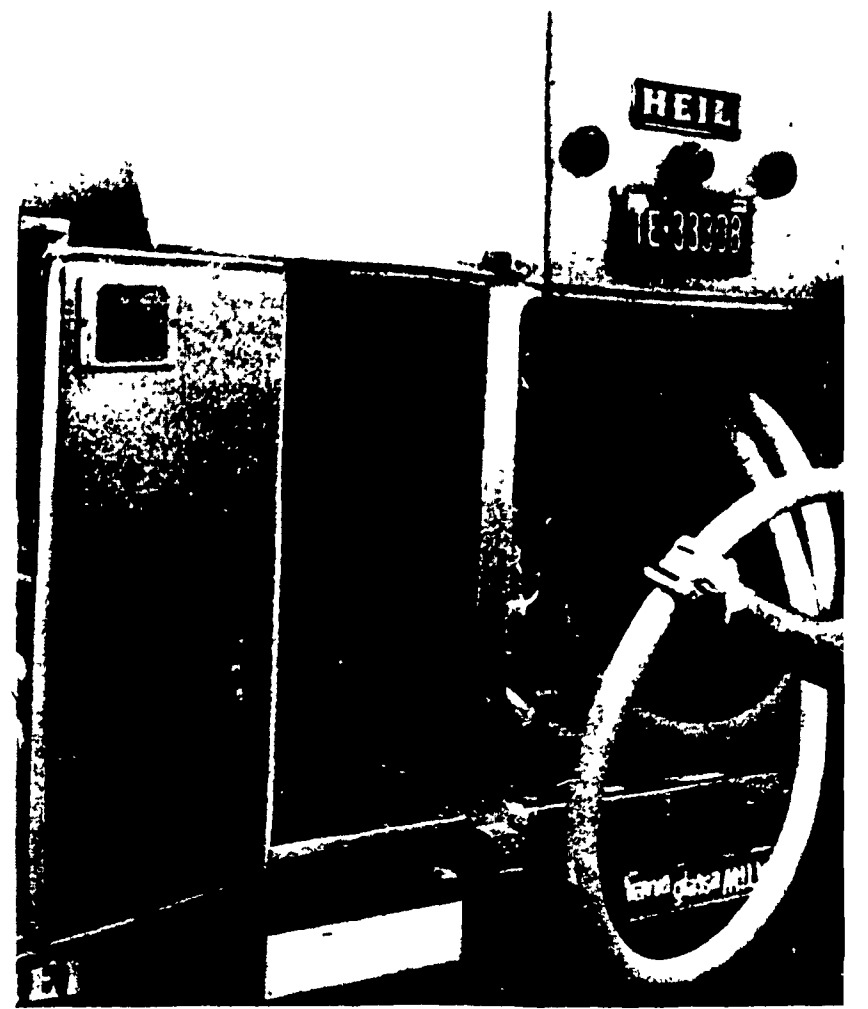
It's slow going at first. He starts out in second and systematically shifts his way through a dozen other speed ranges. After four years of driving a tractor and trailer, Maule says the gears fall into place themselves. His eyes never leave the road — his hand knows exactly where each gear is and he shifts as though it's an automatic reflex.

A number of farmers don't have their barn lights on yet as Maule pilots the rig, carrying 36,600 pounds of milk, along narrow country roads toward US Route 30. Black smoke pours from the chrome-topped stack and pounding pistons crack the silence of morning. The smoke and noise intensify at every climb and nearly vanish on the downward slope. The ride is somewhat bouncy.

Our destination is the A&P milk receiving plant at Fort Washington, along the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The freshness of early morning still hangs in the air when we arrive at 6:50 a.m. An orange-red sun shines through the morning clouds and bounces its light off the shiny stainless steel tanker. Maule shifts into reverse and backs his rig into one of three unloading bays. The tractor sneezes several times. One part of the trip has been completed.

The first procedures prior to unloading include washing the doors, vents, and milk outlets. Then the pump assembly and gaskets are removed — everything is washed in a nearby tub. The receiver on duty at the plant takes a sample of milk from each of the tanker's two compartments. Maule walks into a small office and adds up all of his weight slips with an adding machine, comparing results with the tabulations which had made all along the route the previous day.

It doesn't take very long to unload the more than 18 tons of milk Maule had on board. The dairy's pump, with a capacity of 180 gallons per minute, can suck the trailer dry in less than half an hour. The milk passes through a meter and into one of several storage silos. There's a tolerance of 100 pounds either way between what the meter says was on board and what a driver's records show. Maule points out that the tolerance level isn't exactly the fairest since it applies to any truck, regardless of its size. On a percentage basis it follows then that small



William Maule, a former dairyman, has spent 15 years hauling milk and says he enjoys the responsibilities. Most of all, he appreciates the opportunity to talk with farmers.

# Southeast 4-H dairy show had

ALLENTOWN — The 30th Annual Southeast District 4-H Dairy Show was held August 29 at the Allentown Fairgrounds, Allentown, Pennsylvania, with 189 animals exhibited by 137 4-H Club members from nine Southeastern Pennsylvania counties including Berks, Bucks, Chester, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery,

Northampton, and Schuylkill. Among the animals exhibited were 89 Holstein, 19 Brown Swiss, 14 Milking Shorthorn, 40 Jerseys, 11 Ayrshires, and 16 Guernseys.

Judges for the show were Lloyd Ebersole of Sire Power, Inc., Tunkhannock, PA for Holsteins, and John Marchezak, Guernsey breeder, from Washington

County for Ayrshires, Milking Shorthorn, Brown Swiss, Jerseys and Guernseys.

During the course of the show, exhibitors who did an outstanding job of fitting and showing their animals were given Master Fitter or Master Showman awards. No champions were selected in these categories. Judges for these fitting and

showman awards were Duane Duncan, Cumberland County Extension Agent; Charles Gale, Columbia County Extension Agent; and Carol Schurman of Waynesboro, PA.

Glenn Shirk, show manager and Chester County Extension Agent, estimated that 400 spectators were present during the day. Shirk also noted that the blue ribbon animals in each class are eligible to compete in the Pennsylvania Dairy Show which will be held Monday, September 22 at the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg. At this Junior Dairy Show the Southeast District winners will compete against winners from six other district shows in the state.

This event was sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Offices of the nine counties and the Cooperative Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State University.

Following is a list of blue ribbon winners in the show, which this year was dedicated to Edward G. Leidig, former president and general manager of the Allentown Fairgrounds. Order of names does not necessarily correspond with order of actual placing.

### HOLSTEINS

#### Junior Calf

Susan Seidel, Richland; Alan S. Mason, Nottingham; Susan Pepple, Oxford; Kenneth Fabian, Nazareth; Steven Shaw, Oley; Dana

#### Geyer, Harleysville.

#### Intermediate Calf

Keith Buch, Fleetwood; Kevin Sattazahn, Womelsdorf; David Schuler, Morgantown; Wendy Shaw, Oley; Beverly Hershey, Cochranville. Tim Alderfer, Harleysville; Patty Seneko, Harleysville.

#### Senior Calf

Christine Worthington, Doylestown; Susan Pepple, Oxford; Glenn Stoltzfuss, Morgantown; Brian Carl Dietrich, New Tripoli. Tim Alderfer, Harleysville.

#### Junior Yearling

Ruth Shuler, Fleetwood; Robin Dietrich, New Tripoli; Janice Buckman, Perkaspie; Joseph Gehringer, Bally.

#### Senior Yearling

Kenneth Craig Worthington, Doylestown; Susan Seidel, Richland; Lori Gruver, Pipersville.

#### Two Year Old

Helen Seidel, Richland; Joanne Gail Belke, Newtown; Tina Acker, Chester Springs; W. Douglas Seipt, Easton.

#### 3 and 4 Year Olds

Scott Miller, Hamburg; Karen Sattazahn, Womelsdorf; Wendy Shaw, Oley; Warren Buckman III, Perkaspie; W. Douglas Seipt, Easton; Marilyn Seipt, Lansdale.

#### Aged Cow

Susan Seidel, Richland; Curtis Dietrich, New Tripoli; David Wurster, Ottsville; Eileen Kurtz, Pine Grove.

The Champions  
Grand Champion and

Senior Champion was a four-year old daughter of Irvington Fury Dandy, owned and shown by Wendy Shaw of Oley. The animal was bred by Bryncoed Farms, Divisions of Ludens, Inc. Chester Springs.

Reserve Grand and Reserve Senior Champion honors went to Tina Acker's two year old daughter of Paclamar Capsule. The animal was bred by her father, Samuel Acker, of Chester Springs.

The Junior Champion was Curly-Hill Ivan Jiffy, bred, owned, and shown by Kenneth Craig Worthington of Doylestown. The two year old heifer is a daughter of Peters-Farm ABC Ivanhoe.

Junior reserve champion honors went to Susan Seidel, Richland. She showed a senior yearling (two years old) daughter of Mas Swan Jupiter Champion.

#### County Groups

1. Berks County, 2. Bucks County, 3. Northampton County, 4. Chester County, 5. Montgomery County, 6. Lehigh County.

#### Master Fitters

Eileen Kurtz, Pine Grove; Annette Gross, Plumsteadville; Susan Seidel, Richland; Karen Sattazahn, Womelsdorf; Keith Hertzog, Topton; W. Douglas Seipt, Easton; Tina Acker, Chester Springs; Donald Stoltzfus, Morgantown; Joanne Belke, Newtown; Helen Seidel, Richland; Curtis Dietrich, New Tripoli; Karen Fabian, Nazareth; Robin Dietrich,

New Tripoli; R Fleetwood; Briz New Tripoli; L son, Jermyn; G fus, Morgantown; Worthington, Scott Pysher, B; Yerkes, Pipers Buch, Fleetw Fabian, Nazare Hoppes, Hambu Master Sh

Daniel Cooke, Joanne Belke, Susan Pepple, ( Fabian, Nazare Shaw, Oley; F Fleetwood; Sc Hamburg; We Oley; Christine Doylestown; I Dietrich, Nev Eileen Kurtz, I Susan Seidel, Kenneth Craig Doylestown; Cur New Tripoli; David Keener Helen Seidel, Beverly Guest, Tina Acker, Springs; W. Do Easton; Keitl Topton; Karen Womelsdorf; W. man III, Perka Gross, Plum David Wurster Edwin Mast, El

BROWNS Junior ( 1. Dennis Da Grove.

Senior ( 1. Dean Dau Grove; 2. Denn Junior Ye 1. Daryl U persburg; 2. An



Sandy Evans, Chester Springs, and Jeffrey Staner, Berwyn, were among the 137 4-H Club members who competed in the S. E. Penna. 4-H Dairy Show, August 29 at the Allentown Fair Grounds. The two

cows, both owned by Jeff, were named Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Guernseys of the show. Sandy exhibited a Holstein heifer, and was recently crowned as the Chester County Dairy Princess.