

Congressman

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Wisconsin price is now the basic indicator of changes in milk values. It will eventually be eliminated as a Class III and basic formula pricing mechanism as

conversion to Grade A milk continues.

"The use of this single price to represent the value of milk for manufacturing is creating major financial and equity problems. These are problems with which you must be concerned.

"Another problem area is the assessment of non-members to help cooperatives cover the costs borne by them in carrying the surplus. Critics of the present situation have not even begun to consider this problem. You must be concerned about what to do with this critical issue facing the dairy industry.

"So, it is up to you to let the public know how things really are down on the farm. As basic as it sounds, you must increase your dialog with consumers. Critics of cooperatives and the milk marketing system bring a developed skepticism to the subject, and have very appealing arguments if left unchallenged. But, they lack your expertise.

"You must also strengthen your relationship with the Congress. Unless your Representatives know and understand your position, they may not represent that position.

"Finally, you must take the initiative in examining the milk marketing system and suggest how it should adapt to changing conditions. Increasing conversion to Grade A milk and handling regional surpluses are timely issues that require your attention.

"Facing these problems directly will help to demonstrate that dairy farmers are interested in changing with the times. Active participation will enhance your credibility with the public. It is the best way to deal with your critics.

"And, in the end, it is the only way to assure that the dairy farmer is finally going to get a fair return on his investment.

"Let us not forget that an adequate diet is still the exception rather than the rule for a large part of the world's population. The

Shenk farm

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more to pass on. "That's how it is when you're younger," she said philosophically. She's now 72, her brother is 67.

The Shenk house, like many others of the time, was built with Indian uprisings in mind. Doors were thick, for example, and if a part of it was glass, there was a second door of solid wood which could be pulled over it. The attic was fireproofed for protection against flaming arrows. Miss Shenk tells of one story when an Indian appeared in the meadow every day around noon and called to either her forefathers or other Indians. They never knew for sure.

During the Civil War the children in the area reportedly often placed their ears to the ground to hear the rumble of cannons, Miss Shenk said. Mr. Shenk acknowledges that there were stories told about the skirmish at Columbia-Wrightsville.

Some interesting facts on education were also revealed by the Shenks and some of their belongings. Books which are more than 125 years old, for example, show how intense some courses were — notably the three R's — reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. Kids were required to know them thoroughly. In today's world, the electronic calculator, TV set, transistor radio, and cassette recorder have taken over.

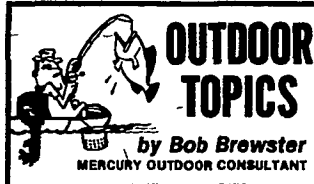
Although the Shenk property has been a true farm during more recent generations, it was once primarily a site for mines and kilns. Two limestone kilns were still in use less than 100 years ago and there is evidence of there having been iron ore mines throughout the area. In addition, the farm has been dug up in several places for clay which has gone to Philadelphia, Baltimore, and local users. Quarries are, of course, some sort of a trademark in the area, and the town of Quarryville was named for that reason.

Today Shenk works with 50 head of Angus cattle and grows corn, tomatoes, tobacco, and wheat. In addition, the Shenks keep a few hogs and chickens. Up until five years ago the farm was operated as a dairy.

A part of, and overlooking Beaver Valley, the Shenks regard their home site as "the nicest they've ever seen." But reflecting on the years they have lived here (all their lives), Miss Shenk has this to say about the valley: "I don't know if progress has improved it any." They're appreciative of their surroundings, neighbors, and way of life. "I think people who don't live close to Nature and the soil are missing a lot in life," Miss Shenk philosophied. She and her brother are both members of the United Church of Christ at New Providence. He has been active with the ASCS program for more than 40 years and currently serves as supervisor of Providence Township.

Neither Shenk nor his sister ever married and no immediate family members are living. They're likely the last generation of direct descendants to live here. "All good things must come to an end," Miss Shenk concluded.

United States is very fortunate that food takes less of the consumer's total income than any other industrial nation. This is no accident. This has come to pass only because of the productivity of our farmers."



FISHERMEN TO THE REAR

Early Spring anglers might take a tip from the bus driver who admonishes his passengers to "move to the rear, please."

Quite often the best Spring fishing on large reservoirs takes place at the back of coves where hungry fish are feeding on insects and small bait fish.

Spring rains contribute to this situation by flushing warm water into the coves as it runs off surrounding land or by way of creeks and small streams. Insects, worms and other fish foods are washed into the lake, attracting minnows which in turn bring larger bass, pike and other game fish into the area.

Fishing can be good when this happens, but the experience of Mercury outboards' outdoor department suggests that you'd better plan on fishing while it's "hot" because the right conditions are likely to last only a week or so.

It takes at least one-half-inch of rain to get things going. When the rain ends, search the coves for areas where runoff has been enough to slightly discolor the water. If the cove is very muddy, look for creeks where runoff is clear.

Fish will be found in murky water, along the leading edge of muddy water, and behind extremely discolored water where fresh, clear water is entering the lake.

Spinners, worms, minnows and spoons with pork rind tails are favorite lures for these conditions. The Mercury fishing experts also suggest you try some of the spinner baits which have lead heads and either feather or plastic skirts.

Cast spinner baits into brush or weeds along the shore and retrieve them at various speeds until the right depth is found. They can also be very effective lures when retrieved just beneath the surface.

Jig spoons in the deepest water in the cove. A silver colored spoon shows up best in discolored water. White pork rind on the hook flutters and attracts attention.

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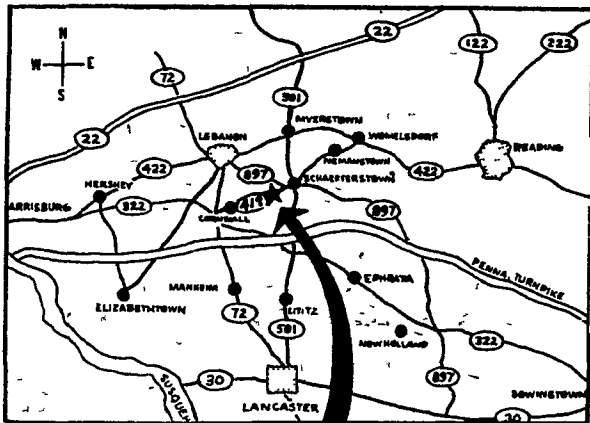
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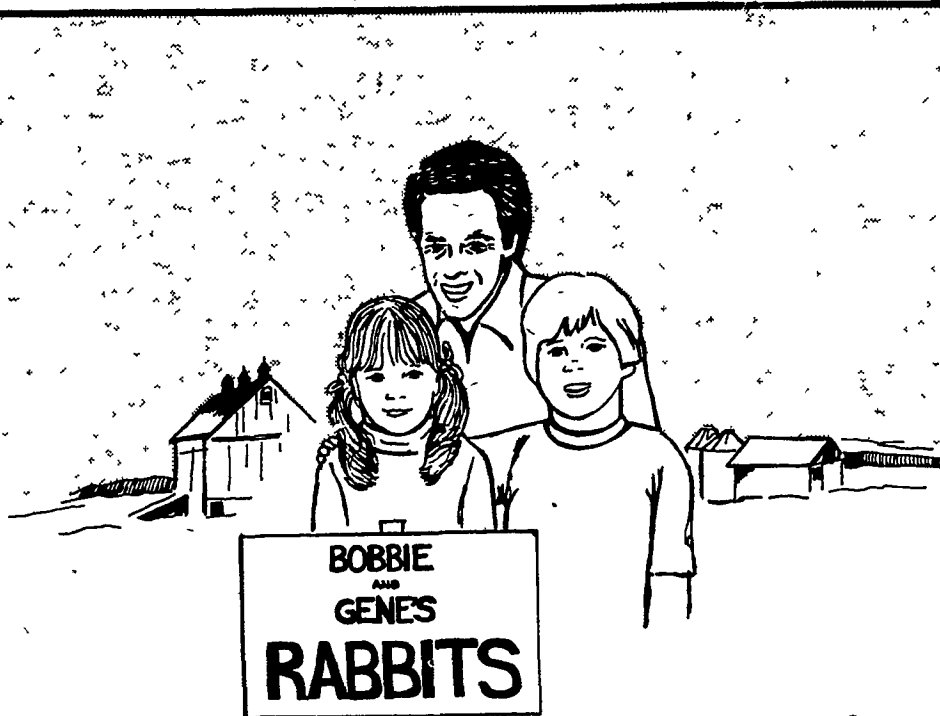
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