

**Bicentennial farm**

# Two worlds meet at Meadowview Farm

By DIETER KRIEG

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Agriculture is the foundation of any civilization. During this Bicentennial Year LANCASTER FARMING has been saluting the area's farmers through feature stories on farms which have been in the same family for 100 years or more. This is the 26th such article in a continuing series.

FALMOUTH, Pa. - A hill near here, in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County separates the ultra-modern from a peaceful old relic of the past.

Tell-tale signs of what lies to the north of the hill are visible from miles around. The old structure on its southern slope isn't visible until you're practically on top of it.

Narrow roads twist their way through the area, brushing against fields of corn, hay, and weeds. The Conewago Creek, which meanders through peaceful pastures, separates this portion of Dauphin County from neighboring Lancaster County.

A glimpse of the ultra-modern is somewhat awesome. Suddenly seeing the "old timer" is like being pulled back into the 19th Century.

Long before I arrived at "Meadowview Farm," the real subject of this story, I was catching occasional glimpses of huge clouds of steam lazily crawling out of two gigantic cooling towers. This, one might say, was the plumage of a quiet, yet immensely powerful atomic plant. Leaping across the hills in various directions were a number of high-tension power-lines. The steel towers loomed overhead, dominating the landscape and dwarfing any tree or building. A pair of insulators on one of these towers is said to weigh 5000 pounds.

The road to "Meadowview Farm" took a turn towards a hollow and the "plumage" and electric lines disappeared from view. Majestic trees, dressed in their spectacular Fall foliage, were on "center

stage." And then there was the relic of the past:

An old covered bridge. Hidden among the hills and trees, it linked the two counties, while muddied waters of recent rains stumbled across the slick rocks below.

Each plank in the old span announced the passage of my car, and-rhythmic pounding reverberated through its hollow superstructure.

Except for that one sound, no other noise disturbed the serenity of that cool and bright November morning. The atomic plant was as quiet as the hills, and the sound of flowing water was as soft as the breeze combing its way through the trees.

Nearby some cattle grazed contentedly on grass which was still green. A squirrel darted up an oak tree.

This is the environment that surrounds "Meadowview Farm," a 230-acre tract of land nestled in the hills about four miles south of Middletown and a half mile east of the Susquehanna River. It's a quiet and modest part of the country - much like many of the people who originally settled here.

Among these early settlers was Jacob Nissley, the son of John Nissley, a Swiss



Mr. and Mrs. Clair Nissley are owners of a southern Dauphin County farm which has been in their

family for 200 years. Their land was once part of neighboring Lancaster County.

immigrant who came to America in the 18th Century. Jacob was presumably the first of the Nissleys to have possession of this farm. Today the property is owned by a seventh generation descendant, Clair Nissley, and his wife, the former Ruth Leaman.

The Nissleys, like generations before them, are members of the Mennonite Church, which was booted out of Europe

several hundred years ago. It was this lack of religious freedom which sent thousands of Europeans to America. According to historians, Europe at that time was being plundered and torn apart by rival princes and kings. The general population was at their mercy, especially if they expressed views differing from those who held power and wealth. One account claims that it

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