



Meadowview Farm, located among the rolling hills west of Middletown, has beef cattle, swine, and chickens as primary enterprises.



## Bicentennial farm

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took some European families 200 years to regain the equivalent of possessions they had held prior to the Thirty Years War (1618-1648, fought primarily on political and religious issues involving Catholics and Protestants in Central Europe)

The early settlers in America had their share of problems too:

A new and strange land, an ocean apart from familiar surroundings and people; no "modern" or cultural background the new settlers could latch on to, some hostile Indians, diseases, to name a few.

But they were able to acquire some land comparatively cheap, and the right to work and worship as they pleased.

So begins the family tree of many an American family.

Clair Nissley's present property was nearly twice as large at one time - running all the way from the Susquehanna River on the west to the Conewago Creek to the east and south. Up until 1920 there was also a grist mill, which reportedly had a rather thriving business during its lifespan. When the old mill was taken down, as many of the materials as possible were used in the construction of a barn. Very little was ever wasted by these people.

Nissley describes his farmland as "pretty good," and notes that it holds moisture especially well. The hills set this area apart from more level areas to the east and south. Nissley notes that this part of Dauphin County was once a part of Lancaster County.

A seventh generation farmer of this property, Nissley's primary concerns are 150 head of beef cattle, 100 hogs, as many as 5,000 chickens, and a produce route in Middletown. The sales project in town is unique, and a family tradition for several generations. Remembering when more than a half dozen farmers had such routes in Middletown, Nissley today admits it's a practice which has seen its day. He still considers the weekly trips worthwhile, however, and some of his customers are

families which have purchased his products for generations.

The only tractor found on this farm prior to 1948 was an old Allis-Chalmers U for belt power. Prior to that all field work was done with horses, and Nissley can easily remember following a one-bottom plow. Other experiences he can bring back to mind vividly include shocking corn and operating a one-row, horsedrawn cultivator. Electricity came to the farm in 1938. A "light plant" provided electricity prior to that. When the telephone was installed in about 1937, "neighbors from pretty far around would come to use it," Nissley said with a smile.

The Nissley's 4-bedroom house once was home for 13 family members. Constructed of logs and mortar, the aging building is still very sturdy. But, says Nissley, it's had to be treated for termites. A large fireplace once dominated the interior, but it has been taken out and the house's present owners speculate that the brick cellar floor may have been the fireplace at one time.

Aside from the main house, there's also an old summer house, which in more recent years has been put to use as regular living quarters. It's original purpose was for butchering, summertime cooking, laundering, and applebutter making.

Corn is the main crop on the farm. Powerline towers might count as a close second. "Meadowview Farm" has 23 such steel monsters constructed on it, and a total of 80 acres is registered by the tax office as right-of-ways for power lines.

Nissley had a chance to sell his farm for pretty good money when the atomic plant sought more land to expand with. But he turned it down.

"I suppose that having had it in the family for so long had something to do with it," he explained. Both he and his wife expressed a closeness to the farm, and their heritage, adding that they hope their children will continue the tradition of owning a "Bicentennial farm."


## Leader serves 40 years



NEWARK, Del. - Mrs. Lola Gibbs started the Woodside Silverleaf 4-H Club back in 1936 when she was teaching in a one-room schoolhouse. She's been the dedicated leader of this club ever since and now, 40 years later, works with the children of some of the original members. Kent County, Delaware, 4-H'ers decided this record was something to crow about, and at their recent annual achievement banquet at Caesar Rodney Junior High School in Camden, they honored Mrs. Gibbs for her long years of service.

The former teacher says she has no idea how many young people she's worked with in 4-H during this time, but it has to be a lot. Silverleaf membership has often numbered 50-60 and at one time got as high as 70. Officially, 4-H serves kids 9-18, but Mrs. Gibbs has never been able to turn away the younger brothers and sisters who clamour to participate

So there are usually a number of 6, 7 and 8 year-olds in her group, as well.

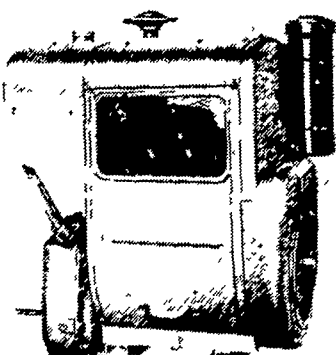


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## Snowmobiles must be licensed

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Rep. Kenneth E. Brandt, R-Lancaster, has urged new snowmobile owners to immediately register their vehicle or face a chance of fines when the Fall and Winter snows arrive.

Brandt said the present registration which began last December 1, runs until November 30, 1977. The registration fee is \$10 but will drop to \$5 on December 1 when half of the current registration period remains. Applications can be obtained by contacting the Snowmobile Unit of the State Department of Environmental Resources.

"If you are caught without a registered machine a fine

of \$10 or more can be levied by Bureau of Forestry personnel, game wardens, police, or state parks personnel.

"Some 55,000 snowmobiles are registered in this new

two-year program designed for snowmobile safety.

He said all questions concerning regulations of snowmobile use can be directed to: Department of Environmental Resources, Snowmobile Unit, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120; or telephone 717-783-1364.





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