

# Dietrich's Dairy takes surplus milk

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Berks County Reporter  
MUHLENBURG PARK,  
Pa. - "The drying process  
itself, takes a very short  
time," explained Tom  
Dietrich, grandson of the  
founder of Dietrich's Milk  
Products. "When the milk is  
brought into the plant it is  
pasteurized. After that it  
goes into an evaporator  
which condenses it down to  
45 per cent solids, removing  
about one-half the water  
content. From these  
evaporators it is blown into  
large cone shaped dryers  
which powders it instantly  
by forced hot air.

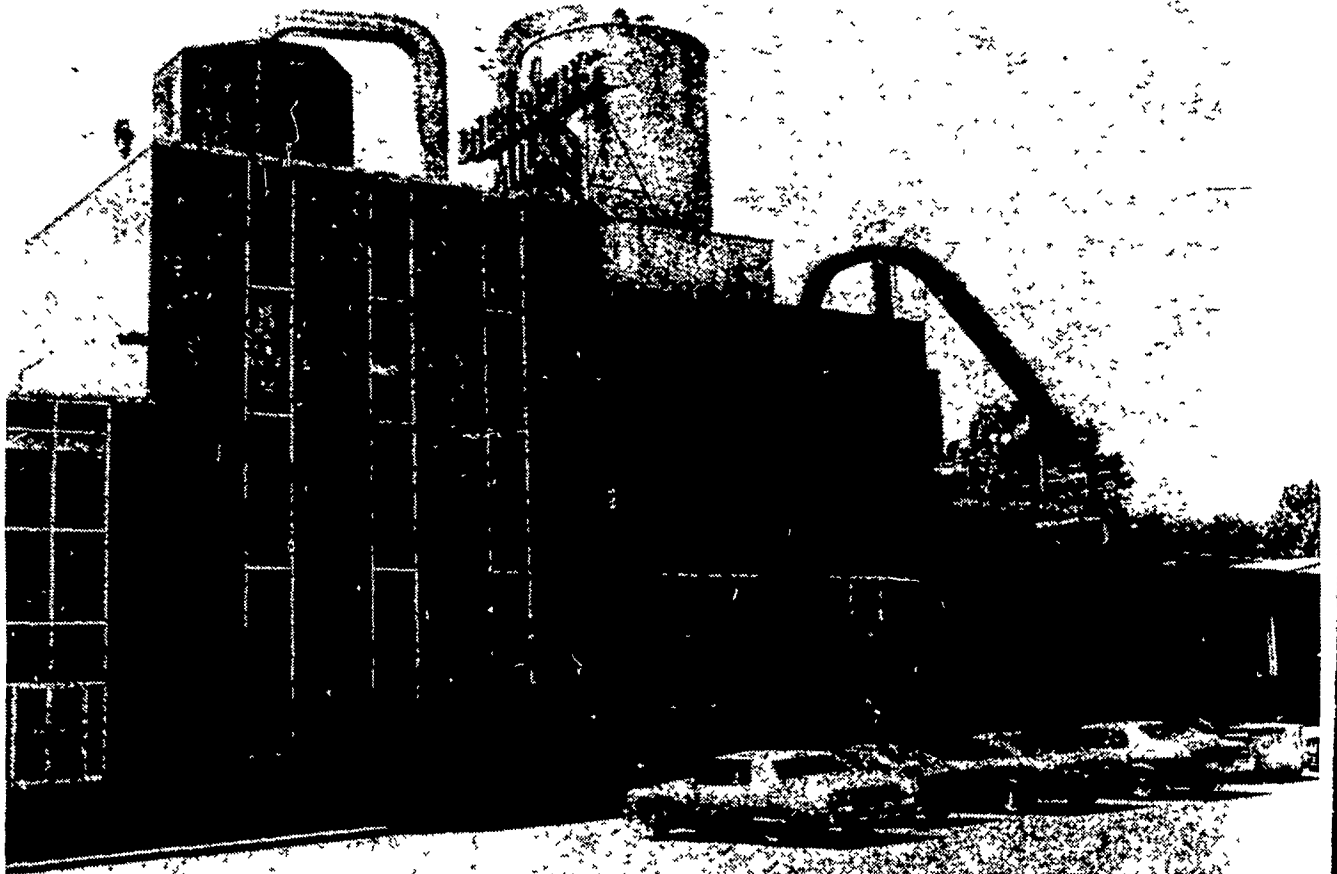
As Dietrich explained the  
process of how whole milk,  
which is only 12 per cent  
solids is dried to a powder of  
98 per cent, it sounded  
simple. This impressive  
family-owned operation has  
a maximum capacity for  
making 100,000 pounds of  
milk powder per day. The  
company, which used to be a  
small retail fluid bottler for  
50 years, did not become  
today's powdering plant  
overnight.

Started over 50 years ago,  
Dietrich's Dairy was a small  
local bottler. Not until after  
the Second World War did  
Dietrich's begin to dry milk,  
and that was only a small  
basis.

The large dryer presently  
in use was purchased 15  
years ago, but, explained  
Dietrich "we have only come  
to our own in the past three  
or four years."

"The fluid retail business  
was phased out entirely in  
1969," Dietrich informed  
Lancaster Farming. "We  
changed into what our  
market demands were, and  
what we felt we could do  
best," explained the  
enthusiastic assistant  
manager, an arbitrary title  
Dietrich uses to describe his  
position. "Titles aren't  
needed here since we are  
only a small company," he  
explained. Presently the  
plant is run by the young  
man's father.

The milk used for  
powdering is surplus  
production bought from  
cooperatives. Because of  
this, the milk does not come  
in on a steady basis. When  
fluid bottlers are running  
their plants there is not  
much surplus coming into  
Dietrich's, but during



Dietrich's Milk, Reading, provides a home for surplus milk from the Philadelphia marketing area.



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Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Hogs \_\_\_\_\_ Ac-rage \_\_\_\_\_