

Fundraising effort to aid farmer's surgery

By **SUSAN KAUFFMAN**
Staff Writer

QUARRYVILLE -- Solanco residents, not unlike those in many areas this time of year, are hosting a number of money raising events. The list includes a dinner, garage sale, bake sale, open house, and craft displays and sales. But unlike most of the fund raising activities which are scheduled before the holiday season to add to the treasuries of various individual organizations, this next weekend in Quarryville, these programs will be held to benefit one member of their community.

Elwood Barnes, a sixty-three year old dairy farmer from Kirkwood R1, needs knee joint replacement surgery in the near future as a result of an arthritic condition which has deteriorated the cartilages

in his knees. This man of two sons and a daughter, and four grandchildren has no hospitalization insurance to cover the cost of such surgery. A few people found out his operations were planned soon and decided to help raise funds to pay the estimated \$10,000.

Two ladies instrumental in organizing the weekend fund raising events are Mabel Kreider, Quarryville R1, and Kathryn Wagner, Quarryville. After consulting with various groups in the community including churches, the Grange, the Solanco Fair Association and many individuals, a two-day charity event was instituted.

December 8 and 9, the Fair Building will house a number of activities for the Barnes' operation fund. Friday evening twelve homes in the Quarryville and

Strasburg area will be open to a candlelight tour. Some of the homes have never been open to the public for such tours before. On Saturday, at the Hoffman Building on the Fair Grounds, groups and individuals will be offering crafts, foods and attic treasures for sale. Old jewelry, books, magazines, baked goods including funnel cakes, soup and many crafts will be on display for purchasing.

Demonstrations in glassmaking, woodworking, candle making, caning, and toile painting among other crafts, will also be set up for those of the community who attend the fund raising. Various community organizations have volunteered to stock and man other activities such as a garage sale, a corner store, a sweet shop and a delicatessen.



Elwood 'Pete' Barnes, on the right, is seen with his wife Jean, and his younger son Les, who does the milking at the present.

From 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday evening, a dinner will be served to the public by the Fair Association. Advance tickets are not necessary, but early arrival would be appreciated.

The weekend activities have been designated as THAF— "To Help A Friend." According to Mrs. Wagner, co-chairman of the community sponsored functions, any funds received beyond the needs for the operations on Elwood's knees will be put aside for any future similar need by another member of the community.

"Pete", as his wife and friends call him, has lived in the area for nineteen years, the last sixteen of which on the farm they now reside on in southern Lancaster County. Prior to coming to this area, the Barnes lived in the Honeybrook, Chester County, locality. Although Barnes has been a dairy farmer for the last two decades, he originally worked in a paper mill in Downingtown.

Sixteen years ago he and his wife and family of two boys and one daughter,

moved to the John Jackson farm to farm on the halves for the owner. Managing and caring for the Holstein herd and tilling the 200 acres of crops have become increasingly more painful each year, Barnes explained, without any hint of self-pity. After consulting with a rheumatologist in Lancaster, he found that medication alone would not be the answer to the pain and deterioration of the knee cartilages.

Barnes will be scheduled for the first knee surgery "sometime around Thanksgiving," according to his wife, Jean. After that knee has had time to heal sufficiently, the second knee will then be operated on, probably early next year, she explained.

Having had no previous experience with such surgery, Barnes was greatly encouraged by a letter he received from a woman in the northern part of the state who had read about the upcoming fund raising events—for Barnes in a newspaper article printed a few weeks ago. She wrote to

Barnes to tell him of her successful venture with identical surgery.

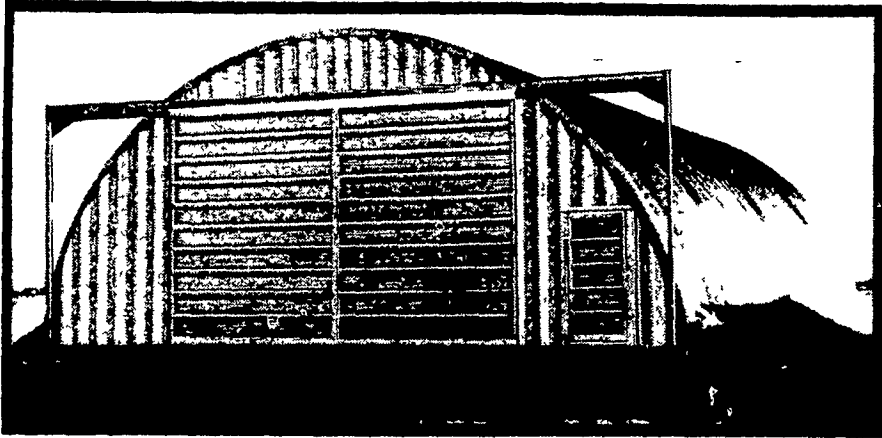
"It was nice of her to take the time to write to me, a stranger, about the operation," Elwood remarked.

While Elwood has difficulty milking cows in the stanchion barn with this arthritic condition as it has progressed to this point, he says he "does just about anything else there is to be done on a dairy farm." His younger son, Les, a junior at Solanco High School, does most of the milking and Elwood's wife helps out as well.

Much of the work Elwood gets done is from a tractor seat. The family harvests hay, chops and bales fodder, and raises corn to feed the dairy cattle.

Realizing the necessity for the operations and the financial burden these operations will incur, the Elwood Barnes family is most appreciative of the community's support. They are thankful this season for those people who want "To Help A Friend."

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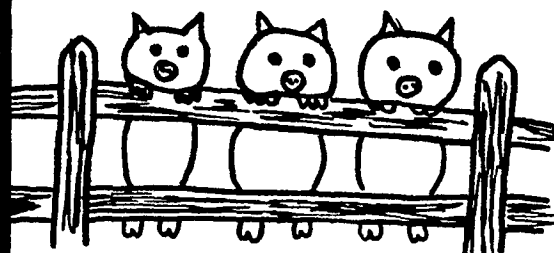
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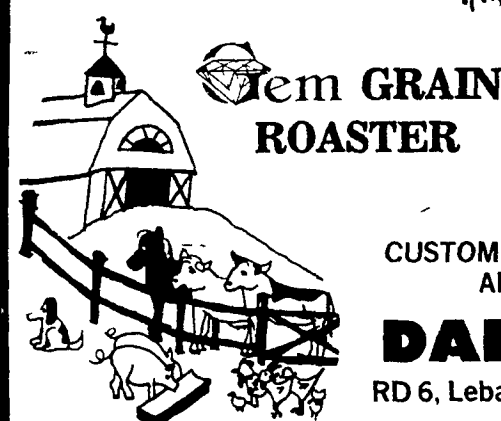
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