

Farm family scrapbook

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half-way up. There's a good view of TMI from the top, but they were wondering if it was worth it."

Friday, March 30: "Today it was a New York Times' man who wanted a cow in the field to photograph the towers in the background."

Nissley raises Holstein steers and fortunately had one specially tame that could be called upon for the photo.

"I let the steer out in the field," Nissley said.

"At first, he was real frisky, jumping and running around. The photographer couldn't understand why the animal just wouldn't hold still for the photo. Finally he calmed down enough and I held him while the picture was taken."

Nissley also did quite a bit of hauling an empty manure spreader around the field that looks down on the power plant.

"The photographers wanted some action in the field," Nissley said.

"I just drove the tractor back and forth pulling the empty spreader. They waved their arms this way and that like a movie director trying to line me up with the towers."

The scrapbook continues with Mrs. Nissley's entry for Saturday, March 31:

"I wanted to go to Uncle Henry's to spend the day but Daddy didn't think it was necessary so we stayed home. We went down to the little tenant house and painted the kitchen and laundry. But we kept the radio on constantly."

Saturday night: "We feel very much alone. It was dark all around us and the helicopters were flying over every 15 minutes."

The Nissleys explain that this was a low point for them during the first week. Many neighbors had evacuated and their darkened houses were constant reminders.

Sunday, April 1: "We had a wonderful service at Good's Mennonite Church, committing everything to God and asking Him to give wisdom to those in authority and to keep us safe."

"In the afternoon, President Jimmy Carter came to TMI and we went over to see him."

Pasted in the Nissley scrapbook is a blurred photo of the president's limo as it sped by the onlookers.

Sunday night: "They were still making it sound like we might have to evacuate so we packed a suitcase."

Monday, April 2. "Things began to sound better so we stayed."

The family had planned to go to Juniata County if

evacuation had been ordered. The 50,000 hens were on automatic watering and feeding, but there was still the daily problem of packing the eggs, requiring someone to return to the farm.

Tuesday, April 2: "As the days ahead unfolded, we had news reporters about every day who took pictures and asked questions."

Some Brazilian reporters particularly were remembered by the family.

"They wanted to visit the chicken house," Nissley said.

"They had never seen anything like it and seemed to be more amazed with it than the accident."

Just about a year has passed since the accident and Nissley encounters regular reminders. He doesn't need to follow the news to be aware of them, either.

"I drive school bus and watch the plant's parking lot as I go by," he said.

"If there are a lot of cars in it, I know the reporters are here and something is going on."

When he's out in his fields, Nissley only needs to glance overhead. Eighty of his 230 acres have power lines above them.

"When I'm pulling a wagon and it's damp, I watch myself," he said.

"Jumping off the tractor and touching the wagon can give a shock that you really feel."

"When I make a round of the fields, I pass under them eight times."

"Sometimes at night you can really hear those lines. It sounds just like a frying pan."

Looking back, Mr. and Mrs. Nissley have somewhat conflicting views about the plant.

"I'm not really fearful of it," Nissley said. "If we want the power, I guess we need them. But now let them be more cautious, put more safeguards in them and build them away from population centers."

Mrs. Nissley has different strong feelings.

"I don't like it," she said. "I wish they would close it down and never open it."

There's the problem of getting rid of the wastes, too.

I don't think that it's the type of thing we should give to our future generations.

Speaking of generations, quite a few of the Nissley family have lived on that land.

Grandson Jeffrey is the eighth generation.

A lot of family history has gone into the land, but none compares to that week or so about a year ago recorded in the Nissley scrapbook for 1979.



Family scrapbook brings back vivid memories of the week following TMI accident for Mr. and Mrs. Clair Nissley, of Dauphin County.

Brooks End holds spring sale

BEAVERTOWN — Brooks End and Par Kay Farms, Beavertown, PA. held their annual Spring Sale on March 7.

A total of 181 head sold for \$52,930, for an avg. of \$292. Also 121 head of pure-bred boars and gilts averaged \$349.

The top-selling animal was a Yorkshire Bred Gilt at \$950. The top-selling Yorkshire Boar was purchased for \$550.

The top-selling Landrace Bred Gilt was purchased for

\$550. The top-selling Landrace Open Gilts were purchased for \$230. The top-selling Landrace Boar was purchased for \$450.

The 45 head of Yorkshire Bred Gilts avg. \$406. The 19 head of Yorkshire Boars avg. \$362. The 39 head of Landrace Bred Gilts avg. \$312. The 10 head of Landrace Open Gilts avg. \$215. The 8 head of Landrace Boars avg. \$347. The 60 head of Commerical Open Gilts avg. \$178.

This sale offering sold into

13 different states. Most of this sale offering was of Scotland Importation Bloodline Heritage. The next sale offering of Brooks End and Par Kay Farms will be on July 25.

Goat Gang 4-H Club meets

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The January meeting of the Goat Gang 4-H Club was held at the home of their leader, Anna Hartman, of Stockton.

The club is presently planning to bring goats for a 4-H program to the Hunterdon State School.

Horse behaviour to be studied

CHAMBERSBURG — A short course, intended for anyone of high school age and above who is interested in the Behavior of Horses will be held; 6 sessions starting March 26. Topics include: maintenance behavior, social behavior, communicating behavior, sexual behavior, mother-young relationships, and play.

Instructor for the sessions will be Ronald Keiper, Associate Professor of Biology, at Penn State. Keiper has done extensive research with the wild ponies on Assateague Island.

The sessions will be held at the Chambersburg Area Senior High School, Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost is \$24.00 per person which includes all course materials.

For more information call (717) 749-3134.

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