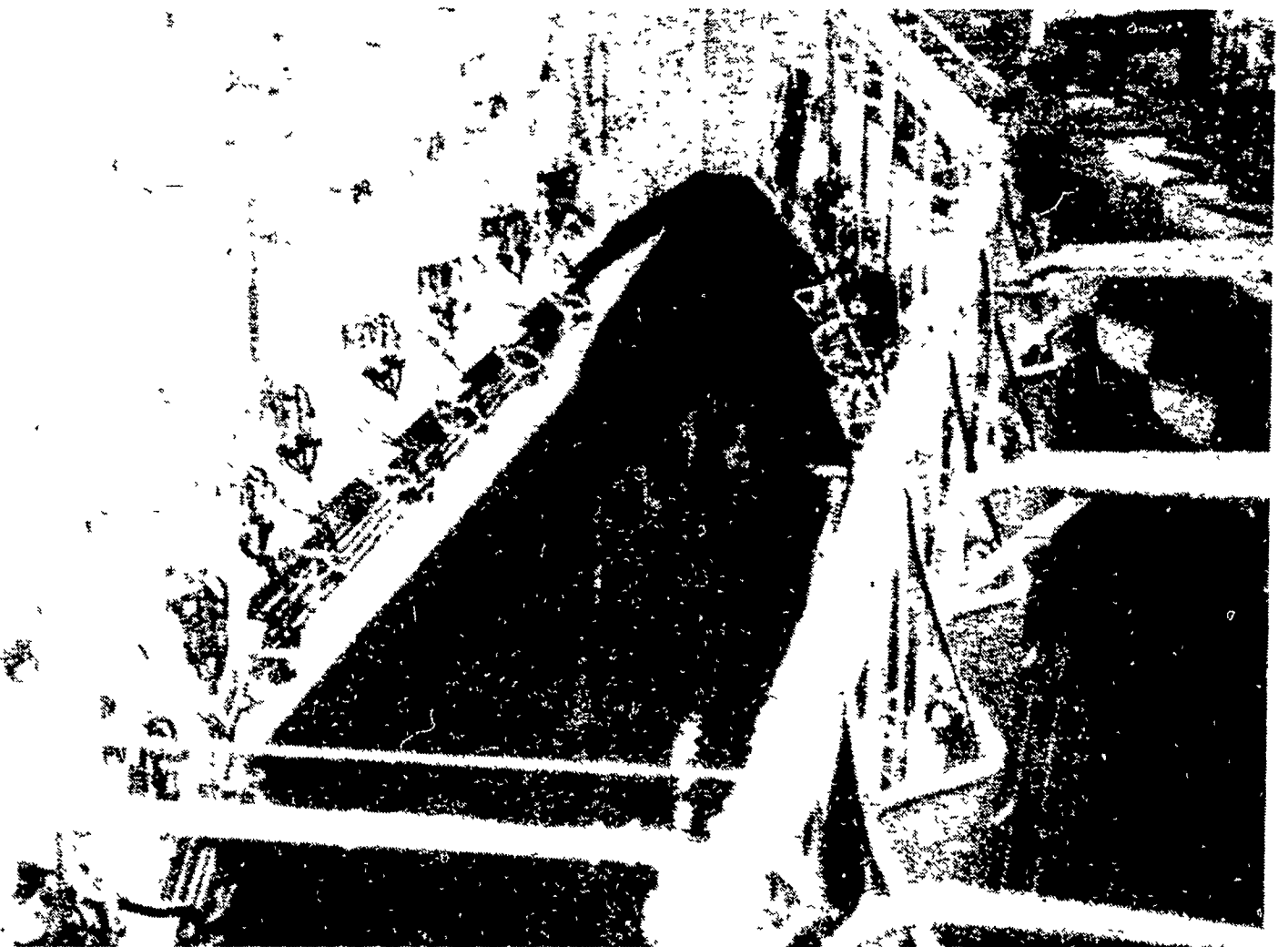


The obvious bulge at center of parlor gives the double-ten herringbone its "pregnant" nickname. Design allows for easier cow movement at the Freys' Fair Hill Farm in Kennedyville, Md.



# Pregnant herringbone

## *Birth of a new milkhouse idea*

### New setup allows smooth cow traffic in double-10

**BY CURT HARLER**  
KENNEDYVILLE, Md — Crop farmers have recognized for years that the only way to justify a big piece of equipment is spread it over as many acres and hours as possible.

Dairymen soon may come to think the same way about their milking equipment.

An operation like that at Fair Hill Farms Inc., in Kennedyville, Md., began to recognize the economies of scale as the Frey family planned expansion to 500 milkers, with three times a day milking.

That's why we went to

three times milking," says Ed Frey, who is in charge of the dairy end of the operation. "It gives greater utilization of equipment."

Ed farms with his brothers Ken, who does the field work, Robert, who is a vet, and his father, Edwin Frey.

"I think you get more milk from the same cows," Ed continues.

The three-times milking started last Monday. With 450 cows being milked at present, and the string expected to go to a full-capacity 500 when the remaining cows calf within the next 60 days, the Freys

hardly have to worry about generating enough milk. But getting it all collected in a smooth and efficient manner required loads of planning.

The result was installation of the first pregnant herringbone system in the East.

The system they settled on technically is known as a modified herringbone. But almost everyone calls it a pregnant herringbone because of the obvious bulge about mid-way down the parlor.

The double-ten pregnant herringbone at Fair Hill Farms was modeled on one owned by Tony Bos, Mira Loma, California, a friend of the Freys. It was there that they obtained a number of the ideas used in their setup.

What's the big advantage of a pregnant herringbone?

On a normal herringbone setup there is one gate to release all of the cows on each side of the parlor. It can

take a while for 10 cows to stroll out after being milked.

The pregnant herringbone has a gate in the middle as well as at the end so five cows can exit from each gate.

Although all 10 cows have to be released at the same time, there is a good savings of time with the two exits.

Since the milking units are equipped with automatic detachers, the milker easily can tell when the cows are ready to leave.

The setup was fabricated by Jones Dairy Service of Medford, New Jersey. The milking system is by Bou-Matic, the bulk milk cooling system by Dari-Kool.

Owner Bucky Jones is an active defender of a large dairy setup. "You have to think like they do in California," he says.

A man with 100 cows will have more money invested per cow in his milking equipment than the Freys do," he notes.

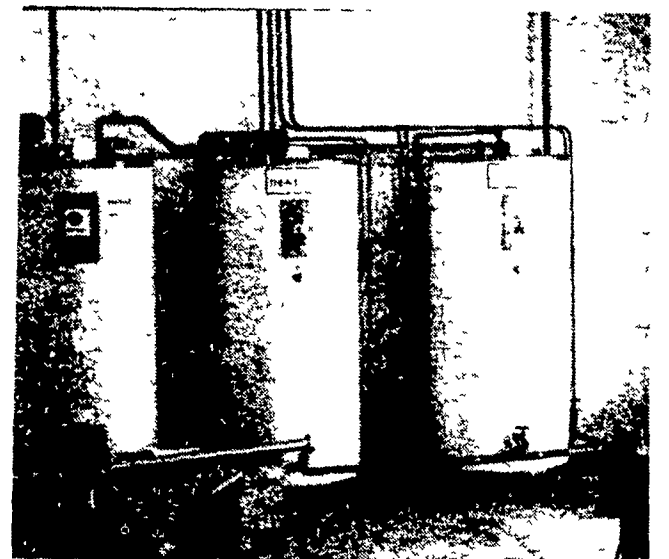
Ed Frey says what he paid for the parlor is irrelevant. "It'd be 20 percent more today with inflation," he says.

But a ballpark figure on the milking equipment itself, without plumbing and

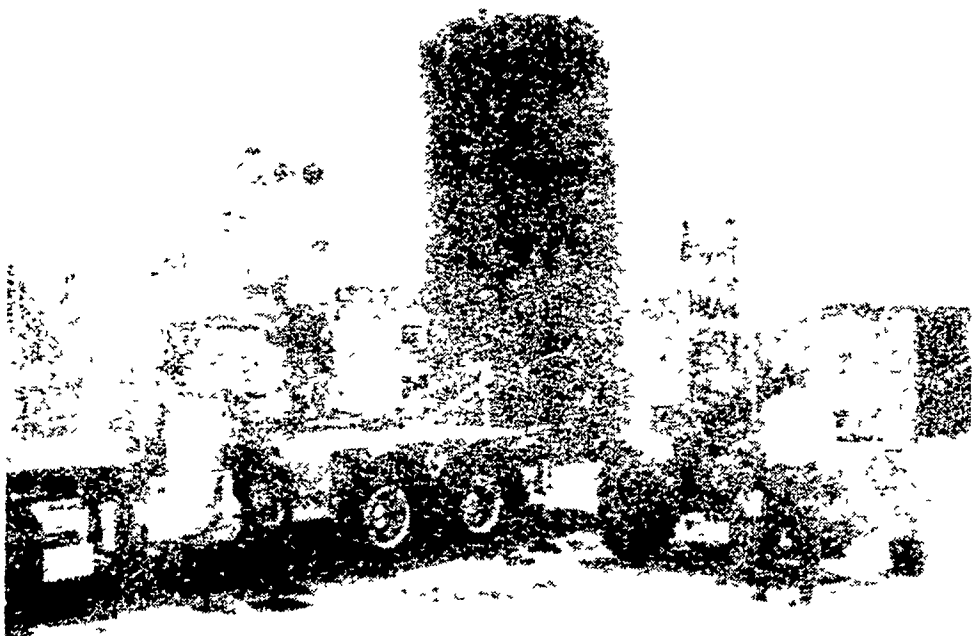
electrical, would be in the area of \$300 per cow.

Frey says he prefers to look at the pounds of milk taken from the cows per man hour. At present he is getting about 1000 pounds per man

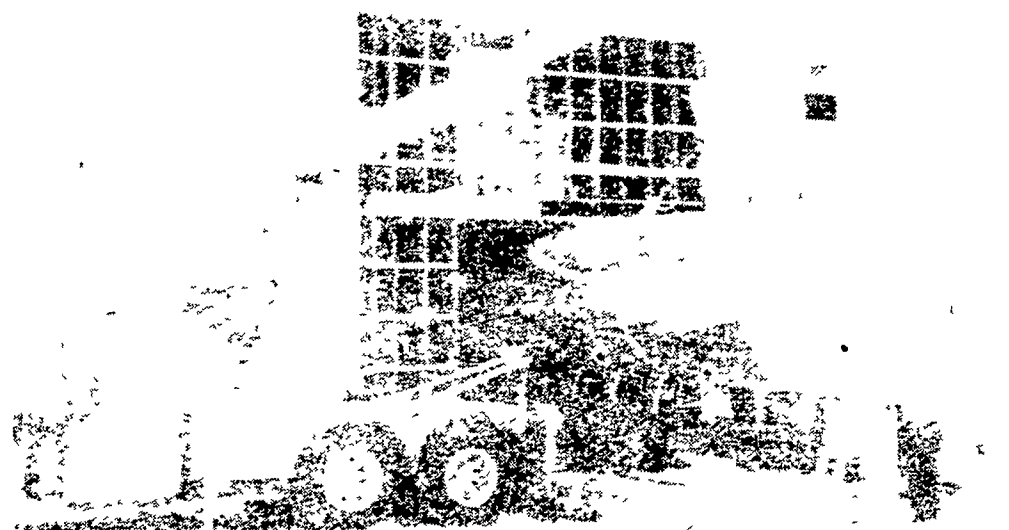
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A hot water heater and a pair of heat exchange units provide economical hot water for the dairy.



Because of the amount of water required by the flush system, the Frey Brothers installed a 4000-gallon holding tank to provide a reservoir.



This 4000 gallon bulk tank will be emptied on once a day pick up by Inter-State Cooperative.