

Dairying dream coming true for cousins

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

REISTVILLE — As soon as they're old enough to toddle after their parents to their dairy barn, a lot of farm youngsters begin to shape a dream in their minds.

At first, when the visits to the barn primarily open a whole new world of fun and adventure of climbing over hay bales or throwing a handful of the sweet-smelling stalks to one of the herd, the dream is still a bit hazy.

But, as responsibilities expand to assume a major share of feeding or milking chores, the focus of the dream begins to become sharper and sharper.

That dream is to one day milk your own cows.

And so it was with two cousins who are just completing their vocation studies at Eastern Lebanon County High School.

Just as the dream slowly began to take shape in their youthful minds over the years, it is now materializing in the form of concrete block, wood and metal on the former Krall farm along Ramona Drive northwest of Reistville in Lebanon County.

And after the construction is completed, the cousins, John Kline, 17, and Ken Heisey, 18, should begin to realize the final phase of the dream of milking their own cows approximately in August.

"When we were little kids, we talked about how some day we'd milk together," Kline said.

"I guess back then it was more in a way of kidding each other," Heisey added.

But that beginning of the dream survived a period when Heisey moved from the Lebanon area. His father, Paul, was formerly associated with the Heidelberg Church of the Brethren and moved on to charges in Maryland, Sunbury and most recently in Indiana.

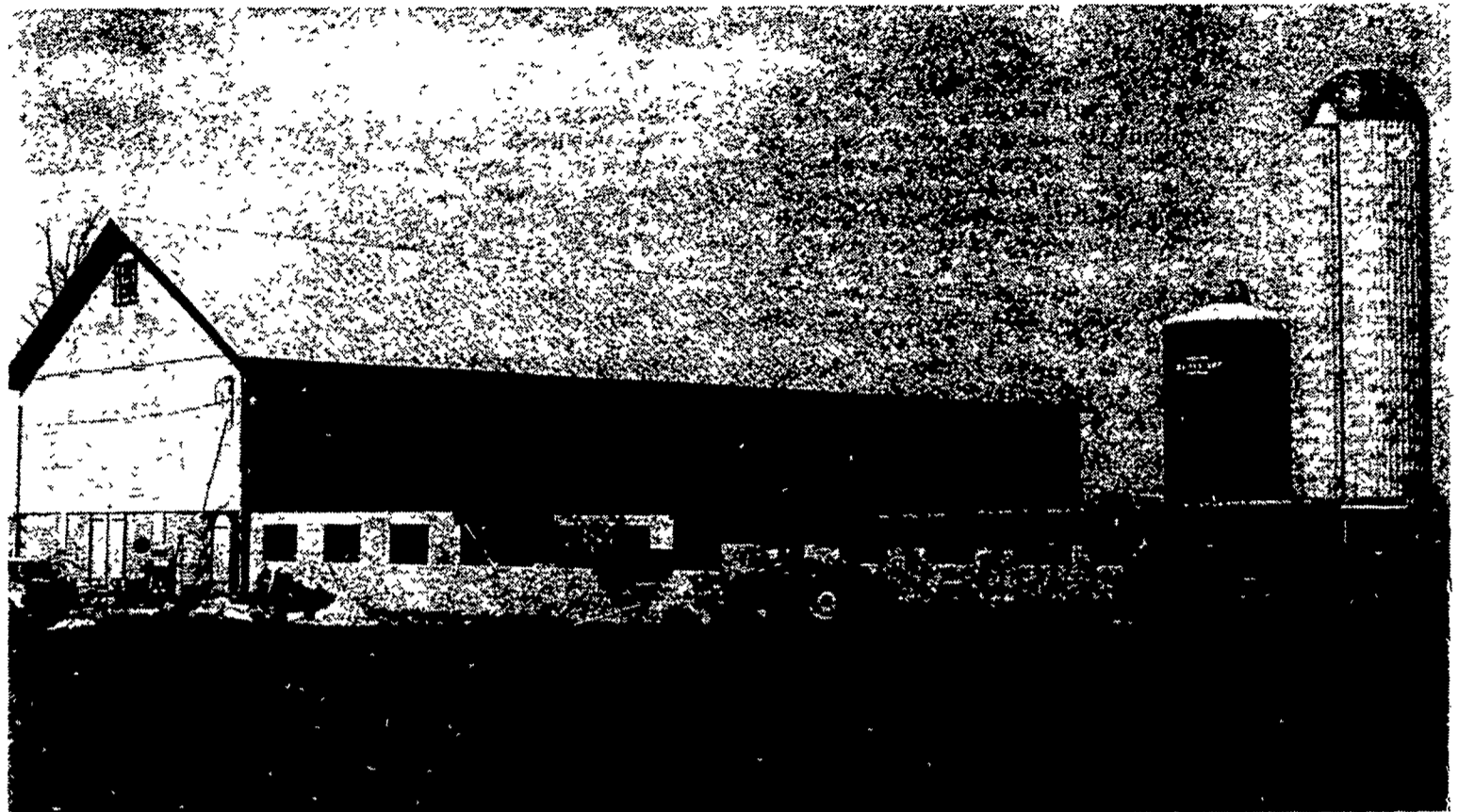
"I came back summers to work on the farms of my brothers, Walter, of Schaefferstown, and Marlin, of Annville," Heisey said.

"And we still talked about milking cows together."

Heisey also remained and completed his senior year studies at Elco.

"Now, we're looking forward to getting started with what we've been talking about all these years," Kline said.

As the dairying venture takes shape, the cousins, despite their still very young years, are following a construction program that will provide the most modern of facilities, yet retain some of the



New wing to house milking herd rises as an addition to one of the largest bank barns located in Lebanon County. The original 1890 barn measures 150 feet long and 55 feet wide; while the new 135-foot addition will contain 61 stalls. Also

shown are a new 18x70-foot silo and a used 20x40-foot Harvestore that was moved and re-erected on the farm along Ramona Drive northwest of Reistville.

historical charm and significance that the farm contains.

The single-story addition to house the milking herd will blend well with the original 1890 stone and wood structure, which is one of the largest bank barns in the Lebanon County area. The original barn is 150 feet long and 55 feet wide.

The 135-foot addition is being constructed as an L-shaped wing to the barn. It will contain 61 stalls for the milkers. A pipeline milking system will be installed.

"We'll be adding a milk house with a 1,000-gallon tank, which will have a utility room and a vestibule," Kline, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kline, R2, Myerstown, said.

Other obvious additions have been made to transform the facilities of an old-time general farm into a dairy operation.

There's a new 18 X 70-foot concrete silo with a patriotic red, white and blue top that contains corn silage. And a used 20 X 40-foot Harvestore was moved and re-erected for high moisture corn.

A Slurrystore unit, which will hold 194,000 gallons, will be erected. The manure will be

pumped underground to the unit from the barn's gutter cleaner.

"This will give us six months of storage capacity," Heisey said.

"We'll be hauling only twice a year and plowing it right in."

An 85-foot feed bunk with mixer box is already in operation as Holstein bulls from other Kline farms are being fed out until the dairy operation is completely ready to be launched.

But other renovations to the farm are not as obvious.

The entire ground floor of the original barn had earlier been gutted out and modernized.

"There was no steel in the barn at all," Kline explained.

"The ground floor was just a series of wood horse stalls."

The floor was jacked up, even though it had no sag, and concrete footers with steel support posts were erected. The ground floor now contains two heifer stalls, two rows of 22 free stalls and four box stalls.

It is planned that about 25 head of heifer replacements will be housed in the area when the dairy operation gets started.

The upper part of the barn will

be utilized for hay and machinery storage.

Kline already has six cows, four heifers and three bulls of his own and the herd will be expanded for the new facility.

In addition to the large bank barn, the farm has other historical features.

The large brick house, believed to date to 1813, contains both a main section and a summer area. Once containing 17 rooms, some renovation has been done to its interior, consolidating rooms and modernizing the living area.

Massive brick arches are found in the basement, which contains a butchering area.

Next to the house is likely one of the more unique historical structures for this area.

It's a wood pump house, with a steeple on which a windmill once caught the Lebanon County breezes. The pump house still contains much of the original mechanism, which pumped the

water into a tank for gravity flow into the house.

Below the pump house is an 85-foot, hand-dug well. Also contained in it are an area that appears to have been a workshop and a plaster-finished room, which may have been home for a hired hand at one time.

In addition to the two cousins, Kline's grandfather, Harry, makes his home on the farm. He's still quite active with gardening and other activities as raising white pigeons.

Some conservation measures have also been done on the 123-acre farm, which has six acres of pasture and 11 of woodland. A large ditch was put in the length of the farm to drain six small ponds that were scattered across the largely flat tillable area.

Yes, the dairying dream of the two Lebanon County cousins is rapidly being realized.

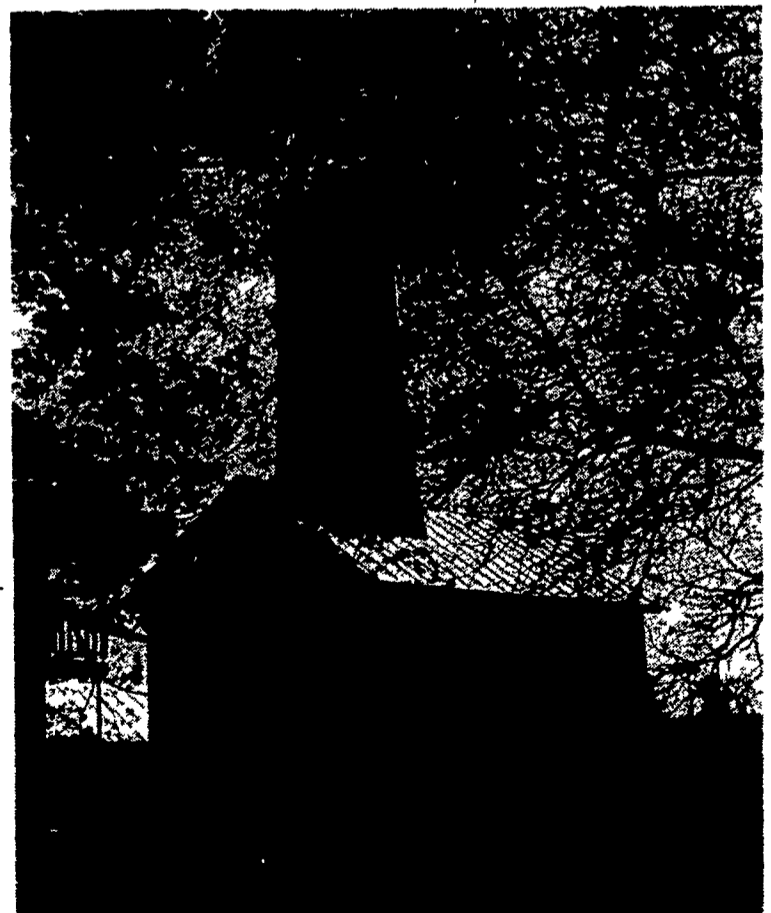
And, they're learning that as the

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Lebanon County cousins, Ken Heisey, left, and John Kline, right, flank Kline's grandfather, Harry, on bench outside large brick home that dates back to 1813. Farm on which

the trio lives is currently being converted to a dairy operation, which will include 61 milkers and about 25 replacement heifers.



Wood pump house, which is complete with steeple that once contained a windmill, is one of the historic features of the former Krall farm in Lebanon County, on which a new dairy operation will soon be operated by cousins, John Kline and Ken Heisey.