

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
MIDDLETOWN — One January night, eight years ago the Howard Kopps of Stoneylawn Holstein Farm, lived through what every farm family dreads — a barn burning.

Fire swept through their one-story barn, leaving nothing but a foundation, a feed trough and stanchions.

Howard and sons Jay and Ronald managed to save all the animals. It was only in going back for a tractor that Howard was burned and had to spend time in a hospital.

Jay's wife Anne was at their house, which is separated from the main farm by several fields. The

night the barn burned was one she'll never forget.

"I was looking out a window toward the farm when my father-in-law must have opened the barn door. When I saw the flames I couldn't believe it and felt as if I just wanted to crawl in bed and pretend it didn't happen," she said. But it did happen. And when the smoke cleared the Kopps were faced with picking up the pieces.

Although the tragedy proved to be a "financial loss," explained Jay, his hearty herd of Holsteins had little trouble adjusting.

"The cows seemed to come right back once they got adjusted to the smell," he said.

The Kopps covered the founda-

tion with heavy plastic and tires and continued to milk the herd under the temporary roof for a few days.

Later, the herd was scattered in three different farms during construction of the new facility. With the help of neighbors and an Amish carpenter crew, the Kopps watched the new barn take shape.

Mother nature even pitched in that year and provided a mild winter and eventually the Stoneylawn Holsteins settled into their new barn, complete with double-eight herringbone parlor.

But it seems that the Kopps' big Black and Whites will settle just about everywhere — Saudi Arabia, Germany and around the U.S.

Stoneylawn dairy takes cha

Merchandising contributes about 25 percent of the income on the 400-acre farm, Jay estimated.

"We just couldn't milk enough for three families," he said.

And that's one of the reasons, Jay explained, that every one of the 100 milk cows and 100 head of

young stock have a price tag for interested parties.

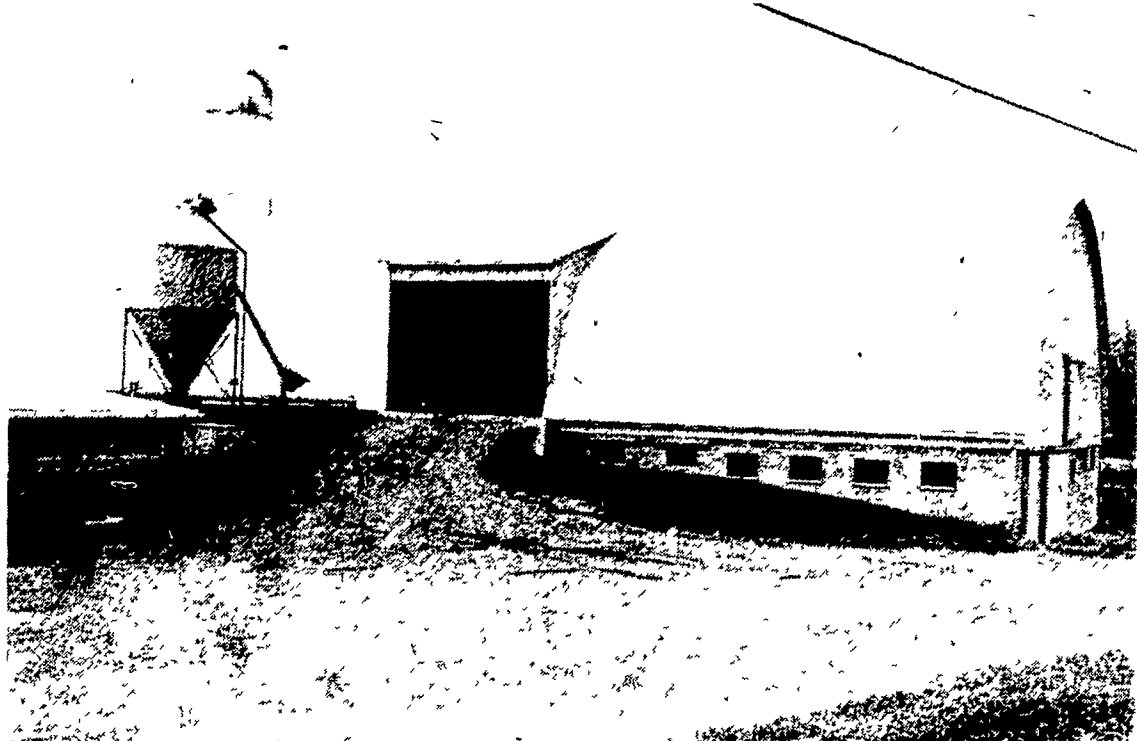
Merchandising also helps spread the word about the Stoneylawn genetics.

If someone were to peek into the Kopps' semen tank they would find Glendell, Sexation, Mars, Elmer

and Jet Stream to proven bulls ma more, but Jay sai spent:

"We like to b resalable sires,"

One such popul



Eight years later a new barn stands on the level and the milking parlor, added two years after construction is to the left. The young stock are now housed in the first

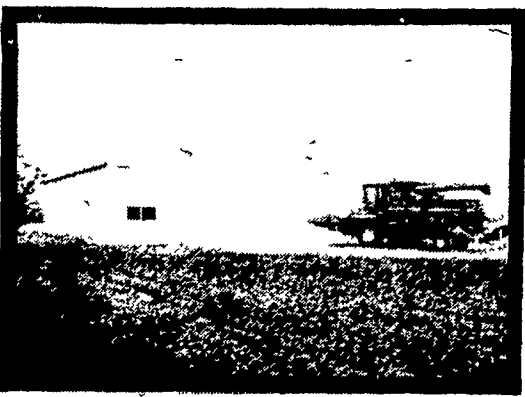


While corn picking takes place in the background the fodder shredder stands ready to spit out huge stacks of bedding. The Kopps share the money-saving machinery with a neighbor

At the other the Stoneylawn ration includes shelled corn an

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