

Blair dairy family

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mulings following the fire the cows were next door at the farm owned by Ruth's brother, Robert Rhodes. They are now feeling at home on the farm of Harold Wareham, who quit farming several years ago. "We are very thankful that we have a place for the cows," Ruth says. Enough hay has been donated so far by other farmers to help feed the cattle.

The cows were moved on foot. Motorcyclists kept the herd together during the half mile trip. Joe and Jeff say they have tried to keep the feed and routine as consistent as possible for the animals. While production was down during all the commotion, it is now near normal.

"They picked our milk up that morning," says an amazed Ruth. The milk is shipped to Interstate and McMahon's Dairy in Altoona. The milkhouse suffered only minor damage in the fire.

This Spring everything will be moved into a new barn, on the old location and they will be back to farming at home. A couple of months after the fire friends and neighbors were busily erecting a new 58'x164' structure.

The family is looking forward to nicer weather. The concrete must

be poured, along with the stanchions, as well as the milking system and wiring installed.

"We're not in a hurry downstairs because of the cold weather," comments Ruth. They considered making changes in their farming set-up, but decided to remain the same.

The farmers didn't have much

time to feel sorry for themselves or wonder where to turn. While clean-up was still going on, Old Order Mennonites from the area urged the Hinton to get the blocks laid and they would handle the remainder. The foundation was put up mostly by volunteers. The Mennonites ordered all the building materials for the structure. "We didn't know where to begin," explains Ruth. Cobilt, a

building supplier, also did a great job getting the ball rolling.

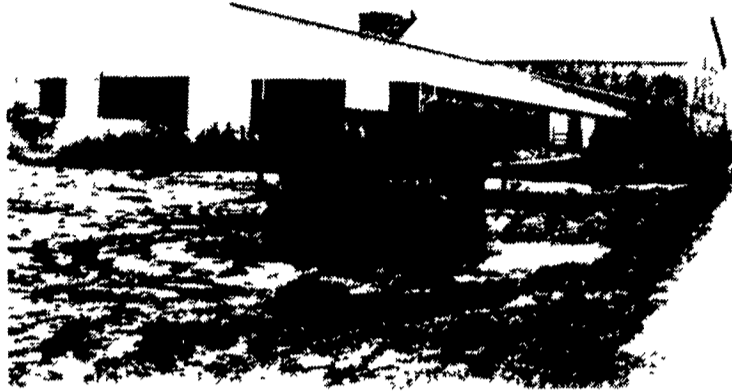
During Christmas week the word spread and the spirit of the season brought 92 volunteers for the barnraising. A slow time of year on many farms, the farmers gladly came and worked. Even record-cold temperatures failed to keep the helping hands idle.

The hungry volunteers were furnished lunch in the milkhouse. However, the second day was much colder and Ruth laughs when she remembers the 52 men crowded into her downstairs at mealtime.

Much of the food was furnished by friends and church groups, but Ruth remembers it still as a hectic time. The fire was still on her mind as the building was going on. She was also cooking, making Christmas preparations and welcoming out-of-town guests for the holidays.

The family quickly offers their appreciation for the unfailing support of the community over the past months.

Ruth sums it up by saying, "I was definitely surprised. It was like a miracle."



A neighbor's barn is the temporary home of the Hinton herd. Area farmers have also donated feed to get family through the winter.

Crop Assn. names manager

CHAMBERSBURG — Martin L. Krone, has been named Manager/Technician of the Franklin County Crop Improvement Association, according to association president, Kenneth Schoenberg.

Krone, a native of York County, received his B.S. Degree in Agronomy at Penn State in 1980. He has previously been associated with his father and brother in their dairy farming operation near Glen Rock, and has also been employed by Fertility Associates of Whiteford, Md.

In Franklin County, he will be



Martin L. Krone

responsible for major management decisions on more than 7,200 acres of field crops presently being grown by the 35 members of the Association.

Crop insurance outlined

HARRISBURG — Farm crops are subject to many natural risks over which producers have no control. "The drought that many farmers experienced in 1983 proved once again that no product or producer is disaster proof," says state Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hollowell.

"All Risk Crop Insurance Program has been designed to stand between crop disaster and financial disaster," Hollowell said. "It can provide the economic protection farm families need at an economic cost they can afford."

As an insurance program where the farmer participates at an annual cost, All Risk Crop Insurance gives the farmer a new and valuable management tool. With the knowledge that crop investments are protected against unavoidable losses, farmers can more safely afford to make the substantial investments it takes to produce high yields. To the extent that many farm production inputs must be bought with borrowed money, All Risk Crop Insurance provides economic security to help farmers obtain the capital they need on terms they can afford.

There have been many changes in crop insurance programs for 1984. Farmers have a greater opportunity to base yields on actual yields rather than averages. New programs for new crops are also available in some counties. Examples are: apples in Adams County; grapes in Erie; potatoes in Cambria, York and Erie; and forage in Lancaster. The regular crops of corn and wheat are the same as last year, but before farmers make a decision, Hollowell suggests, they take a look at all the programs and decide whether Crop Insurance is for them.

More information is available through local ASCS offices and the names of insurance agents that provide All Risk Crop Insurance coverage.

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