

# The Dairy Business

By  
Newton Bair

There has to be some excuse for writing this column, so what better title can I give it than "The Milky Way"? It is about the heavens and the majestic phenomenon that graces the sky on a clear, cold morning. Of course, the Milky Way is only incidental to our other observations, but makes a good point of coincidence to the Dairy business.

We (Priscilla and I) have just returned from an unusual trip that took us Southeast along the coast of South America to the mouth of the Amazon River, and then up that great river for 1000 miles to the inland city of Manaus, Brazil. While on the Cruiser on the high seas, we had the unique opportunity to study the heavens, far

away from the glow of city lights. The main attraction for this study was Halley's Comet, which is quite spectacular as seen from the Equator.

With four professional Astronomers on board, the heavens became a diamond-studded classroom as well as the most fascinating and beautiful view of the Space that surrounds our planet Earth. For an amateur stargazer like myself, it opened a whole new spectrum of sights that a northerner seldom sees. And some sights can be seen, if we only take the trouble to haul out of our warm beds early enough to see them before the sun rises to block our view.

Halley's Comet was only one of the sights, but since it is a once in a lifetime experience, it remains the brightest. Other soul-stirring sights included the Southern Cross, visible only from south of Latitude 15 degrees north, and Alpha Centauri, the star that is closest to the solar system.

These spectacular objects are not visible in Pennsylvania. Neither is the brilliant Megellianic Cloud, a glowing nebula of heavenly light visible only from south of the Equator. The Milky Way also takes on a new brilliance when seen from the double vantage point of a blacked out ship at sea, plying the waters of the Atlantic Ocean while crossing the equator.

Now lest you are turning slightly envious, and beginning to have regrets at having missed the view of Halley's Comet this time around, *it is still visible in southern Pennsylvania*. As of this writing, I have observed it as well as tried to photograph it at 4:30 A.M.

It is low in the southeastern sky, slightly above a line drawn from the bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra through another bright star Altair in the constellation Aquilla, the Eagle. It is actually approaching the constellation Sagittarius from the direction of Capricorn. There are no other bright stars near it at this time, to relate to its location. The moon is on the other side of the sun and does not interfere with the

view.

Don't expect to see a brilliant display. A good pair of binoculars are necessary. It is easily distinguished from any other body by its size and character. It appears slightly fuzzy, and the tail is still visible, although fading fast as it travels farther away from the sun on its 76-year journey.

It may also be visible in the evening sky an hour after sundown during April. It will be climbing higher above the horizon then, but getting farther away from the earth. Look due south, about ten to

twenty degrees above the horizon, in the constellation Scorpius. The sky must be perfectly clear of clouds and haze, and you should be away from the glare of the city lights or even dawn-to-dusk lights that obscure your vision of the sky.

Looking to the Heavens may be one of finding a brighter future, and the Milky Way even gives a significant meaning to the Dairy Business. Heaven knows we need some new insights and inspiration for the industry. Who knows, we might even find some Pie-in-the-Sky!

## Quotas A Better Idea

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS  
Staff Correspondent

WOMELSDORF — A quota system for dairymen is being promoted locally as a better idea. In the past few weeks a growing faction of dairymen have been arguing that the costly herd buyout plan is not the answer to the current dairy dilemma.

Although their idea is too late to the presses to replace the herd buyout, it is being advocated as a type of contingency plan after the initial buyout reduces the surplus.

"We're trying to work a program on what is existing now," states a spokesman for the group "Quota — A Better Idea."

"In Order 4, we already do have

a quota system, but we call it base," states the dairyman who is acting as spokesman for the group and wishes to remain anonymous. "One of the reasons it has failed in my opinion is because the price they pay for over-base production is too great to discourage production.

"We can do a quota system without buying and selling quotas. A quota system would discourage people from going into business unless there is a need for it, he explains.

"Too many farmers always want a program where they benefit," the spokesman continues. "We have to have a plan that's fair and equal for everyone."

After the introduction of their plan, these dairymen received many signed petitions and phone calls supporting their ideas. A three-priced dairy plan was formulated and presented to Secretary of Agriculture Richard Grubb and to Senator Gus Yatron's office.

The spokesman is quick to add that there are still wrinkles to iron out of the plan, but was encouraged, by the way it was received by higher officials. According to the spokesman, Grubb said it was too bad the plan wasn't there a year and a half ago. The group was told to present it to as many lobbying groups and farmer groups as possible and gain support throughout the state.

The group urges all interested dairymen and ag groups to call or write with questions and ideas or signify support of the plan.

They call the plan the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Plan and it is as follows:

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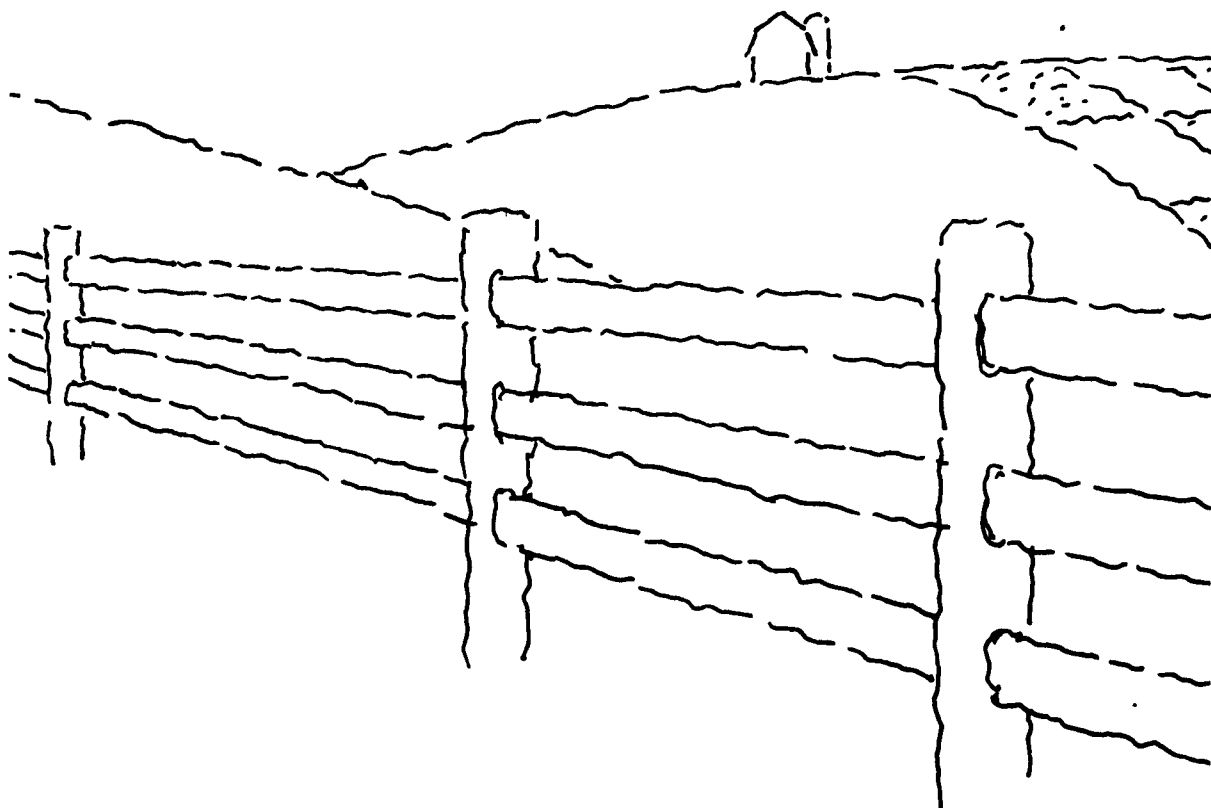
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