

Realizes In Ayrshire Milk Bottles

interest in milk bottles and let him rummage through some boxes in search of milk bottles as well as giving him bottles from his Avondale Farm.

"Why I saw the bottles advertising Jersey milk and Jersey cream — the bug started again."

"When I saw the bottles advertising Jersey milk and Jersey cream — the bug started again," Arvid notes.

His collection advanced after he read an article in Lancaster Farming on Ralph DeVillars from Kane. DeVillars, the eastern writer for a milk bottle magazine located in California, was a full-time collector. After a visit to Kane, Arvid returned home with a couple of boxes of milk bottles.

He describes DeVillars and John Tutton as the two people who have helped him the most with his collection. "They put me on to enjoying the bottles' styles and designs," Arvid said.

Due to the large number of bottles available, Arvid narrow his collection on Ayrshire dairies. "The love of the Ayrshire cow swayed me to mainly collect milk bottles from Ayrshire dairies," he explained. He is especially interested in Ayrshire dairies from Pennsylvania.

He also collects hard to get breed bottles such as Holstein, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorn. His collection includes 14 Holstein dairies, 12 Brown Swiss dairies and one Milking Shorthorn dairy. "The Milking Shorthorn dairy was next to impossible," he said.

He notes he just missed a bottle from a Dutch Belted dairy in Florida earlier this year.

To trace bottles he will attend milk bottle shows, advertise or look up locations of farms in old Digests and plan a vacation in that area.

"I love crawling through old milk houses and sheds to see what I can find," Arvid explained. Many times, however, he finds houses or stores setting where the barns once stood.

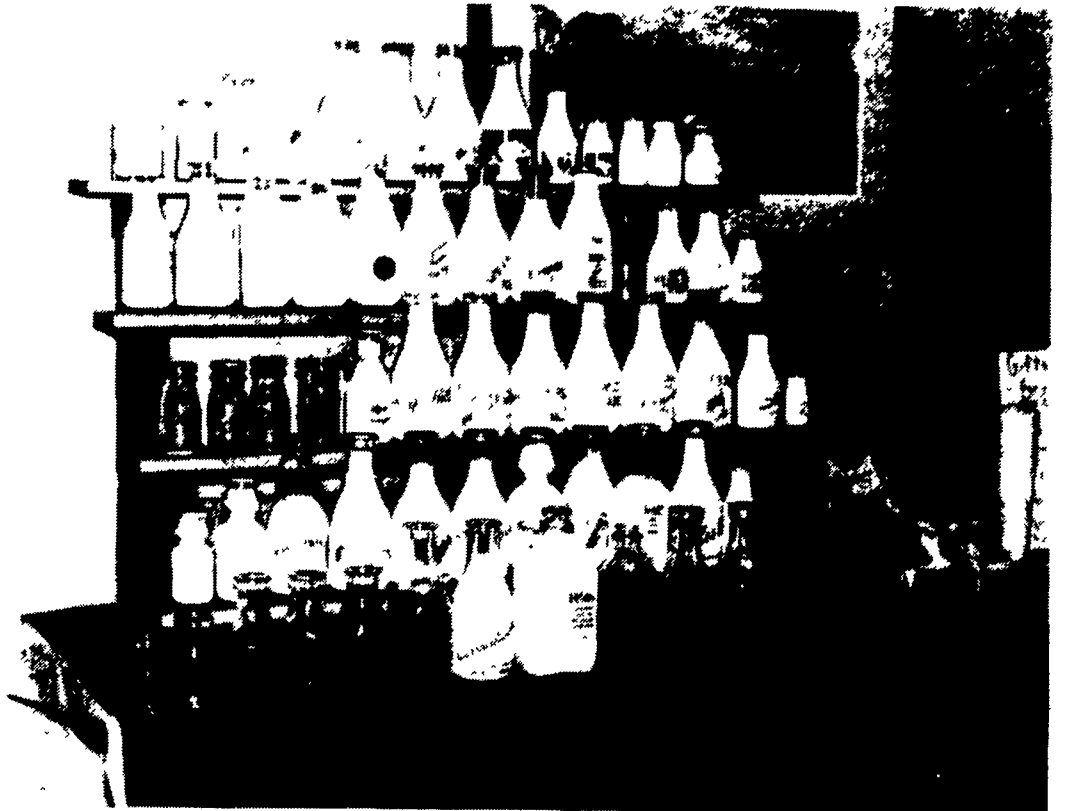
One of his hunts turned up boxes of bottles, a model Ayrshire cow from the 1940s and a showbox full of old Digests.

"Every time I think I have all the possible bottles, another one turns up," Arvid said. He explained that many dairies either didn't advertise, were small, or didn't specify their milk as Ayrshire milk.

He is especially interested in collecting bottles from Ayrshire dairies in Pennsylvania. Arvid knows of 29 Pennsylvania Ayrshire dairies that retailed milk. His collection has a representative bottle from 23 of these dairies, he noted. "I'm always interested in learning of and collecting bottles from the surrounding area," Arvid said.

This passion nearly caused him to kill members of his family in September, he jokes. While cleaning they accidentally threw three bottles in the burner. He was able to salvage the Spruce Villa bottle from Milt Brubaker's Ayrshire farm in Lititz. Knowing he would never get another one, Arvid scrub the pieces and superglued them back together.

His collecting fever has also infected his family. Last year his daughters, Kristie and Michele,



This display of milk bottles show some of the variety of glassware Arvid has collected.

requested Ayrshire milk bottles on their Christmas list, (Santa Claus delivered,) and his wife, Kathy, collects the half ounce and three-fourths ounce coffee creamers.

"I like to refer to my collection as my retirement income, if and when I ever retire from farming," Arvid said. He admits that selling the collection would be difficult and suggests other options as handing the collection to his children or donating it to a museum. That is if he ever decides to stop collecting.

"The bottles come before my wife and after the kids; the cows come before my wife — maybe."

Arvid describes his love for the Ayrshire cow and milk bottle collecting as consuming passions. He notes, "The bottles come before my wife and after the kids; the cows come before my wife — maybe."

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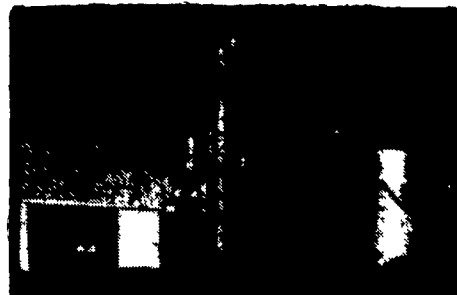


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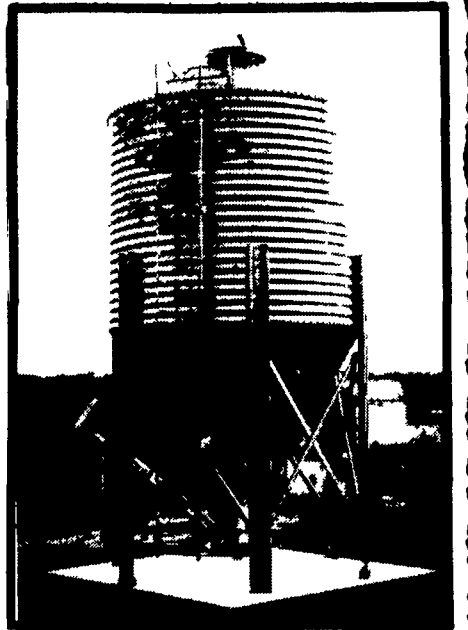
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