

On The Road With Veterinarian

(Continued from Page A1)

without cause until it was determined that drift from the barn spray-painting operation had contaminated the meadow with lead poisoning. The Editor remembered the evening in the 1940s when Dr. Denlinger, just out of college and ready to start practice, had stopped in to see his Dad at milking time. Denlinger immediately became the herd veterinarian and Denlinger and Dad share a lifetime friendship including membership in the Paradise Sportsmen Club. In addition, the Editor remembered when Zilhardt, just out of college, became Denlinger's assistant 30 years ago next month. Now Zilhardt is serving the third generation on some farms.

When we arrived at the farm of



On the operating table.



A haircut of the belly.



"That tickles."

the milk-fever patient, we gave the victim her "bottle of stuff". And by the time we had cut open and drained a lump of bad, smelly puss from another cow in the herd, the milk-fever patient had her ears up and was chewing her cud. We traveled from tramped tits (Doc doesn't see why cows are so stupid) to hoofrot and sore feet.

Along the way we talked. Talked about cow numbers. Since the herd buyout, Doc has noticed that in many of the other herds still in business, where there is a nook or a cranny, the farmer has stuck an extra cow into production. In addition, one farm that had 26 cows now has been divided into two farms with a total of 96 cows and young stock.

We traveled from farmers who hardly knew anything about the cow we were to treat, to farmers who kept extensive health records on each cow and had the veterinarian write his diagnosis on the barn record sheet. Then we talked about yew bushes. You know the ornamental trees you may have around your house. Well, Doc says they don't make good cow food. In fact, he recalls several instances when trimmings from these bushes, thrown in the meadow, poisoned the cows. Some died on the spot.

We traveled from checking pregnancies (Doc says if there is a calf in her she's pregnant), to checking results of a TB test. And we talked about somatotropin. Doc just smiles when you talk about giving the growth hormone by injection each day. He says when you stick a needle in a cow's neck every day, she is likely to get angry and lay and wait to kick you and the milking machine to kingdom come the next time you try to milk her. "These cows are not dumb," he says. Except when they tramp on their tits, we guess.

The morning quickly passed, and we stopped back at the house for a sandwich and met Mrs. Zilhardt who often takes farm calls and sends messages out to the truck radio.

After lunch we did the operation. When it was over, the patient got up and returned to her stall. She probably had a tickle in her belly though she didn't say anything about it. And when the Amish farmer found out that the pictures we took were for Lancaster Farming he thought it would be great fun for his children to see one of his cows upside down in the pages of



Dr. Curtis Zilhardt checks the surgery kit before an on-the-farm operation.



Dr. Kilbourne watches the patient on her feet after surgery.



Dr. Zilhardt and Editor Newswanger scrub up after farm visit.

their farm newspaper. Hope you enjoy it children!

When the operating utensils were back in the truck, we washed our boots and said good-bye to the

farm family as we drove out the lane. And the operating table, for an hour, again became another cow stable gutter north of Kinzers.

Guernsey Convention Sales Set For Tonight

PITTSBURGH — The American Guernsey Cattle Club opened their annual 110th convention yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel in Station Square, Pittsburgh.

Planned activities for the opening day included a meeting of the board of directors, seminars, a mall promotion, the president's reception, and a cruise on the Gateway Clipper.

Today features the National Heifer and Convention Sale in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton. The sale begins with the sale of seven ET calves. The 44 top-pedigreed consignments are housed in the Station Square garage, directly across the street from the Sheraton.

Following farm tours on Sunday the group will honor the Guernsey youths at their banquet in the

evening. On Monday the group will hold their annual business meeting on Monday. One item to be decided is a possible name change of the organization. At noon time, an awards luncheon will conclude the convention.

Look for complete coverage of the convention in next week's Lancaster Farming.