Heindels Ready New Dairy Facility

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time when poultry sold by the whole bird.

Hogs eventually replaced chickens, as many as 100 brood sows at a time. Swine feed rations utilized waste products, an innovative idea for that time. Along with his other ventures, Heindel raised German Shepherd dogs for the government, a "crop" which once broke into a chicken house and wreaked havoc.

"I always believed in diversity," quietly smiles the Yorkana innovator, who also cropped such commodities as tobacco, strawberries and tomatoes.

After purchasing a neighboring farm, complete with dairy barn, early in the 1970s, Heindel decided to diversify into the dairy business. Son Bill, then employed at Borger Steel and with no dairy background, agreed to return home to run the 100 head milking string on its way from New England.

"The cows arrived on April 6, 1973. I had no idea how to milk cows, didn't even know how to put a milker on," laughs Bill at the memory. "Boy, did I learn that first year."

"And I still learn something every day," he quickly adds.

"Well, you have to," agrees Horace philosophically. "If people don't keep learning they'd better quit."

Bill credits friend Marlyn Flaharty, now owner of Service Feed and Supply at Delta, with help and a guiding hand through those first, almost overwhelming, milking sessions.

The 30-footx128-foot concrete stave unit for corn silage is believed to be the tallest of its kind east of the Mississippi River.

As a further step toward diversity, Heindel began utilizing acreage for municipal landfill use many years ago. Recently, due to expansion at Modern Landfill by the operating Waste Management firm, the Heindel's dairy facility needed to be relocated.

The 900 acres north of Airville on which the dairy complex is located were purchased in 1988, with relocation of the cattle in mind. Since then, additional land has been purchased nearby, to total about 1,500 acres.

Already on-site for almost a year, across the meadow from the diary facility, is the Heindels' nearly 1,000 head cow-calf and finishing herd of Black Angus. Feed storage handling for the beef cattle is being integrated with that of the dairy herd in the overall design.

Central to the facility is the 42-footx440-foot dairy barn and attached 36-footx60-foot milkhouse, utility and offices complex. An 8-½ -foot center alley separates the two tail-to-tail rows of 100 stalls, each 4-footx6-foot with riveted-down rubber mats. Feed troughs are ceramic tile, 30 inches wide, with an additional 6 feet of alley for accommodating mechanized cart feeding.

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Interior walls and ceiling are insulated, 6 inches in the walls and 12 inches in the ceiling, and covered with white, plywood-backed glassboard for durability. Overhead florescent lamps were installed for four times the recommended light level, further enhancing the long barn's bright, open appearance.

Ventilation design was for 20 times university recommendations for air turnover, utilizing ridge venting, 35 double windows, 9 overhead garage-type doors for catching cross-breezes, and ten 36-inch in-wall fans. Engineering of the dairy barn is designed to facilitate air conditioning if it is ever desired.

The DeLaval milking system encompasses two completely separate pipelines, one for each end of the barn, to accommodate 12 automatic-takeoff milking units. Milk will be cooled enroute to the 4,000-gallon tank via a plate cooler, which also doubles as a reheat unit to maintain water temperatures during pipeline cleaning cycles.

The manure system was designed with the capability of expansion to a methane digester, if that technology is ever wanted for energy recovery.

Estimates are for use of a million gallons of water per year by the plate cooling system, a potential burden of extra liquids in the manure storage. With the addition of a 6,000-gallon holding tank, water used by the plate cooler will instead be recycled into the cattle watering system.

Two deep wells supply the facility, with valves enabling complete shutoff of either into the system. Additional valves divide the dairy barn fountain piping into eight sections with separate shutoffs for repairs.

A 36-footx60-foot maternity/hospital wing is off the opposite side of the dairy barn from the milkhouse. On the hill above the stall barn is housing for young stock and dry cows, a pair of approximately 200 feet long, steel-sided pole structures with drive-through feeding and easy clean-out design.

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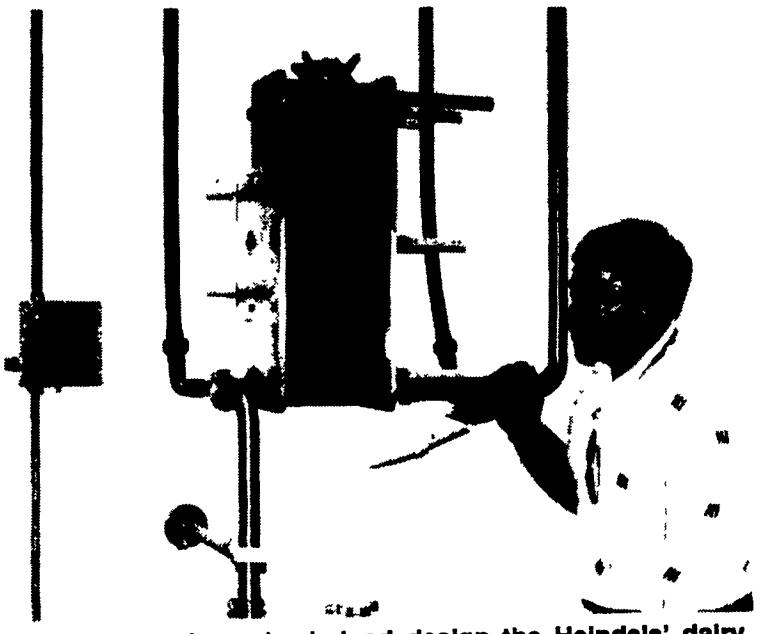
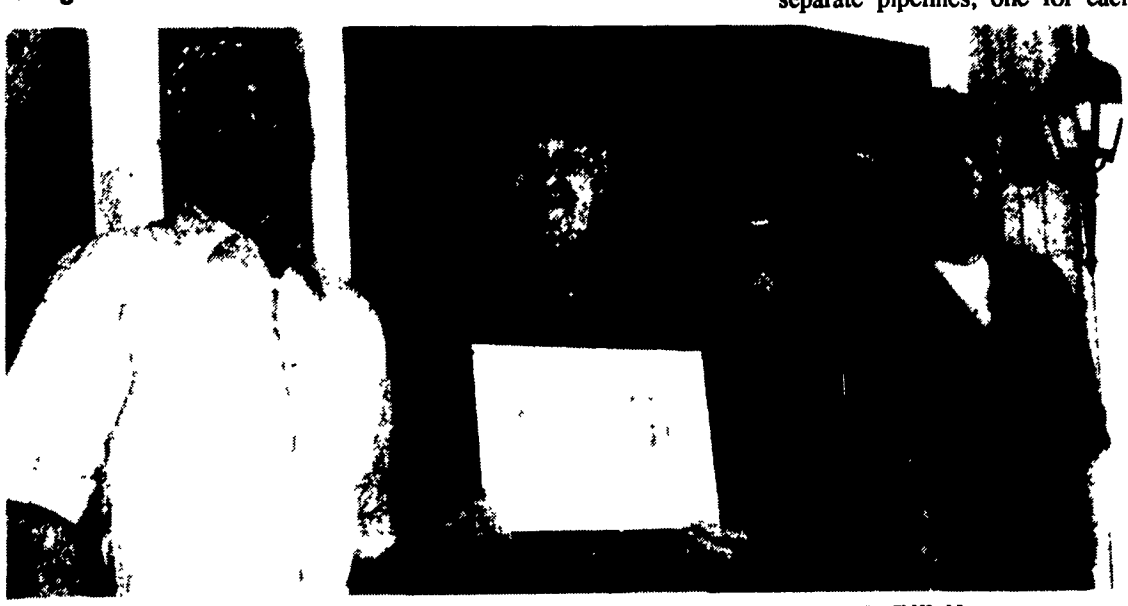
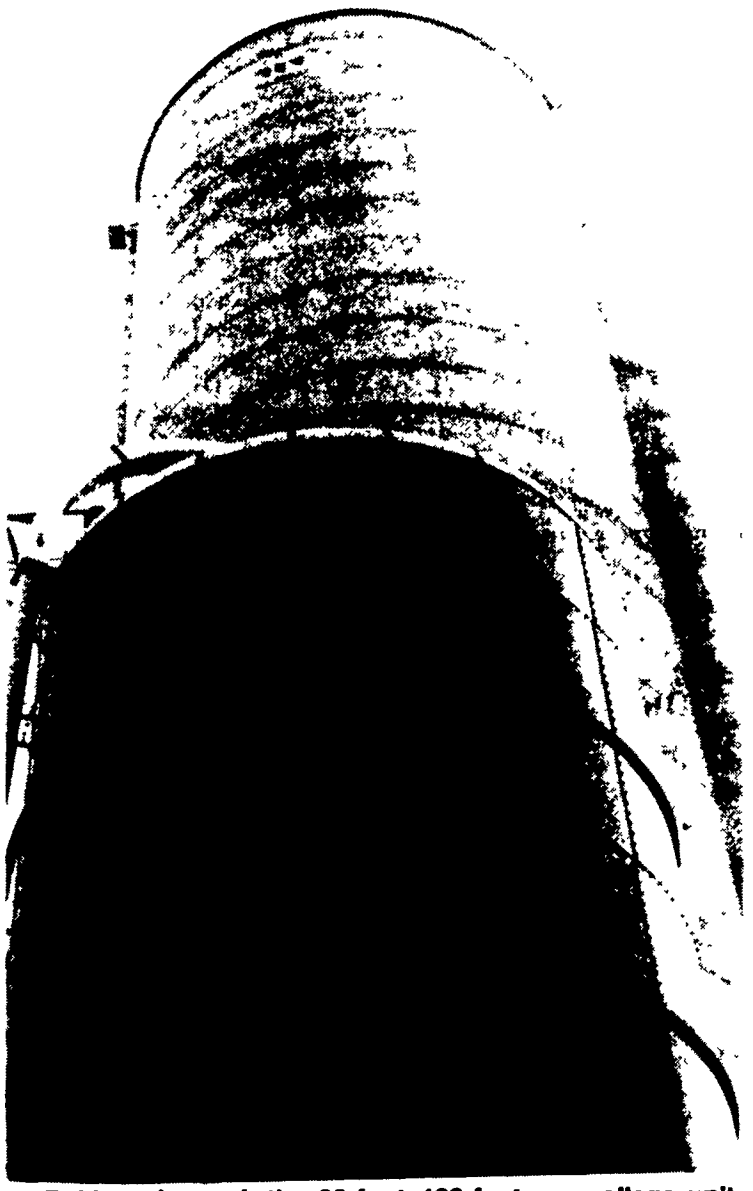


Tedd Rhodes, who helped design the Heindels' dairy complex, examines the pipeline plate cooler. Dual purposed, the plate unit re-cools milk enroute to the 4,000 milk tank, and reheats wash water circulating during cleaning cycles.

An 18-foot concrete apron ties the five silos together and provides convenient, solid access for forage and grain filling.



Looking forward to moving into the new dairy facility are from left, Bill, Horace and Jeff Heindel, and Horace "Smitty" Smith, a farm employee since he was a teenager.



Poking skyward, the 30-footx128-foot corn silage unit towers over the Heindel facility. It is reportedly the tallest structure of its type east of the Mississippi River.

JOYCE BUPP
York Co. Correspondent

Joyce Bupp and her husband, Leroy, milk 200 head of registered Holsteins and crop 700 acres of corn, hay, beans, and small grain at their Bupplyn Farms, Seven Valleys. They have a daughter Patty, 20 and son Richard, 17. Joyce writes a weekly column for *Lancaster Farming* and for "The York Dispatch." She has also been published by "Farm Journal," "Hoard's Dairyman," "Holstein World," and "Pennsylvania Holstein News." She is a book reviewer for the "Christian Herald Family Bookshelf."

Joyce serves as a Middle Atlantic division and corporate director of Dairymen, Inc., and as secretary of the Upper Chesapeake Bay Dairy Council.