

# Moser Brothers'

(Continued from Page B4)

went for the two striplings to master the tractor driving. It was difficult, he said, to reach the clutch, and when they tried, they slid out of the tractor seat.

Like most kids back then, they tried their skill at aiming a stream of warm milk straight from the cow's teat into the cat's mouth, while perched on the one-legged stool by her side. "It took awhile for the cat to know what it was all about," grins Harvey, the younger brother.

Bill says he clearly remembers that he was the one who always fell asleep doing his hand-milking task, then fell off the stool. He says he was soon given a job he could do better.

Installation of the first bulk milk tank on the farm came in 1964. They say that a machine called a "Sputnik," was used to transfer the milk to the bulk tank. Sputnik held some 300 pounds of milk and could be wheeled from the stalls to the bulk tank. It was repeated until the milking was finished, then it was thoroughly

cleaned with a brush, hot water and detergent. The installation of a modern pipeline system in 1983 is still used and has streamlined the twice daily milking routine.

Many years ago, a street car line cut through the rural area, passing by the Moser farm on its way through the various small towns. Bill says the streetcar stopped at the farm to pick up cans of milk and cream. He was too young to recall where it was taken or how it was kept cold.

When a former railroad line also went near their farm, Mosers say they lost six cattle because of an unwise decision by the railroad officials. Rather than mow the weeds choking the rail bed, the decision was made to spray them with a poison. The potent substance took their cattles' lives, including the lead cow, a Brown Swiss. Some compensation was made for the loss of cattle by the railroad they said.

Harvey says he does the milking chores through the week, then he and Bill alternate doing the task on Sundays. Help with the farm

work comes from Harvey's son, Jeff, and a high school boy.

Moser Brothers' cattle are grain-fed twice daily and turned out for exercise for four hours each day. Nancy says there is a great difference in the hooves of cows which are confined inside. She said they can grow long and curl, whereas, cattle roaming outside have the advantage of the conditioning and filing as a natural sequence. Harvey says it is sometimes necessary to grind the hooves if they become too long.

These typically busy farm wives hold outside jobs. Nancy is completing her 25th year of elementary school teaching. She and Harvey have three children and five grandchildren. Roberta and Bill have three children and four grandchildren. She has an office position at a local car dealership.

The very social Moser clan is an inherently musical family from the vocal to the instrumental talent. Harvey sings and directs a men's chorus. Without hesitation, William says he loves singing solos and in quartets. Roberta is the retired church organist, but Nancy

easily takes her place and plays the piano as well. Their children are also musicians.

Beside their work and play, Nancy says they all spend about two weeknights at the church in addition to attending Sunday services, because of involvement in church affairs.

Bill, a deacon in the Meyersdale Church of the Brethren, says he enjoys helping with the annual Christmas pageant. He says it is a tradition having its beginning in 1939 and is always so well attended by the community that it's presented on two evenings.

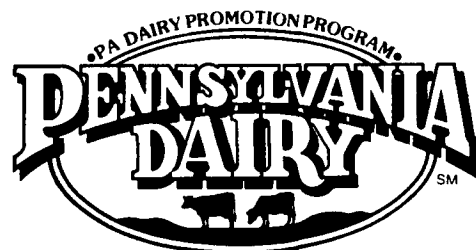
During the annual Pennsylvania Maple Festival, held each spring in Meyersdale to celebrate the production of Somerset County's maple syrup which is renowned for its excellence, the Moser's help to present the pageant "Legend of the Magic Water." For many years this pageant has been featured several times during the week-long festival.

The brothers belong to the Meyersdale Young Farmers organization. According to the motto, "A young farmer is any farmer that's willing to learn," there's no age consideration.

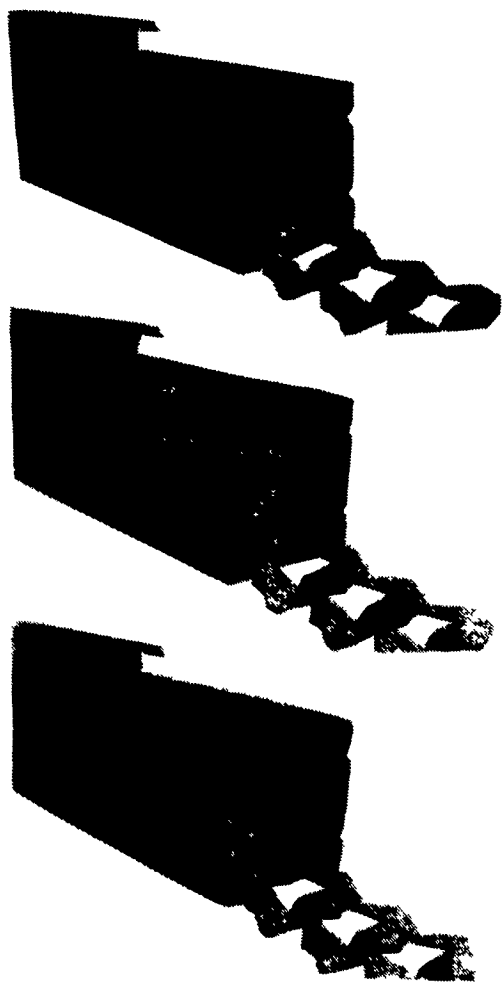
Roberta says with artless humor, "these two don't qualify as young farmers, but they are willing to learn." Everybody laughs including her subjects.

The brothers were also members of the Future Farmers of America when young. Their progeny, following later, were also, then, and now, members of FFA and 4-H clubs, entering their animals in the annual county fair.

Harvey says rotational grazing for livestock seems to be a growing thing with farmers. Paddocks are used where animals graze clean one feed lot and are moved into the next one for grazing. Though Moser Brothers farm hasn't experimented with this method, they believe it is an option worth considering.



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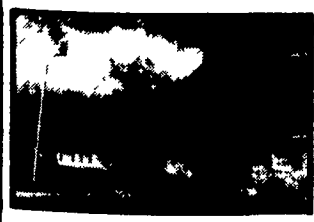
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