

Farm Couple In New Jersey

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example of the changing times. Henry and Ann also note the advances in technology that helped make farm chores less laborious. Milking by hand soon turned to milking with buckets. A pipeline installed in 1948, plus a new barn, brought the Trouts to modern times.

The memories live on. "We pitched hay by hand and cut wheat with a binder," Ann recalls. Henry fondly remembers his team of horses, Jake and Lena. "They were good," he says. "You could let them stand in the field and they would stay there."

But life was not always filled with happy times. Ann speaks of the day that nearly cost Henry his life. The young farmer had stepped over a belt to start the old thrashing machine. The whirling strap

caught his overalls and began pulling him toward the feeding arms. Ann appeared just in time, and "little me, all of 100 pounds, pulled him out," she says.

These are just some of the memories Henry and Ann store in their hearts. They are part of the fuel that has kept them going all these years in a livelihood they wouldn't trade for anything.

Farmers at Heart

When asked why, at their ages, they continue to farm, Ann answers: "others say to us, 'Why not get rid of those cows and start living?'" She tells them, "We like the farm. We like what we're doing."

What they are doing is this. Henry twice daily milks the 50-cow herd while son Henry Jr. manages the 200 acres of farmland. Ann "raises the animals" and

helps carry the milking equipment into the barn. She doesn't milk, she explains, because with her petite size, she can't reach the pipeline.

Ann makes up for the milking chore by spending endless hours in her garden — one that the county agent has said "is the nicest he's seen." Her half-acre plot this past summer provided her with enough vegetables and fruits to fill three freezers. Her canned vegetables earned her "a lot of first prizes at the fair."

Henry has had his share of accolades, too. In 1988, at the age of 78, he was named Warren County's Farmer of the Year. Henry smiles, "The county agent says I'm just it, there's no one like me."

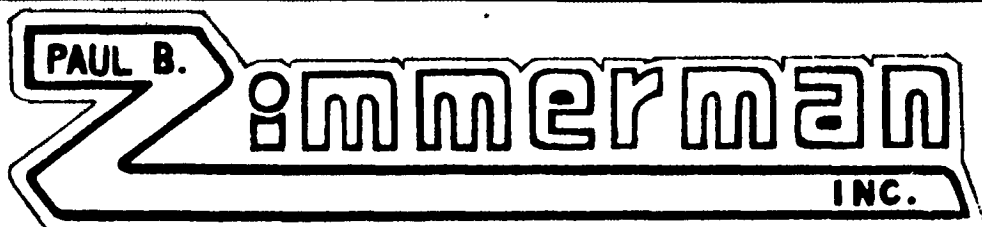
The Trouts say they are blessed with good health, a reward from "eating right and living right."

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The milk cans used on the farm in the 1930's now have a new use. This can with a painted farm scene helps decorate the farm kitchen.

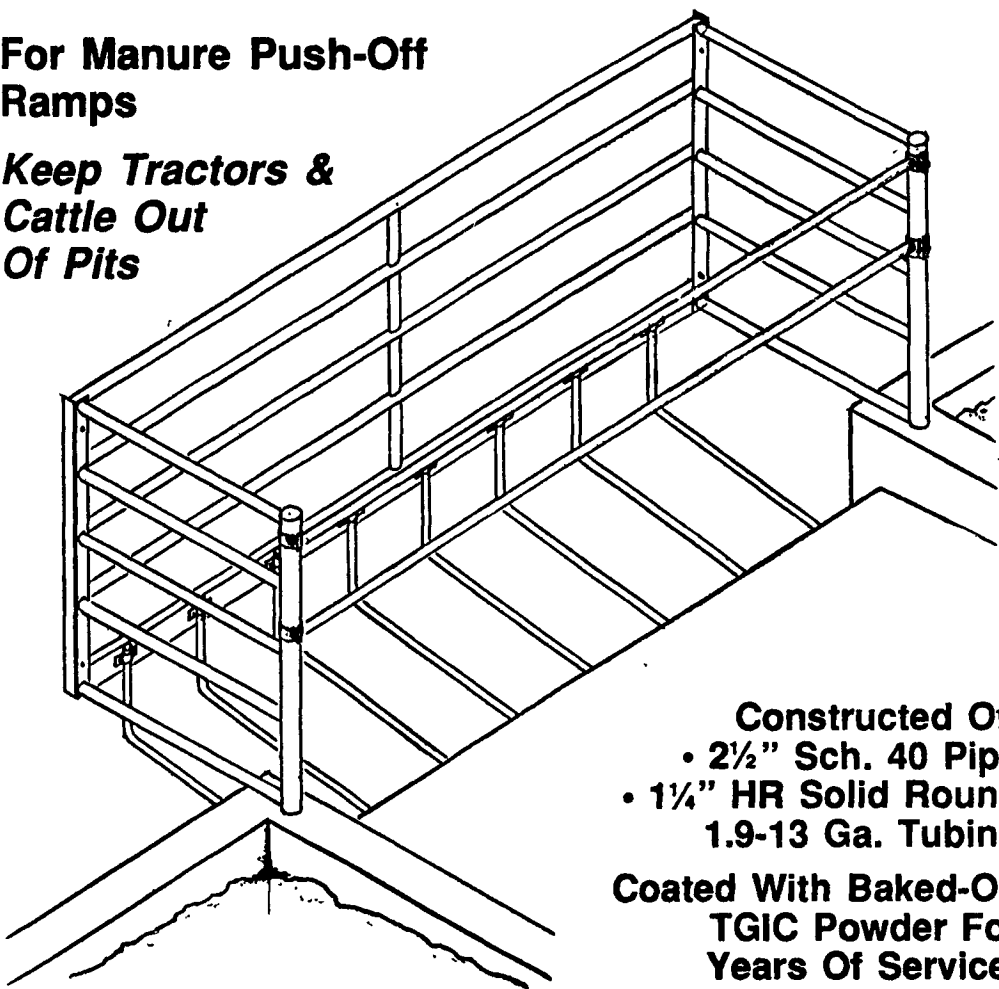
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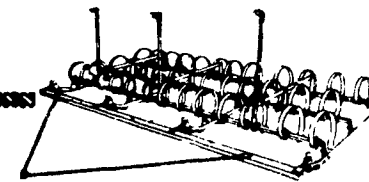
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