

More Than Money From Leasing

(Continued from Page A26)

In his way, Schaffer is doing the same thing for the Switzers. They don't own any machinery or equipment, but plans are that the next step is for them to purchase what Schaffer owns. Eventually, the long-range plan is for the Switzers to buy the entire farm.

What Schaffer gets from the arrangement is being able to see the farm facilities stay in use by someone who enjoys dairying. It also gives him the opportunity to

stay working on the farm, even though he doesn't want to continue working with cows fulltime.

Also, when Schaffer started out, he didn't know a lot about dairying, except for what he learned from two uncles on his mother's side of the family who helped him out.

Schaffer said he learned a lot over the years through the help of others, by reading and by talking to people and going on farm tours and asking questions.

Though he said he doesn't interfere with the management of the cows, he is ready to offer any advice sought from him.

"When you (dairy farm) alone, it's tough," he said. "There's no one there to share in your successes or your disappointments."

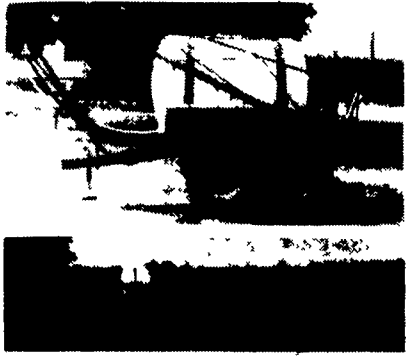
In effect, through helping the young couple take over the land, Schaffer gets to keep the land in farming.

He also gets the company of his side-kick, Dwayne.

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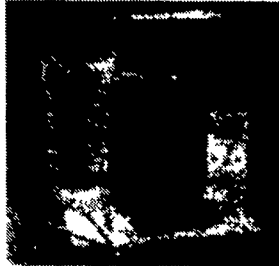
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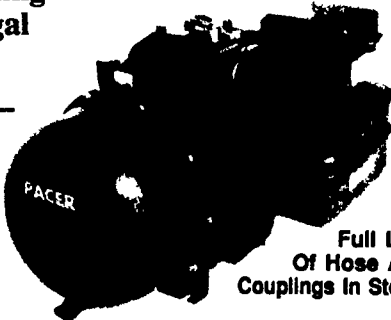
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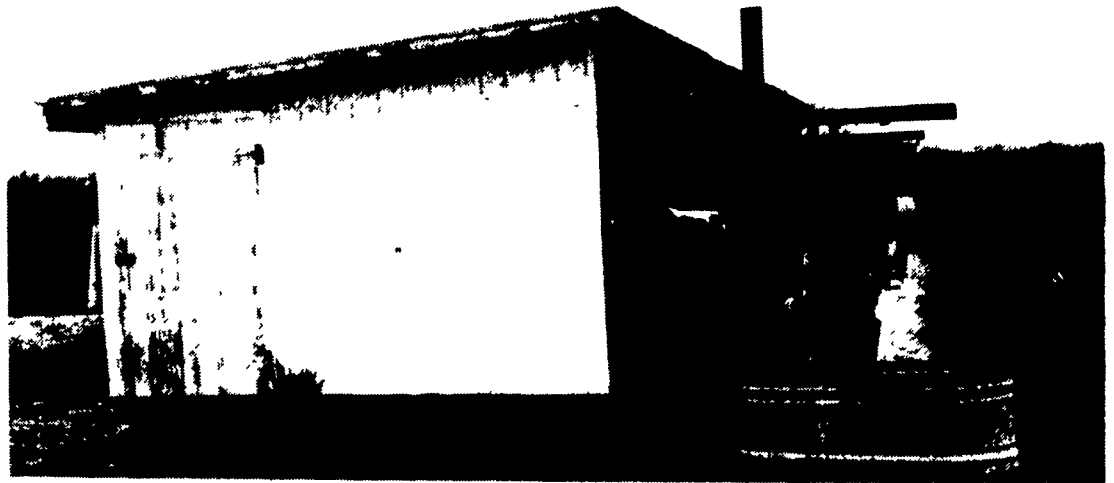
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The south-facing calf-raising building has to be hand cleaned, but it is outfitted in the front with a gutter-scraper system, right.



Bob Shafer and Dwayne Switzer look over work being done to install an additional silo.

THE FARMER'S FRIEND

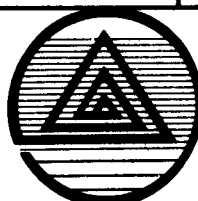


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