

# Glenside Dairy

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from their home were Craig and LaRena Owlett and Craig's parents and co-owners, Dennis (Denny) and Arletta Owlett.

Preparing for this day had not been left to the Owletts alone. Hordes of relatives, friends, and neighbors, along with authorities from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Penn State Cooperative Extension, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, Department of Environmental Resources, and more pitched in to give the place a spit-and-polish look, organize some of the events, or man exhibits.

That the combined efforts paid off was evident in the smiles on faces as the spectators wandered reluctantly back to the parking lot at the end of the day.

Nearly 2,000 people attended Farm-City Day to see, in addition to the tours, a petting zoo, sheep shearing, Christmas tree shearing, chicks hatching, wool spinning, old, new and toy machinery displays, and participate in contests for throwing hay bales, splicing wire and milking cows. Even the little ones had a chance to test their strength in a pedal tractor pull.

Erick Coolidge, who hosted the first Tioga County Farm-City Day last year at his farm, was pleased with the spectator turn-out. Commenting on the weather's cooperation as a contributing factor in the day's success as opposed to the sporadic rain showers of last year, he said the activities were well-organized and farmers could be pleased with how they were

represented.

Gerry Carlsen, a homemaker in Middlebury Center, formerly a 5 1/2 year resident of Florida, among other parts of the country, thought Farm-City Day was "Great!" Being her first time to such an event, she was amazed at how many cars and people were there. The size of the Owlett's milking parlour (holding 10 cows) interested her, but she thought the rides through the fields and woods were "absolutely fantastic." She and her husband Russ are definitely planning to go next year.

Judging from the long, patient lines of people waiting their turn to board the wagons, the field tour was the most popular event. A total of 81 trips were made. Scheduled to end at 5 p.m., the last wagon made it back to the loading dock at 6:45.

The first to greet the visitors on the tour was the solitary sentry of a scarecrow waving "hello" from his post in the field.

Then the wagons rolled over a sharp dip in the trail and came to a halt. From the shade of a stand of trees, Howard Rutledge of the SCS office in Wellsboro stepped forward to explain the diversion ditch and contour strip farming methods that the Owletts practice to help stop soil erosion and keep nutrients in the ground for better crop results.

Further up the hill, the group feasted their eyes on the panoramic view encompassing four different townships, with mountains more than 20 miles away.

Upon approaching a stone wall six feet tall in places, oo's and



Tossing bales of hay isn't as easy as it looks. In a near 36.96 seconds Mark Jannelli and David Peet, both of Wellsboro, worked up a sweat while competing in the contest.

ahh's of appreciation for the masonry craftsmanship that went into making the magnificent structure could be heard over the tractor.

Dennis's brother Lloyd waited for the tractor driver to cut the engine before delving into the wall's 100 year-old history and trivia, such as: how the inside was hollow for about three feet up from the ground and that even though it snaked for seven miles up hills and down into steep gulleys, each stone was laid at level to keep portions from sliding away.

Children were amused by a wooden cutout of Humpty Dumpty with a "devil-may-care grin" perched on top.

What had always been last on the list of "things to do" for the Owletts but had always been a "someday project" was finally completed for Farm-City Day. Brush was cleared from a cemetery dating back more than 200 years on the farm.

Tour guides on each wagon explained how the William French family, for whom the area was named, had owned a farm on what is now Owlett property but were wiped out by scarlet fever and buried there. Their buildings had been burned, too, to keep the disease from spreading. A large lilac bush is all that's left to mark the original foundation.

Among the trees and grape vines, marble tombstones, their carvings faded by years of acid rain, sprouted from the creeping myrtle and leaned haphazardly without foundations. A new American flag



Dustin Butler, son of Lorry and Mary Butler, grinds his muscles into third gear as he wins the pedal tractor pull for the nine-year-old boys division with a distance of 21 feet, 5 inches.

fluttered in its marker at the grave of a Revolutionary War Minuteman.

As the wagons rolled on to the conclusion of the tour, a splendid view of the barns and house reflected the pride the Owletts have in their dairy operation. Fresh paint, new fences, even flower beds among the tent canopies and exhibits welcomed the guests with eye-appealing, down-home comfort.

Senator Roger Madigan, who participated in the opening ceremonies, said he enjoyed himself immensely. Elaborating on the need for the public to be aware of how hard a farmer works, and seeing, firsthand, exactly what he does, Madigan said, "It (Farm-City Day) is a much needed event and I'd like to see it continue next year."

Perhaps the best thing about Farm-City Day was having so much entertainment offered for free. What better way to spend an afternoon? Throughout the day, plenty of door prizes were given away, too. The only costs to the public came by way of refreshments. Nonprofit organizations sold ice cream, hot dogs, barbecued chicken, milkshakes, ice tea and lemonade.

Not a commercially advertised exhibit or for-profit vendor was in sight.

"To keep it (Farm-City Day) a non-commercial day is so important," said LaRena, "because the public needs an event where they can have a good time without having to spend money for anything other than food."

Craig added, "The sponsors who brought in the exhibits are the ones making it possible to have this event free." Indeed, an event this elaborate would not have been possible if the sponsors had not been willing to donate their time, in addition to the cost of bringing in their exhibits, with their names listed in the itinerary brochure as their only form of compensation.

Coolidge agreed. "To help defray some of the costs," he said, "I'd like to see a milk can placed somewhere on the grounds next year to encourage public donations."

**Pedal Tractor Pull:** Four Year Olds: Lauren Gridley and Carl Erich, both of Wellsboro; Five Year Olds: Jenna Watts of Mainesburg, Michael Gross IV of Covington; Six Year Olds: Jackie Tammy of Middlebury Center, Adam Winter of Nescopeck; Seven Year Olds: Christy Kemp of Ulysses, Graham Zugarek of Wellsboro; Eight Year Olds: Nickie Tammy of Middlebury Center, Jeffrey Watts of Mainesburg; Nine Year Olds: Dustin Butler of Knoxville; Ten Year Olds: Roberta Baker and John Pino, both of Covington; Eleven Year Olds: Dixie Welch of Liberty, Justin Wesneski of Roaring Branch; Twelve Year Olds: Christine Oakley of Wellsboro, Kyle Heyler of Roaring Branch.

**Bale Throwing:** Junlor Division: Darrin Kennedy and Nathan Lawton; Mixed Division: Jeff and Vicki Sloman; Senior Division: Lorry Bulter of Knoxville and Kyle Owlett of Middlebury Center.

**Wire Splicing:** 12 Years and Under: Russell Owlett of Middlebury Center; 13 to 16 Year Olds: Aaron Kennedy; 17 Years and Older: Larry Kroeck of Knoxville.

**Celebrity Milking:** Media Division: Carolyn Moyer of Liberty, FARMER'S FRIEND; Princesses Division: Stacey Graves of Little Marsh, Tioga County Dairy Princess Alternate; Public Division: Walter Rupnickey of Middlebury Center.

Victoria Johnson of North Bingham won a free year's supply of ice cream in a drawing sponsored by Eastern Milk Producers and the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council.



Clair Zerby won a wrestling match with a ram who did not want to get sheared. The uncooperative big horn sheep was brought in from a near-by game farm.



More than the pigeons got a birds-eye-view of Farm-City Day festivities. Curt Owlett, brother of Craig, climbed to the top of a silo to get this shot.

