

Barn Raising Elevates Spirit Of Unity

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dent than on Wednesday evening as he was saying "thankyou"s to the last of the 125 men and women who turned out that day to volunteer help rebuilding a heifer barn that burned to the ground on Christmas Day.

In addition to losing his heifer barn, Hershey also lost a lot of hay, straw and corn, a forage harvester, a blower, a chisel plow and some smaller equipment.

Forget the cost of rebuilding a burned to the foundation old bank barn. Everyone knows it isn't cheap.

It's also common knowledge that on-farm milk prices are barely substantial, let alone enough to allow a family dairy farmer to easily afford to rebuild a heifer barn.

But on Wednesday that's not why people turned out with tools in hand. The apparent reason is Hershey the friend and supporter and the character of the Lebanon farming community.

In a valley where both mountain ridges can be touched by the eye on a clear day, the closeness of the farming community is apparent to many on even the cloudiest day.

Kenneth Winebark, county extension agent, said, "I found there to be a real strong bond between the farmers in the county here. There were farmers from all over the county (Wednesday) to help out."

A layman may observe that barn raisings are curiosities of cultural custom.

Others may be inclined to offer that trust, concern and aide are behaviors exhibited in others in almost direct proportion to amount

of trust, concern and aide given.

Hershey, deflecting any sense that he had anything to do with receiving acts of kindness, said

that the reason the turnout at his farm was strong because, "These are wonderful, wonderful people. Great people," he said.

Hershey also quickly diverted attention away from himself by talking about a fellow Lebanon County farmer whose main milk-

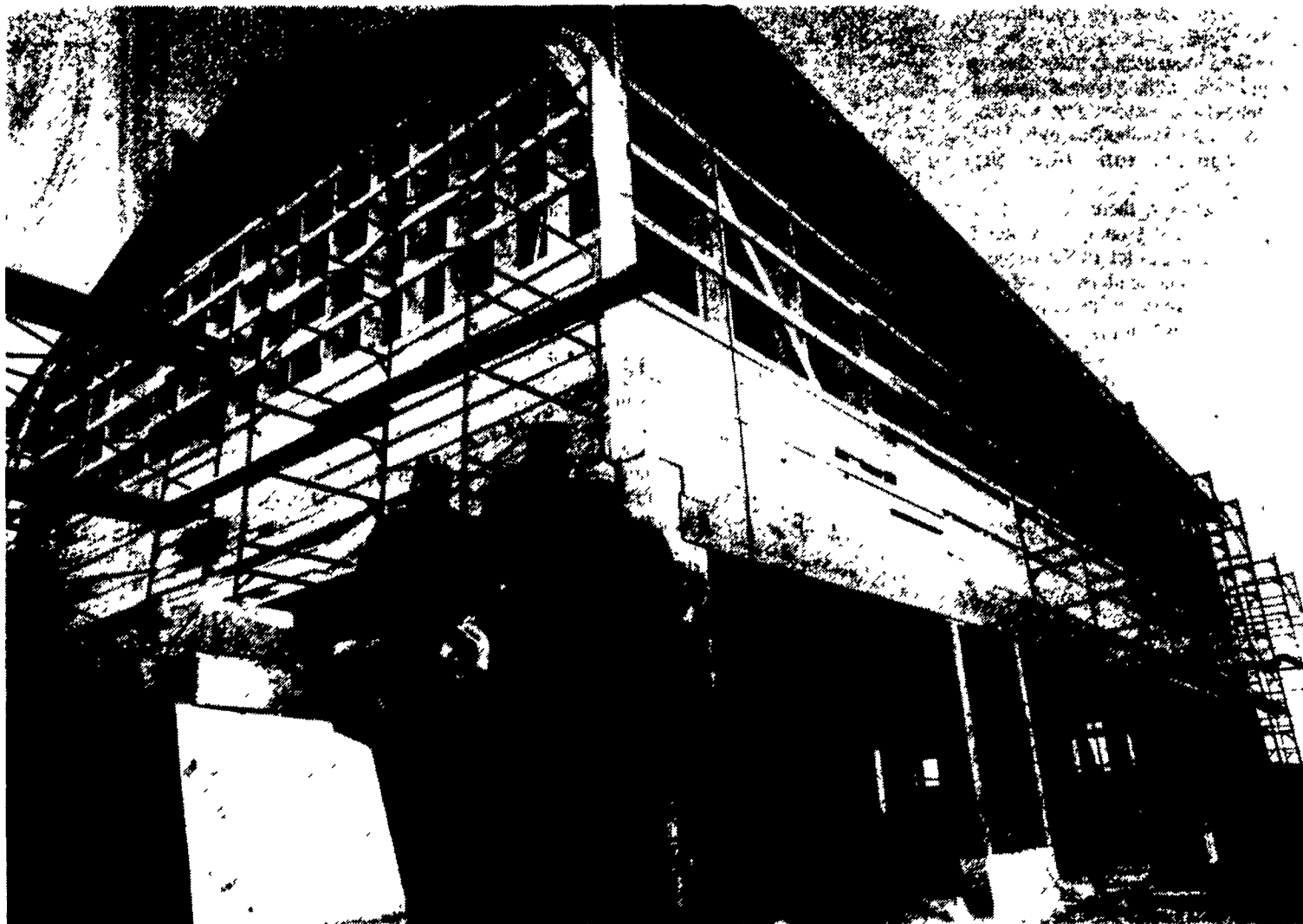
ing barn was destroyed Monday morning by a fire which officials have determined to be suspicious. It is Tom Shuey Sr.'s dairy farm in Ono.

"There's been another barn burned," Hershey said, his smile disappearing and his forehead

wrinkling. "I hope we can all go back and give that guy a lift, just as everyone turned out to give me a lift."

Shuey milks about 80 cows, and not only lost the whole main milk barn, "but pretty much all the

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Hershey Bare, right, owner of a Lebanon dairy farm stands and smiles with his neighbors Paul Arnold, top step, and Alfred, who is carrying his circular saw. They are standing on the steps to the old bank barn which burned to the

foundation on Christmas Day. Behind them stands the result of a day's work — a new heifer barn that 125 area people, from all walks of life, volunteered to turn out to help put up.

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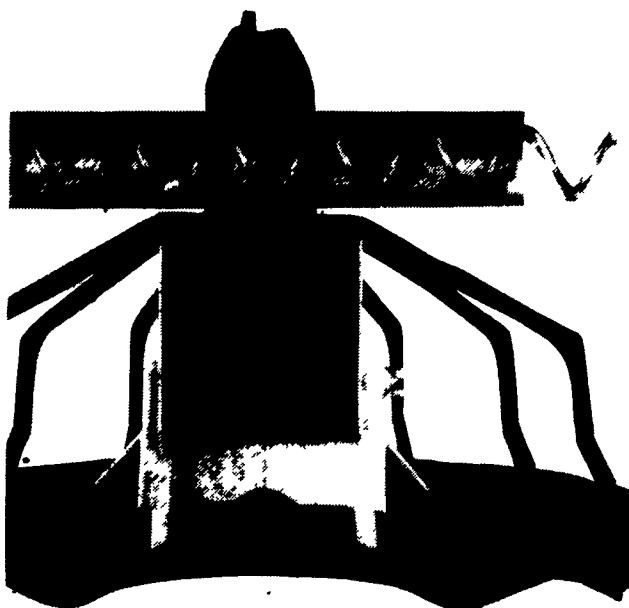
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