

Hissong Farm Silos Glow With Christmas Lights

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL
Franklin Co. Correspondent
GREENCASTLE (Franklin Co.) — The return of candy canes is eagerly awaited each year by residents of southern Franklin County.

Every holiday season for eleven years, the 80-foot silos on the Hissong Farmstead have been transformed into red-and-white-striped Christmas treats.

Andy Hissong, 22, has been responsible for decorating the silos since he was 17. It takes him a week to put the lights up, with time out twice daily for milking chores.

The display, which can be seen for a mile or more across the open fields, is popular in the community and can be seen from Route 16 which runs between Greencastle and Mercersburg.

"We're expected to have them up," Hissong said of the lights. "People ask us when we're going to turn them on."

The lights have been on the silos since the second week in December and will remain until a week after New Year's Day.

Each of the six candy canes has 50 lights. While hanging onto the caged ladder attached to the outside of the silo, Hissong tapes the strings of lights to the sil's fill pipes. "I climb up and down quite



Silos at the Hissong Farmstead in Franklin County take on the nighttime appearance of candy canes.

a bit," he said.

Topping the display is a star, made by attaching 100 white

lights to a steel frame. That work is completed on the ground, before the star is carried up a ladder and

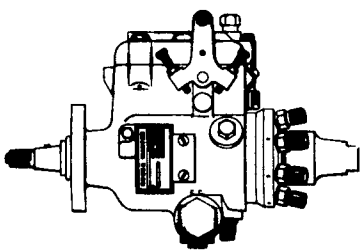
fastened to the middle silo.

The biggest problem Hissong has experienced with the display is splicing in a socket after the

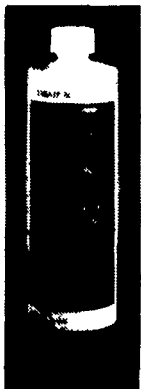
lights are in place.

Hissong Farmstead, a dairy farm near Greencastle, is a partnership of five Hissong families.

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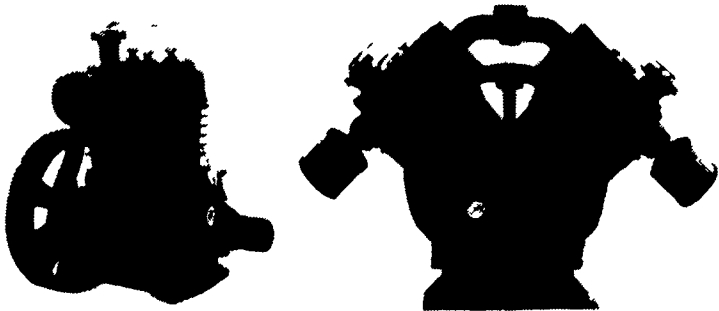
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