The Old-Fashioned Way Cream Ice

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percent, from the mix, with extra cream added instead for the desired consistency and a 14 percent butterfat level.

Earlier this year, when Ron Dowell broke his wrist, his son-inlaw, Allen McKinney, began helping with the ice cream making. A minister with the York Church of Christ, Ron still preaches some Sundays, but he is best known as the fourth-generation Carman's Ice Cream maker, selling to second and third-generations of customers.

Ron's wife, Pat, and her brothers and sisters all grew up helping to sell ice cream. Now their two teen-aged sons and another cousin earn spending money waiting on ice cream customers during busy times, although Lucille still handles the

majority of the retail sales. Deliveries are made by Ron two

days per week to long-time retailsales customers around southern York County, increasing to three days during strawberry season. Summer brings an added sales dimension, since many of the popular southern York County church picnics sell Carman's Ice Cream. Often, two or three picnics are scheduled for the same Saturday.

Although the Dowells make 16 or 17 different flavors, including such customer favorites as peach, black raspberry and orange-pineapple, vanilla remains the handsdown favorite. Only top-grade fresh-frozen fruits, chocolates, nuts and other ingredients are used for flavoring.

"My favorite is chocolate chip," Allen decides after some thought,

while mixing about the dozenth batch of ice cream for the morning's freezing. Lucille likes "the odd flavors, anything different," while Ron opts for the traditional vanilla and chocolate as his top choices.

Every batch is taste-sampled for quality before being promptly hand-dipped into the round white cardboard containers.

Carman's is regularly inspected by the Dairy Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, on a checklist of items.

While their ice cream production volume is limited due to space and the family workforce, there are no plans to expand the successful traditions that Carman's customers have come to expect. Nor are there any plans to close the business.

We get calls all the time from people worried that we're going out of business," grins Ron, who reassures customers that they have. no such intentions.

Many of the folks among Carman's long-time clientele have become like family; some send photos and notes about their exper-

iences with their ice cream purchases. A favorite photo, framed at the store, shows a customer's dog with its head buried deep inside a large Carman's Ice Cream container. Other photos depict customers' kids and grandkids, enjoying ice cream in various ways, but always with big, happy grins on their faces.

And while Carman's is largely a local name in the ice cream business, customers have hauled it as far as the West Coast. Some stop by on their travels in recreational vehicles, squirreling away supplies of Carman's product in their

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treezers. Others pack it for longhauls in picnic coolers, laced with dry ice for the journey. One camp cook has trucked whole freezerfuls of Carman's Ice Cream to a recrea. tional camp in Connecticut.

The business has also been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles, as well as some occasional television spots from local and regional stations.

Carman's Ice Cream is located on North Main Street of Loganvil. le. Retail hours are from 9 a.m. through 8:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 2 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.





Ron Dowell visits with his cousin Ruth Dowell as she stops by the Carman's Ice Cream sales room.

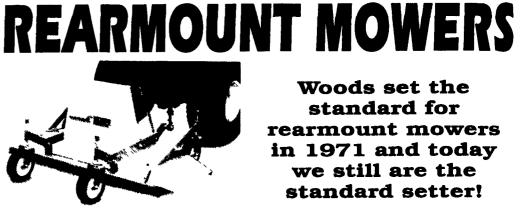


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