

Dairy Shrine Honors Remsberg

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Maryland Correspondent
TIMONIUM, Md.—John H. Remsberg Jr.—better known as Jack—has been treasurer of the Maryland Dairy Shrine since it was founded in 1964.

Each year, the shrine honors a member of the Maryland Dairy Industry by lauding him or her and his or her accomplishments during induction into the shrine.

This year it was Remsberg's turn—and no one was more surprised than he.

Remsberg, a longtime Frederick County dairyman turned livestock photographer, accepted the honor before family and friends at the recent Holstein Futurity at the Maryland State Fair.

"Congratulations Pap Pap," echoed through the arena courtesy of 12 of Remsberg's 13 grandchildren who were as excited about the award as he was.

Remsberg admitted he had some inkling the award might be his when he saw his entire family gathered at the Cow Palace. A grandson who inadvertently said "We'll see you later" as Remsberg left one of the boys' afternoon ball games also clued him in.

When Marlin Hoff called out Remsberg's name, however, "I was overwhelmed," Remsberg said.

"It's a very cherished honor," Remsberg said. "It means an awful lot to me."

Remsberg's contributions to Maryland's dairy industry are many.

They include:

- vice president of the Maryland State FFA in 1944.

- recipient of the FFA's Maryland Farmer and American Farmer degrees.

- president of the Agriculture Alumni Chapter from 1981 to 1983 and a member of the chapter's board of directors from 1974 to 1983.

- president of the Frederick County Holstein Club for two years and treasurer of the club for 25 years.

In addition, Remsberg has been an active member and leader with the Maryland State Fair Board, the

Maryland Holstein Association, the National Holstein Association, the National Dairy Shrine, the Frederick County DHIA, and Middletown Valley Grange. He also works with the All Maryland Committee to select winners for the All Maryland Contest.

Remsberg's father, the late J. Homer Remsberg Sr., was a former president of the National Holstein Association and a president of the Md-Virginia Dairy Cooperative for 15 years. He and Jack Remsberg built the Locvale herd at the family farm in Middletown into one of the state's most respected herds. The Locvale herd was the first classified herd in Maryland and had the first cow classified as "excellent" in the state.

Helen Remsberg, wife of the late Doty Remsberg, has known Jack Remsberg since he was a student at Middletown High School.

Doty Remsberg and Jack Remsberg showed cows alone and together for many years. Helen Remsberg said she remembers when the two men were driving "rattley old trucks" to out of the way spots like Cumberland and Marlboro for cattle competitions.

After they married—Jack and his wife Marcia have logged 43 years together—the families became friends.

"We had a lot of fun together," Helen Remsberg said. "It's been a close and lasting and enduring friendship. Jack is great. I've quite an affection for him."

Jack Remsberg stopped milking cows in 1973.

"It was a question of get bigger or get out," he said. Remsberg and his father, who was in his 70s by then, decided to sell their herd and let Jack see what kind of living he could make taking pictures.

Remsberg, who has a degree in dairy science from the University of Maryland, began photographing cows in his spare time in 1965. His work caught on with area farmers and soon Remsberg had a bonafide part-time job.

"At that time I was moonlighting—taking picture between the daily milkings and processing the film at night," he said.



Jack Remsberg and his wife Marcia are surrounded by their family after Jack is inducted into the Maryland Dairy Shrine. Pictured are sister Carol Bare, brother Mac Remsberg and wife Peggy, daughter and son-in-law Valerie and Eddie Main and children Matt, Mark and Amy; daughter and son-in-law Gail and Greg Waeber and daughters Kristin and Kim; daughter and son-in-law Barbara and Charlie Fisher, and children Ros, Charly, Ashley and John; daughter and son-in-law Jill and Perry Brandenburg and sons Justin, Willie and Jake. Granddaughter Kate Waeber is not pictured.

When he went full time, he missed the daily routine of milking cows, but he's never had time to miss the animals themselves—he sees them on a regular basis.

Remsberg's philosophy is, "Work as if you would live forever, but live as if you would die tomorrow." He could have made quite a life on the road out of his work as a photographer—livestock photographers are always in demand and there seems to be no end to the interesting places a photographer can go all in the name of his job.

Remsberg said he loves the challenge of photographing cows.

"Generally speaking, you have to get inside their heads. They're just like people—there's no two alike. And cows aren't always cooperative. But I'm a patient perfectionist," he said.

But he would never put his job before his family—the four

daughters he and Marcia raised and now the four families that have extended their table at holidays with 13 grandchildren.

"I had opportunities to go all over the country, but I always felt I didn't want to overdo it," Remsberg said. "That's primarily why I'm a one-man operation."

Remsberg's studio is attached to the family's home. He said one day taking pictures usually equals one day in his home darkroom.

"After three or four days taking pictures, you're ready to get back home and see what you've accomplished," Remsberg said. "And after a few days of being cooped up inside, you're ready to get back out and take some pictures."

Remsberg was taking about 1,000 pictures a year at one point, but has since cut back to 500, he said. He works for the Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, Sire Power and Select Sires, taking pictures of the bull studs each company advertises.

Remsberg said that is his biggest contribution to the dairy industry—taking a good photograph that can help a breeder decide what genetics to bring into his herd.

"What I do has to be in concert with production, because what I take is strictly type," Remsberg said.

Ted Ridgely, vice president of the Dairy Shrine and long active in Maryland Holstein activities, said Remsberg has been "a wonderful ambassador for the dairy industry."

"Jack has tried to make his pictures worth more than 1,000 words and strived to make every picture perfect," Ridgely said.

Remsberg said his reward in getting that perfect shot is the ongoing opportunity "to work with the people of this country that possess the most integrity and honesty of any group of people in the country."

"It's been a wonderful life," Remsberg said.

Livestock Sale Supports Maryland Youth

TIMONIUM, Md. — A good crowd came out to support Maryland youth on Wednesday night at the Maryland 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale.

The sale was held in the swine pavilion at the Timonium fairgrounds in conjunction with the 114th Maryland State Fair.

Champion rabbits, market goats, hogs, lambs, and steers went through the sale ring at the culmination of a year's hard work for many of the state's farm youth.

"These kids worked hard on these projects for many months, taking care, feeding, learning responsibility, and decision making. I'm impressed with the quality of the animals for sale tonight," said Dr. Scott Barao, extension livestock specialist with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service.

Jennifer Dodd, Queen Anne's County, sold her grand champion rabbit market pen to Glen Falls Realty of Westminster for \$100. The reserve champion pen, belonging to Frederick County's Sally Anderson, was purchased by Bill Marlow of Towson for \$50.

In market goats, Ernest Hare of

Allegany County had the 75-pound grand champion, bought by Maple Lawn Farms of Fulton for \$1.10 per pound. Reserve champion, a 75-pound alpine own-

ed by Stacy Beckley of Washington County, went for \$1.50 per pound to George Wills and Associates of Baltimore. Goats and rabbits were auctioned off by Bill Col-

lins, Jr., a member of the board of directors of the State Fair.

Thirty-five market hogs went through the sale gate, averaging \$1.45 per pound per head. Grand

champion, a Hampshire crossbred gilt belonging to Carroll County's 17-year-old Jennifer Wildesen, brought \$5.25 per pound from top

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Deggeller Attractions, Stuart, Fla., bought John Norris' 125-pound Hampshire lamb. From left, Greg Deggeller representing Deggeller Attractions, Maryland Lamb and Wool Queen Laura Langlotz, Farm Queen Lori Evans, and John Norris.



Ernest Hare sold his 75-pound grand champion market goat to Maple Lawn Farms, represented here by Charles Jager, center. On right is Farm Queen Lori Evans.