

All-Dairy Antiques, Collectibles Show Held At All-American, Scheduled Again

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) – If there is such a thing as a second year (sophomore) jinx, it certainly wasn't evident during the second annual Pennsylvania All-Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show held September 18-23, 1999 in Harrisburg. Twenty-seven exhibitors from five states provided beautiful and educational exhibits of dairy antiques, collectibles and milk bottles in this highly successful event held at the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. This compares with fifteen exhibitors from three states at the inaugural show in 1998 and all but two returned for this second year. The first show was started to help celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Pennsylvania All American Dairy Show in 1998.

Driving all the way from Hayfield, MN, Gene Sander and his wife, Pam, provided a beautiful realistic, and educational exhibit on *Butter Making in Minnesota*. Gene is president elect of the National Cream Separators and Dairy Collectors Association. The pretend but realistic molds of "butter" in various shapes and sizes added much interest to their exhibit.

Other members of the Cream Separators and Dairy Collectors Association exhibiting were Darwin Braund, State College; Martin and Diane Brumbaugh, Curryville; Leslie Firth, Mercer; David Morrow, State College; Michele and Jeff Reasner, Newburg; Jim and Martha Roberts, Scio, NY, and Margin and Ellie Stout, Tunkhannock.

Additional exhibitors included: W. Paul Anderson, State College; N. Alan Bar, Columbia; Charles Focht, Carlisle; Dennis Grumbine, Myerstown; Jan Harding, Clarion; Jeff and Cindy Harding, State College; Charles Itle, Lewisberry; Lolly and William Leshner, Bernville; Joe Meyer, State College; Willard Odenwelder, Myerstown; Lyall and Vivian Shaw, East Hartland, CT; Bill Smith, Landisville; Larry Specht, Boalsburg; Donald Swiger, Gettysburg and John Tutton, Front Royal, VA.

In addition, the Pasto Agricultural Museum in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences exhibited 20 dairy antiques. Also, the Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State provided three different early milking machines including the rare BLK (Burrell-Lawrence-Kennedy), considered the first successful commercial milking machine. Professor Emeritus Don Ace from State College again exhibited an eye-catching display of his wood carvings that included dairy cattle and farm animal scenes.

The accompanying photos show the wide variety of dairy antiques and exhibits much better than words can describe. The Sanders' *Butter Making in Minnesota* exhibit was a very popular attraction. Jim and Martha Roberts, Scio, NY, returned with *Martha's Milk House*. After exhibiting at Penn State's Ag Progress Days in August, two county fairs in Western Pennsylvania, and this show they deserve official

Pennsylvania citizenship. Les Firth, Mercer returned with his display of beautiful advertising, milk, butter and cheese scales. One scale attracting much attention was the large platform creamery scale with seven brass bars that could weigh up to 1,000 pounds.

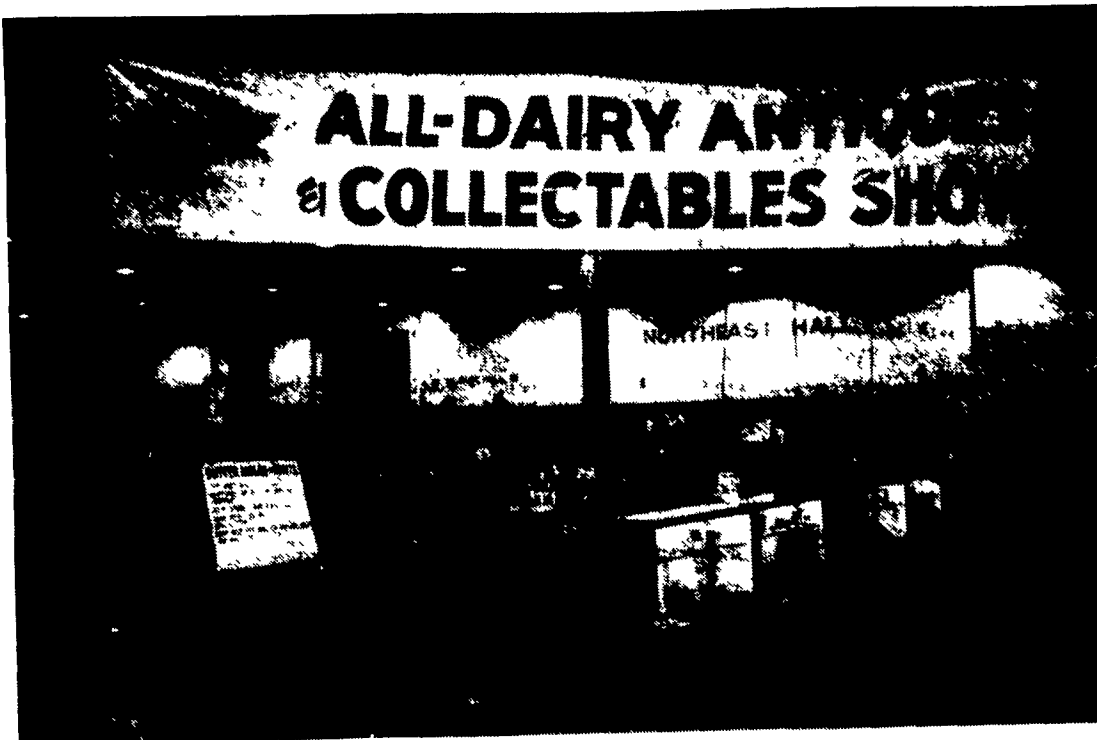
Another exhibit deserving special mention was that of Margin Stout, *Milk Testing Through the Years*. It traced the development of the Babcock milk test in 1890 and showed a wide variety of early centrifuges and related milk testing equipment.

In the total show nearly every aspect of a bygone era of dairy farming in the late 1800s and early 1900s was represented. That's when U.S. milk production was shifting from a few family cows to the commercial off-farm sale of cream and milk. *The Dawn of the Dairy Industry* and its continued development through the 1950s was described via a long wall of posters developed by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and borrowed for its educational value with this dairy antiques show.

An unofficial survey conducted after several items had been sold, found butter and cheese related items well represented. A total of 61 butter churns included 21 wood, 26 glass, 9 metal and 5 ceramic. A complete set of Dazey Bull's Eye glass churns included the rare and increasingly valuable one-quart or no. 10 size. A very rare double dasher wood churn from the Pasto Agricultural Museum was dated 1859. Thirteen centrifuges of all ages and descriptions added to the history of milk testing.

Butter workers included both floor and table models. Forty-six butter prints and molds included 38 wood, four aluminum, and four glass. There were two lever-operated butter presses, one lever-operated cheese press, four lever-operated cheese cutters and one country store cheese safe (patented 1899, Madison Wisconsin). To help in selling the butter and cheese and feeding the cows which made it possible there were 20 butter, cheese, and milk scales. A dozen beautiful wood butter bowls ranging in size from six to twenty-three inches were well appreciated.

The critical piece of equipment so important in expanding early commercial milk production – the cream separator – was not forgotten. A dozen separators included seven mechanical and five gravity models. Among more than 60 milk pails, cans, and cream cans of all sizes was a very rare, oval shaped Guernsey



The All-Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show was held at the All-American Dairy Show and is scheduled again for the year 2000.



These young ice cream eaters get ready to go with antique dippers from the show.

milk pail. This unique shape helped keep it from tipping over as cows tethered in the fields on the Isle of Guernsey were milked directly into it.

Ice cream, that favorite of all dairy products, wasn't overlooked. A dozen hand crank ice cream freezers (7 wood, 5 tin) ranged in size from a rare one pint to eight quart size. There were at least 70 dippers and scoops, seven cardboard ice cream containers, two signs, one 3-gallon metal ice cream can (State College Cry.), and an insulated two-can ice cream storage chest on casters and three tin one quart ice cream measures. Other items included 27 cow bells, 39 cow models and

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Of course, milk bottle collectors had a lot to show.



This platform creamery scale with seven brass bars that could weigh up to 1,000 pounds was a great attraction.