

Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*

All-Dairy Antiques And Collectibles Show Sets Exhibitor Record

Dr. Darwin G. Braund
Pasto Agriculture Museum
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Exhibitors came from California and Connecticut, from Vermont and Virginia, and from Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and, of course, Pennsylvania.

A total of 49 registered and two walk-in exhibitors from 10 states set a new record for the third annual All-Dairy Antiques and Collectibles Show conducted Sept. 22-27, in Harrisburg. Thirty-two exhibitors of general dairy items combined with 13 milk bottle collectors to provide beautiful and educational exhibits of diverse dairy antiques.

This third show was the "breakout" event envisioned by the planners. Following two years of gaining experience, contacts, and a positive reputation for an "up and coming" show, the record number of exhibitors provided a large and varied exhibition in the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex to appreciative crowds that exceeded attendance during the first two years.

The Cream Separator and Dairy Collector Association was represented by 10 members from five states. Gene Sander, president, and his wife, Pam, drove from Rochester, MN, and exhibited for the second year. Other members exhibiting were Darwin Braund, State College; Martin and Diane Brumbaugh, Curryville; Leslie Firth, Mercer; Mike and Jan Fournier, Swanton, VT; David Morrow, State College; Michele and Jeff Reasner, Newburg; Jim and Martha Roberts, Scio, N.Y.; Clyde Shaver; Middlefield, OH; and Margin and Ellie Stout, Tunkhannock.

One member who didn't exhibit deserves mention. Graeme Reid flew cross country from Tacoma, Washington to see the show he had read about in the Cream Separator and Dairy Newsletter. Was it just a coincidence that he purchased a Reid No. 4 butter worker?

Among the exhibits were those of two well known wood carvers from opposite ends of the country. Glenn and Mary McCune came all the way from California for their first experience at the show. Professor Emeritus Don Ace from State College, returned for the third year with his carvings of dairy cattle and farm and wild animals including birds.

The show officially opened at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 although several early birds were wandering through as exhibitors finished their final preparations.

Two "charter" exhibitors returned for their third year. Jim and Martha Roberts, Scio, N.Y., again showed Martha's Milk House. Les Firth, Mercer, had spent much time seeking DeLaval items and designing his beautiful and extensive display.

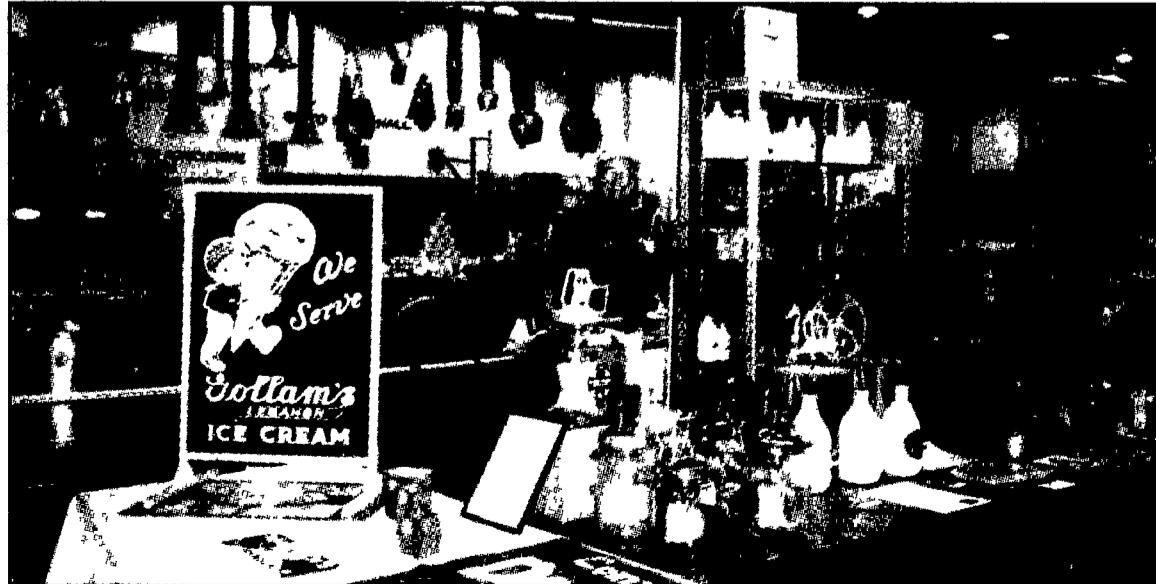
Almost every aspect of a by-gone era of dairy farming in the late 1800s and early 1900s were represented. However, one piece of early and popular dairy equipment was very prominent — the butter churn. Made in all shapes and sizes from glass, wood, tin, metal and clay (ceramic), they were ubiquitous in exhibits. A popular action exhibit was a



As his parents and four brothers watch, Joshua Miller, 4, provides "boy power" for a dog treadle that operates a large butter churn. The Chambersburg family visited the show each year since it began three years ago.



Martha's Milkhouse, exhibited by Martha Roberts of Scio, N.Y., returned for the third year at the annual event.



Show manager Darwin Braund, State College, stands beneath the extensive exhibit of Brown Swiss cow bells.

large wooden barrel churn powered by a dog treadle. It was from the Pasto Agricultural Museum in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Among dozens of glass churns were two complete sets of Dazey Bull's Eye glass churns and three of the rare and increasingly valuable one-quart or No. 10 size.

Ice cream, that favorite of all dairy products, was represented by freezers, advertising, scoops, dippers, containers, and two large posters giving the history of ice cream. Hand-crank freezers, both wood and tin, ranged in size from a rare one-pint White Mountain (salesman's sample) to a 20-quart White Mountain powered by an electric motor. The latter from the Penn State Creamery is still used to show students how to make "homemade" ice cream.

For the first time DeLaval items were featured. Several exhibitors deserve special mention for their DeLaval displays. These include Martin and Diane Brumbaugh, David Dickmyer, Les Firth, and Mike and Jan Fournier. The exhibits of 13 milk bottle collectors added beauty, variety, and additional interest to the overall show.

Special exhibits were provided by Rutter's Dairy, York, which covered the early era of home delivery of milk and other dairy products. Their original horse drawn wagon was used in the 1920s. During the 1930s and '40s, a 1936 Thorne gas/electric truck ran the home delivery routes to families.

The Sunday Harrisburg Patriot News, Oct. 8, 2000, published a feature story with three pictures on the show with the headline, "Dairy memorabilia gaining popularity as collectibles." The lead paragraph said, "An increasing number of collectors who buy everything from old cowbells to antique cream separators are milking their hobby for all its worth." Quoted at length were cream separator and dairy collector members Les Firth, Mike Fournier, and Martha Roberts.

Responses to a written survey sent to exhibitors indicated all were pleased with this third year show. Almost 90 percent of responders said they would exhibit next year (Sept. 22-26, 2001). Almost 86 percent said their level of satisfaction with their sales were either "good" or "very good." Two-thirds of responders rated the overall show "very good" and the rest rated it "good."

The fourth annual show will open 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2001, and run until Wednesday evening, Sept. 26. Readers are encouraged to put these dates (Sept. 22-26, 2001) on their calendars in order to plan to attend either as an exhibitor or visitor.

For more information contact Darwin Braund, 238 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802-2600, phone (814) 863-1383, e-mail dgb12@psu.edu; or Lolly Leshner, PA Farm Show Complex, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408, phone (717) 787-2905.