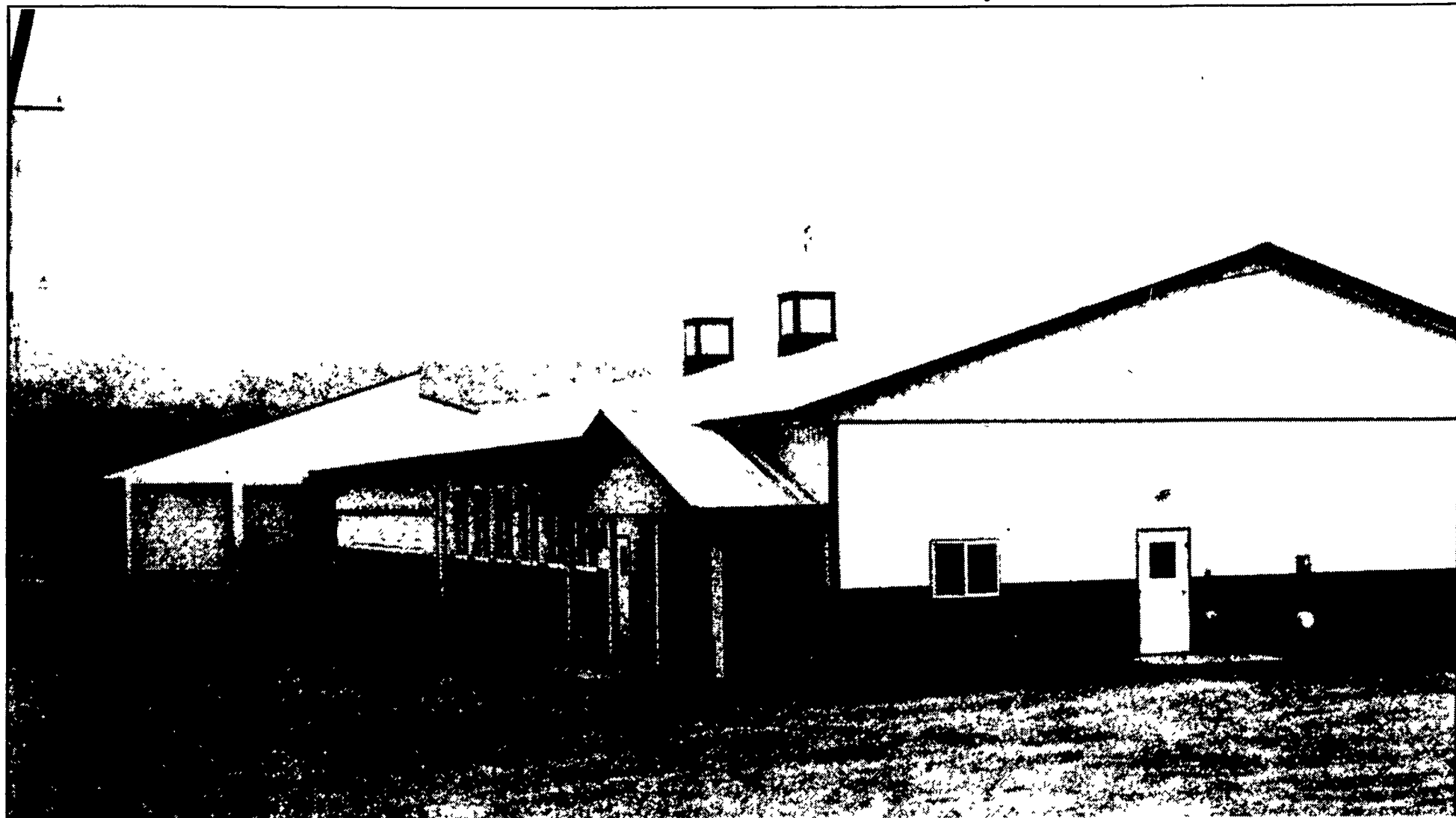


# Thomas and Brenda Pepper

## Roaring Branch, Tioga County



Tom and Brenda Pepper and family milk about 250 cows here. This is the second time the farm has been selected as a Dairy of Distinction winner — Brenda's parents Ted and Norma Jean Schmelzle also won this recognition for keeping a well-kept operation back in the 1980s.

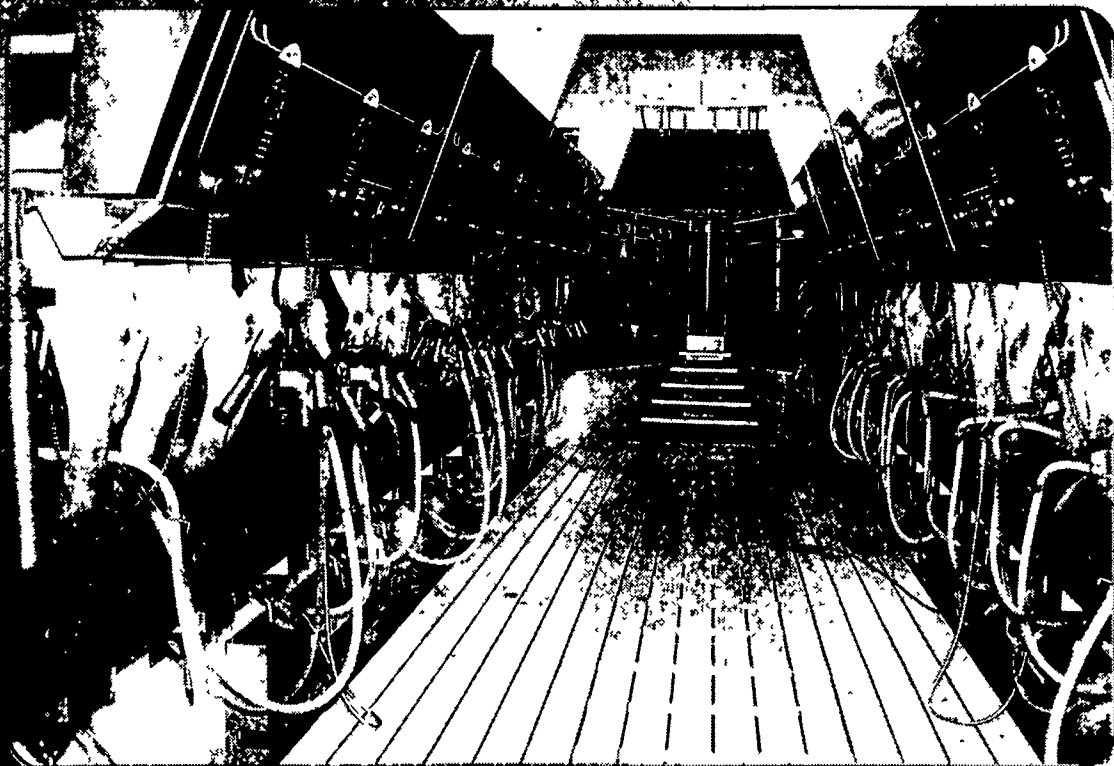
Tom and Brenda began milking in their newly built double-12 herringbone parlor just after Christmas last year. Sons Travis, 23; Taylor, 21; Andrew, 19; and Jonathan, 14, all work on the farm. Travis's wife

Amanda also works on the dairy and Ted Schmelzle still pitches in with morning milkings and some field work. The Peppers grow 150 acres of corn and 400-500 acres of alfalfa and mixed grasses to feed the herd. The home farm consists of about 400 acres. The family also rents some cropland.

"Most of the time it's a real blessing," Brenda said of the family's dairy enterprise.

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