

ORCHARD KNOB FARM overlooking Huntsville Reservoir is in Dallas Borough. It is one of several dairy farms in the Back Mountain region managed and operated by women. Marie Brokenshire and her sister, Stella, have built their Holstein herd to one of the high ranking herds in the Luzerne County Cow Testing Association by procuring only the best foundation stock and breeding to NEPA sires.



THIS PASTORAL SCENE near Huntsville in Jackson Township may excite the admiration of nature lovers and those who enjoy country living, but it's a pain in the neck to frustrated city workers eager to reach their country homes in time to do some gardening. But Frank Prutzman doesn't give a hang. Come five o'clock it's the milking that bothers him... and he'd switch with those who'd change places.



ONE OF MANY DAIRIES that dot the Back Mountain Countryside, Elston's Farm Dairy is located on the former Green Farm in Kingston Township. As in Trucks-ville, Fernbrook, Dallas, Kunkle and Orange the familiar rattle of milk cans and the clink of bottles in their cases is a reminder to light sleepers that a new day is about to greet them.

Cauliflower Is Big Business In The Back Mountain Region

Carl Warmouth, grandson of Harvey Moss, Cauliflower King of the Back Mountain, models a king-size head of cauliflower, with a huge truck in the background, loaded with crates ready for the 4 a.m. wholesale market in Wilkes-Barre. The plant from which this head was cut, had a wingspread of a full yard, measured from leaf tip to leaf tip. Harvey Moss has been raising cauliflower for thirty-five years, cabbage for over fifty.

Cauliflower is big business in the Back Mountain, with tremendous crops annually trucked to the Farmers Wholesale Market in Wilkes-Barre, or finding outlet through store growers. Acreage varies from one to fourteen.

A typical grower is Harvey Moss, whose fields are on the Jonathan Valentine place in Jackson Township. Mr. Moss has been growing cauliflower for thirty-five years, cabbages for over fifty. He is con-

leaves. Cauliflower is perishable, must be marketed immediately or it deteriorates.

The six to seven acre plot takes 40,000 plants, twenty-one inches apart, in rows spaced three feet apart. There is endless cultivation and spraying, but it is the tying up of heads that takes the help. The entire area has to be gone over again and again. When time comes to cut, the fields are completely canvassed every week for mature heads. Mr. Moss says that this year there was not enough help at the peak season, resulting in some wastage. Trimming 120 dozen heads is a big day's work.

Mr. Moss' grandson, Carl Warmouth, works along with him, and two men are needed in addition at busy seasons. Raising cauliflower means reaching Farmers Market at 4 a.m. with the truckload of crates packed the day before. The big truck handles 150 crates.

Carl Warmouth Holds His Head In His Hands



WARMOUTH AND CAULIFLOWER

sidered an authority on cauliflower, the uncrowned king of the area.

Mr. Moss agrees with area growers that cauliflower is a good crop that will thrive almost anywhere, but that it takes a lot of hard work. The soil hereabouts, though somewhat dense and with a clay sub-soil, is suitable for its culture. Rotation of crops must be practiced to prevent club-root and other diseases.

One ray of sun on the white head yellows the product, so leaves are tied over the swelling heads before their natural covering of leaves can turn back to expose them. This is a back-breaking job, requiring endless stooping for hours at a time. At harvest, the tied leaves are trimmed back to the familiar stubs when the head is cut from the stem, and heads are packed a dozen to the crate, weigh forty-five to fifty-five pounds.

Plants are hardy, says Mr. Moss. The earliest ones are grown under glass, to force maturity early enough to catch the higher pre-season prices, but from mid-April the plants can be set in the ground without fear of white frost. Mid-August to mid-September is the crop peak. Early fall frost does not damage the heads, as they are completely protected by their sheath of

It would be impossible to write up all the substantial growers of the area. A random sampling starts with a very large producer, Rafael Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez, raising cauliflower at Chase for fifteen years, annually sets out 95,000 to 100,000 plants, grown in the main in the open, only a few under glass. His son Joseph, a graduate of Lehman-Jackson High School, 1948, works along with him, and Rafael, still in High School, pitches in during his free time. Joseph and Rafael, realizing the tremendous investment in a modern farm, recognize opportunity in a basic industry when they see it, and expect to stay on the land. Mr. Rodriguez annually sells 3,500 first quality crates to the American Stores, Inc., and disposes of the remainder in other wholesale markets. Mr. Rodriguez allows at least three years between cauliflower crops on a piece of land, says five years would be better.

Walter Wolfe, Meeker, was cutting the last crop from his five acres November 17. He reports no trouble with help, and says the market was fair this year. He operates with the help of a year-round hired man and seasonal help in tying.

John Hildebrant, East Dallas, with

Joe Zosh Has Top Dairy Herd

Led Association During Last Year

One of the outstanding young dairymen in the Back Mountain area is Joe Zosh whose herd of twenty-two cows has consistently led Luzerne County Cow Testing Association No. 2.

Joe's seventy-eight acre farm which was originally part of the Hildebrant place has a commanding view of Loyalville and the distant North Mountain range.

Last year his herd averaged 13,027 pounds of milk and 501.2 pounds of butterfat for 305 days. His three top cows produced 601.2 pounds, 562.9 pounds and 558.7 pounds of butterfat, while nine cows produced 400 pounds or over.

Joe started originally with grade cows but six years ago bought three registered animals from Kis Lyn.

His wife Lillian, formerly of Wilkes-Barre where she graduated from G. A. R. High School, is just as devoted to the dairy as Joe although she spends considerable of her time during the summer attending a large patch of strawberries, and looking after the children Joseph and Joyce who attend Gate of Heaven School.

Blackie, Aggie and Pearl come out of the meadow like pups to her call. Pearl produces about thirty-six quarts a day.

Joe attended Swoyerville and Lake-Noxen schools and has always had a yen to do a top job with cows. He is convinced that NEPA Artificial Breeding Cooperative is the only thing for the small dairyman and the big one, too. "How else," he asked, would the small dairyman get the services of \$5,000 to \$6,000 bulls.

Although it takes hard work and intelligent planning to keep a herd at the top of the list Joe lives it and he is especially happy, too, that his parents, John and Anna Zosh, who live next door, can also get satisfaction out of the development of his fine herd.

three acres average, sets his plants much later than most other growers, the last of June or even in early July. Plants come on fast in hot weather, but are not ready for the very early market.

Arthur Newman, Old Fairground Road, plants two acres, managing with a hired man and an occasional lift from Mrs. Newman, who is willing to help with the tying-up if necessary. He rotates with corn and potatoes, never using the same field for cauliflower two years in succession. Spraying and dusting starts early, the annual battle against aphids, bug, and worms.

A Grower Who No Longer Grows
John Hildebrant, Meeker, up until four years ago was a leading grower. Mr. Hildebrant's acreage delivered the largest load of cauliflower ever trucked to Wilkes-Barre, in 1948, 40,000 heads.

Mr. Hildebrant went out of the cauliflower business automatically when his specialist, Tony Chigger, died. It was Tony who first persuaded Mr. Hildebrant to raise cauliflower. Tony, of Polish birth, had worked with his brother on Long Island, raising select heads for the New York market. When he came to Meeker seventeen years ago, he wanted to continue raising cauliflower. Seeds were imported from Holland, and for thirteen years Tony raised his pet crop. When he died, the Hildebrants buried him in Warden Cemetery.

Drought affects the crop. In the main, level land seems to be best. Fields with a substrata of clay to hold the moisture did well this year in spite of torrid weather in August and prolonged drought in advance of harvest time. Some growers on side hills which readily drained away the scanty moisture, lost their crops or suffered severely.

Folks Who Make The Post



"ROGUE"

Among the folks who make The Dallas Post none plays a more important part than Rogue, a gentle dispositioned town dog of uncertain parentage.

Rogue not only provides plenty of material for Barnyard Notes, but also knows or is known by everybody in town—one of the first qualifications of a good newspaper man.

Rogue first came to the attention of the Associate Editor of this newspaper when he was being led from the Dallas School grounds by a custodian who was determined, at the request of some of the teachers, to have him turned over to the Humane Society because he was charged with being a nuisance.

His only crime—if it was a crime—was that he loved children and would follow them anywhere—even to school. This loyalty got him in trouble but provided him and the kids with a lot of fun. He stole their baseballs, mittens, hats and gloves and kept tantalizingly just out of reach when they tried to retrieve them. That was the way he broke up many baseball games.

When no games were in progress, he bounced onto the playground merry-go-round and hugging the center with outspread paws and belly close to the boards barked his approval the faster that apparatus went around.

The sliding board was his special delight and he soon learned how to climb the ladder and slide down the other side, romping, prancing and barking with every successful slide. But he created a problem for he refused to await his turn and would crowd in ahead of girls and timid little ones, though the boys knew how to elbow him aside.

It was on one of those days when he had broken up a baseball game and was in disfavor with everybody that the custodian put a rope around his neck and started down the road.

Up until that time he had been the property of nobody in particular—though everybody knew him and loved him. Housewives in the vicinity of the school house had a habit of feeding him choice bits whenever he turned up—which was frequently. He often slept on back porches during the winter months

—and more than one busy mother went out on especially cold winter nights to throw a rug or carpet over him to make him more comfortable.

But on the day the Associate Editor learned that he was being led over the hill in disgrace to the "poor house" as it were, he became her particular property and concern.

She quickly called the County Treasurer's office and ordered a license for a shaggy black and white dog with one black eye and ears as silky as a Spaniel's. Then she rushed to the hardware store and bought a collar. Armed with these essentials she laid claim to Rogue as her property, and the cruel custodian—with a twinkle in his eye—understood.

That was also the day that the "dog who was nobody's property" got his name "Rogue" although he had deserved it for many a day.

Since that time he has made his bed and board at the Barnyard, where he guards the sacred precincts against intrusion. His bark is very effective with strangers but with town lads it is a different story. At Hallowe'en when the Associate Editor's corn shocks were being toppled and windows thoroughly soaped she threatened the

Shrine Acres Is Region's Newest Area For Homes

West Dallas Site Of 170 Acres Is Being Developed

One of the newest residential developments in the Back Mountain area is Shrine Acres comprising 170 acres at West Dallas formerly owned by the Housing Foundation of America.

This slightly location on a gentle hillside along the old Hays Corner-Robinson's Road and extending northwestward on both sides of the Kunkle Road will eventually become the site of homes ranging in value from \$20,000 to \$50,000. The property also extends all the way to Elmcrest.

Heading the corporation which owns the development is George L. Ruckno, president; James Durkin, secretary-treasurer; and Ben C. Banks. Mr. Ruckno as a contractor-builder has constructed some of the outstanding homes in the Back Mountain area, and Mr. Banks is the man who developed Elmcrest, one of the most attractive residential developments in recent years.

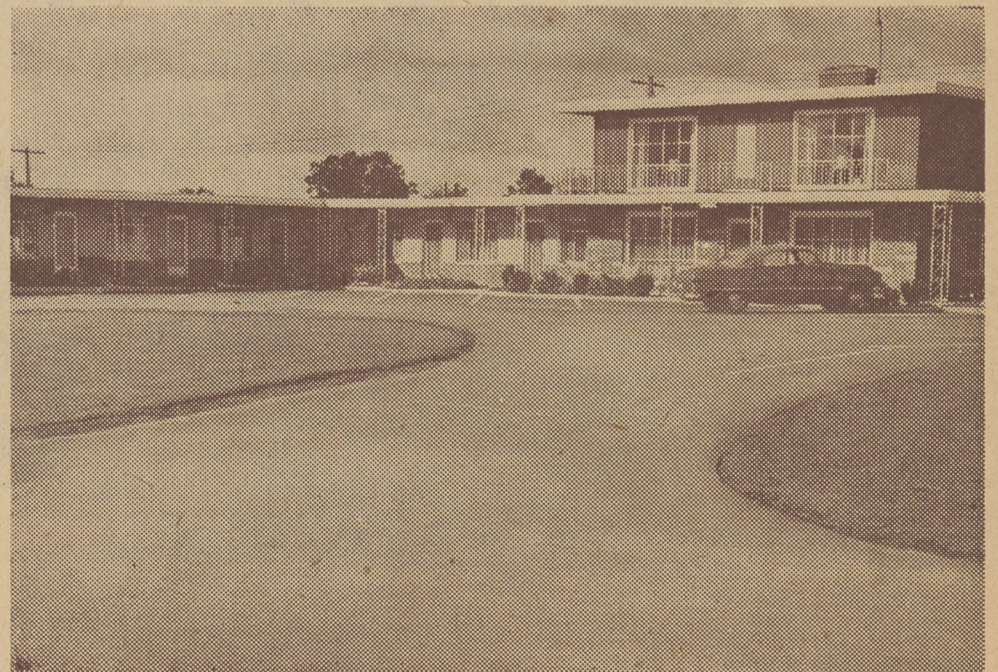
The development of Shrine Acres is unique in that three streets, intersected by others at right angles, will band the hillside. Lots on these streets, more appropriately called roads, will each have an area of one acre. Along the road at the top of the development, construction will be restricted to homes in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 category; along the next lower road will be \$25,000 to \$30,000 homes; and the lower road will be restricted to \$20,000 to \$25,000 homes.

Grounds along all three roads will be terraced so that each overlooks the home below. Four homes have already been built along the lower road by Ralph Downend, and many lots in higher sections have also been sold.

William Betterly of Shavertown has recently purchased a fine location on the higher ground and expects to construct a \$40,000 home there next spring.

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Shown at left is a view of the large and attractive parking area for the Dallas Trav-E-Lodge paved by Dale Parry. This is just one of such jobs done in this locality by this firm. Others include the Himmler Theatre parking lot, Gate of Heaven drive, Yeisley Plot Roads, Elston & Gould's, Davis Cleaners, Back Mt. Lumber & Coal Co., Hall's Drug Store, Natona Mills.

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