

V2-98

1987



LEAVING THE FARM--After 38 year of farming on the South Line of Brant Township, Eileen and Jack Fell are moving to Hanover. About 200 neighbors and friends held a gathering at the Fells' farm to wish them well on Sunday, June 7.(Boyle photo)

Fells move to town after 38 years of farming

by Corinne Boyle

"I don't think too many people have the kind of neighbors we have," says Eileen Fell. "It's just a really good neighborhood."

Obviously Jack and Eileen Fell have been good neighbors themselves. About 200 people showed up at their farm on Sunday, June 7, to wish them well on their retirement to Hanover.

The Fells have farmed on the South Line of Brant Township for 38 years and are part of a closely knit farming community.

They moved onto a farm on the South Line when they were married 38 years ago and after about 10 years moved to the farm next door where they've lived ever since.

"It's hard to think of us not living here," says Eileen. "I really hate to leave here, but when you can't farm anymore, you just have to get used to the idea."

Two years ago this August, Jack had open heart surgery and at that time neighbors pitched in to help with the plowing.

"There were about a dozen or so tractors that pulled in here to plow the land," says Eileen. "It was just terrific--but then that's the kind of neighbors we have." She says the neighbors are always there to pitch whenever a helping hand is needed.

The Fells sold their 45 cows the April before Jack's operation. On Friday, June 5, they had an auction sale and sold all their farming equipment.

"Everything's gone now."

Their 150-acre farm had already been sold and the new owners took possession on Monday, June 15.

The move to a new home in Hanover is a big step for the couple who have lived on the farm for so many years. They have three children, Ken, Janet and Roger, and eight grandchildren, ranging in age from four months to 15-years-old.

There will be lots of room in the Fell's new home for family and neighbors to come and visit "but there's no driving shed to hold 200 people, like at the party."

The celebration included a potluck supper and "they even had a disc jockey here. You should have seen the food they had. You wouldn't believe it. I'd never seen anything like it."

When the family and neighbors in the farming community decide to celebrate, they do it up right and well wishers were out in full force to show the Fells how much they will be missed.

The last month has been a busy time for Jack and Eileen with moving to a new home, holding a sale, and generally preparing for the big move. Therefore there hasn't been a

lot of time to sit and think about what kind of a change it will be, living in town.

But, they have done some thinking about it and they realize that leaving their farming community after spending most of their lives there, and moving to Hanover, will take some adjustment.

"I guess people that move all the time get used to it, but we haven't moved since day one," says Eileen. "When we get there we'll probably like it. It's just hard leaving here."

Having spent a few days at their new home in Hanover, the Fells are already finding that their new neighbors are not much different from those they are leaving behind on the South Line. Good neighbors are not so hard to find.

They will treasure the memories of their years on the South Line, of raising a family there, enjoying the good times and doing their best in the bad times. They say they've had good neighbors. Well, they are good neighbors and although they won't be far away, they will be missed on the South Line.