

Modern new dairy barn officially opened

A modern new dairy barn was officially opened on the weekend at the Seventh Line farm north of Hornby owned by Oakville physician Dr. R. D. Kunica. The owner staged a ribbon cutting ceremony complete with speeches, an open house, tours and refreshments to mark the occasion, with around 200 guests in attendance.

The original barn on the farm, built in 1871 with hand-hewn timbers that went 60 feet in length and came right off the bush on the 200 acre farm, was destroyed by fire on April 22. Almost five months to the day later, Sunday's guests were able to congratulate the owners on what must be Halton's most modern dairy barn.

That flash fire broke out on a Monday afternoon in April, as farmhands were milking at the opposite end of the building. Within minutes the whole barn was ablaze and 38 head of milking Guernseys were lost. It was a tragic loss for the Falgarwood Farm herd was a well established strain of high producers and prize-winning show cattle.

Aided through the trying days that followed the fire by friends and neighbors who housed the remaining cattle and offered advice and encouragement, Dr. Kunica was faced with the decision to either change his farming operation or go back into Guernseys. He decided to stick with it and ordered a brand new barn, at the same time scouting around for new stock to replace his losses. Today the herd numbers 60, with 23 milking, and they are housed in a fine new barn that indicates the owner's faith in the future of agriculture and the Guernsey breed.

Among the friends, neighbors, and agricultural officials on hand to help with the opening were Halton Agricultural Representative Henry J. Stanley, Halton Warden and Esqueping Reeve George Currie, Halton East MPP Jim Snow who is a neighbor, Ontario Dairy Princess Miss Lorene Archdekin of Brampton, Ontario, and Canadian Guernsey Cattle Club secretary-treasurer Don MacKenzie of Guelph, and 88-year-old Mrs. Ward Ruddell of Ashgrove, whose uncle George Hardy built the original barn in 1871. Each made a brief speech over the loudspeaker system as the guests stood around on the lawn.

Dr. Kunica and Mrs. Ruddell snipped a bright red ribbon to officially declare the building open. Mrs. Ruddell took home a piece of the ribbon as a souvenir of the occasion. MPP Snow called it a "fine new agricultural facility" and congratulated Dr. and Mrs. Kunica on their foresight in building the barn.

Agricultural Representative Stanley said it was regrettable that a fire was the reason there was a new barn standing there, but it was "an ill wind that blows no good." He remarked on the many changes in agriculture in Halton, the decrease in farms from 2,000 a few years ago to just 700 or 800 today, the skyrocketing land taxes and real estate values, and the decline of dairy farms from 400 just a few years ago to around 275 today. "I am pleased to see the Kunicas had faith in the future of the dairy business and the Guernsey breed," he added.

Experts predict that by 1980 there will be fewer cows available to produce the dairy needs of the increasing population, so higher production will be necessary to supply the demand, Mr. Stanley said. Farmers will need help from the government's dairy specialists, feed advisory services and many other services. "I think there is a good future for the dairyman if he will take part in these programs," he said.

Mr. MacKenzie remarked that the Channel Island breeds have a superior product, excelled by none, and they have spent \$1,500,000 promoting their product. Now, in what he called a "socialistic reform" movement, the government has told Jersey and Guernsey breeders their milk is the same as other breeds and all will have to accept the quota. He hoped Mr. Snow, through his influence on Ontario's agricultural minister would be able to help the Channel Island breeders.

Miss Archdekin expressed the hope everyone would "push dairy products", and offered her congratulations to the Kunicas. In an interesting speech reminiscing about the earlier days of Halton, Reeve Currie reviewed how the 200 acre block (which is still intact) was probably a crown grant to the

Hardy family. George Hardy Sr. built the barn in 1871 and it was solid—"it would have done for many years if it weren't for the fire."

George Anderson and his sons Stan and Bill later bought the farm and the McPherson family purchased it from the Andersons. The house was built in 1898 and it replaced a log house.

Mr. Currie said the Seventh Line was once a plank road from Hillsburg to Oakville, and it had 17 hotels. "You were living in a different age then." There were sawmills on both sides of the road near the Kunica property and Brain's Brewery was over on the Ninth Line. He remembered the Seventh Line as a clay road and recalled seeing the first load of gravel spread on it.

Mrs. Ruddell took the microphone to remind Reeve Currie that despite all the hotels along the road, there was once a

Temperance Hall located on the front of Falgarwood Farm.

Dr. Kunica singled out builder Jack Brenzil and milking equipment supplier W. R. Woolley for thanks, also neighbors Jim Snow, Maurice Beatty, Don McCaig, Nelson Stark, Ray Waters, Mr. McPherson, John McNabb, Les King, Peter Stemann, Doug Peddie, Claude Pickett and Stu Hall for their assistance during and after the April fire. He also introduced his farm manager R. K. McKenzie.

Tours of the barn followed the speeches, then refreshments were served. While the guests gathered on the lawn for sandwiches and coffee, another modern touch was added with a foursome of Oakville teenagers—Bob Letchuk, Doug Porter, John Fedoruk and Dan Mesrihan—banging out rock and roll music on their drums and guitars.



OFFICIAL OPENING of Dr. R. D. Kunica's modern dairy barn at Falgarwood Farm near Hornby Sunday saw 200 guests in attendance. Ontario Dairy Princess Lorene Archdekin of Brampton, Dr. Kunica, Esqueping Reeve George

Currie and 88-year-old Mrs. Ward Ruddell of Ashgrove are pictured with White Hall's Val's Patience, one of the farm's top Guernseys.—(Staff Photo)

Free Press Farm Page

Large cattle classes at Fair



ENTRIES IN DAIRY CATTLE CLASSES at Acton Fall Fair were very heavy this year, making it all the more difficult for judges to choose winners. This particular class was for Holsteins.—(Staff Photo)



THE E. BRAIDA AND SON trophy for Grand Champion Shorthorn Male went to the entry of John McKinnon and Son, R.R. 3 Milton, Nino Braida makes the presentation assisted by Halton Shorthorn Lassie Norma Leslie.—(Staff Photo)

Fair dates

Barrie — Sept. 24 to 27
Caledonia — Sept. 25, 26, 27
Erin — Oct. 10, 11, 13
Georgetown — Oct. 3, 4
Markham — Oct. 2, 3, 4, 5
Milton — Sept. 26, 27
Rockton — Oct. 10, 11 & 13
Toronto Royal — Nov. 14 to 22.

Pesticide dangers

Now is a good time to check the leftover pesticides. You probably won't use them any more this season. If there is only a small amount it would be better to destroy it, since chemicals may change their makeup and deteriorate over the winter. The safe rule with pesticides is, if you're in doubt, dispose of them.



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