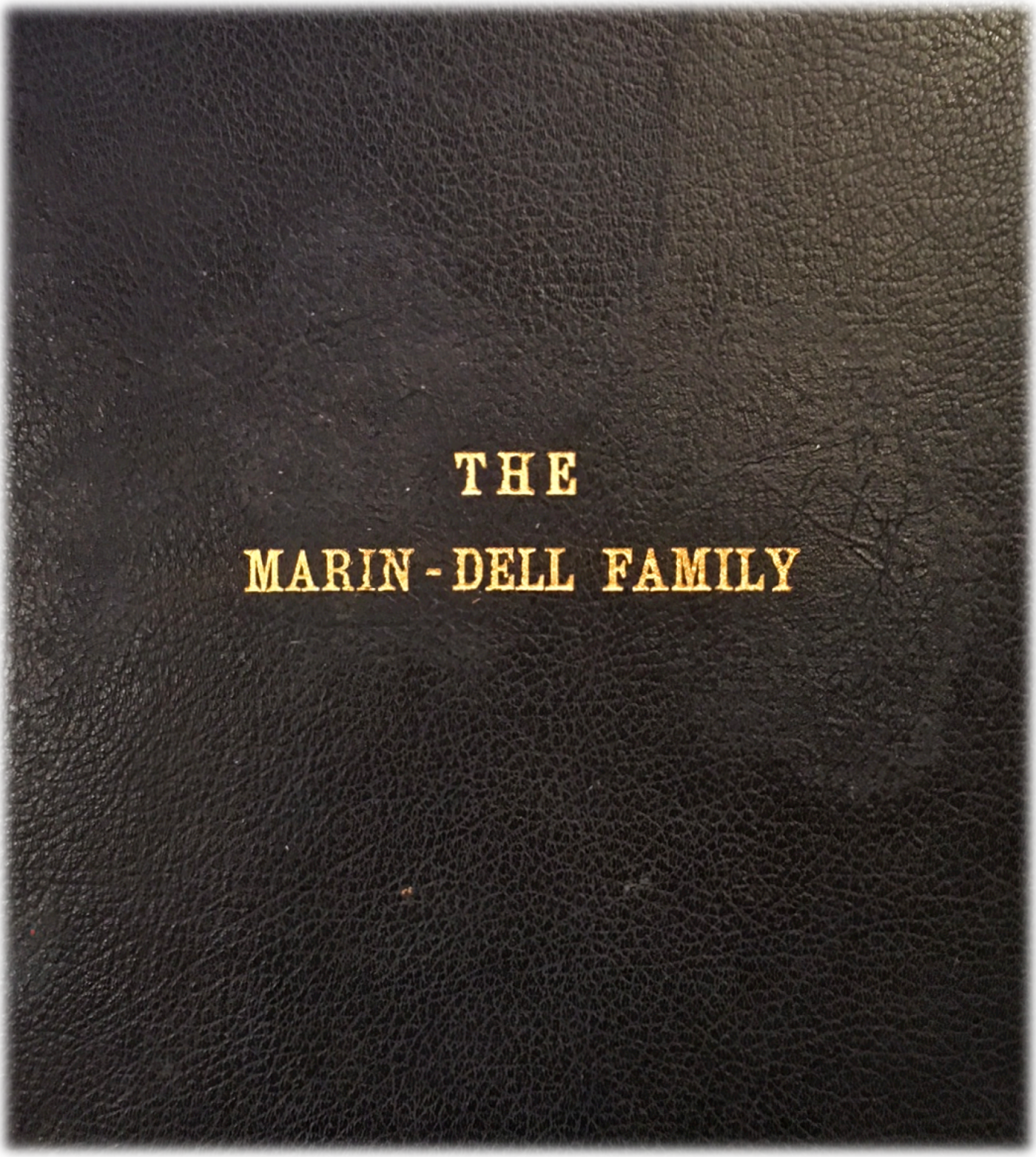

VOLUME 2

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INTRODUCTION

This is the second of two documents incorporating copies of the contents of the two Marin Dell binders that are in the archives of the Novato Historical Guild. This volume contains photographs and narratives regarding Dairies Nos. 33-63 that were located primarily in Sonoma County. The first volume contains photographs and narratives regarding Dairies Nos. 1-32 that were located in Marin County

Marin Dairymen's Milk Company, known as "Marin-Dell," was a cooperative formed in 1929 by a group of Marin County dairymen to process and distribute their milk. It was led by Antonio Faustine ("A.F.") Silveira. "The milk your children deserve," was the company's slogan and the milk was sold to independent grocers. The building at 13th and Howard in San Francisco where Marin-Dell's plant was located still stands.

In 1942, Marin-Dell expanded by acquiring Dairymaid, which included plants in Hughson and Tracy, CA. Marin-Dell merged with Foremost Dairies Inc. in May 1953. In the 1960's, Foremost merged with McKesson & Robbins to form Foremost McKesson Inc. Then in the 1980s, Foremost McKesson divested Foremost Dairies which was eventually acquired by Knudsen.

Around 1950, a representative of Marin-Dell created two binders containing photos of the company's operations and of the dairies of the individual Marin-Dell suppliers. Those photos were accompanied by extensive narratives about the dairies and the family histories of their owners. It was a remarkable effort. The result is a wonderful collection that brings to life the history of this important segment of the Marin/Sonoma economy, as well as the histories of the families whose efforts made it possible.

One set of the binders was in the possession of Joseph Foster Silveira, the third son of A.F. and Mary E. Silveira. Joseph passed away in 2003. His descendants generously donated his set of the binders to the Novato History Museum. Those binders are now in the archives at the Museum.

In order to share the contents of the binders online, we have digitized their pages and have collected those pages in these two volumes. The order of the pages in these digital volumes has been modified from the original to more logically present the material, including to group the dairies in Marin County in the first volume and the dairies in Sonoma County in the second volume. You will note that the individual dairy narratives include "producer numbers" which were used by Marin-Dell for administrative purposes. The order in which the dairies appear in the binders does not correspond to those numbers.

In addition to the Silveira family, the Novato Historical Guild wishes to thank Ron and Dee Vela, members of the Guild, and Mike Moyle, head of the History Committee of the IDESST Sausalito Portuguese Cultural Center, for their assistance in scanning the original documents and organizing these digital copies.

The Novato History Museum reserves ownership of the materials in these binders and they cannot be reproduced or published in whole or in part without the consent of the Novato History Museum.

For additional information contact the Novato Historical Guild. The original binders can be viewed, by appointment, at the Novato History Museum.

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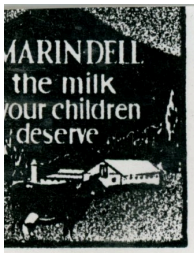
November 2018



MARIN DAIRYMEN'S MILK CO., LTD.
HOWARD AND 13TH STREETS
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

ANTHONY FAUSTINE SILVEIRA

(Budda's Tribute . . . on the Marin-Dell Amateur Hour, October 9th, 1937)

Mr. and Mrs. Boss, we are going to ask you to participate in a very solemn occasion. However, the solemnity of these moments has created in our hearts by themselves, a fine and sturdy optimism;—they shall increase our determination to hold high the banner tossed to us by a man who built a sturdy Cathedral in the broad acres of our hearts.

Death, as it must to all men—came Thursday night to the President of Marin-Dell, Anthony Faustine Silveira. His fifty-three years are a monument to the practical application of decent living, earnest endeavor and a single purpose to do honest business.

Each of us who touched the texture of this man are better for that companionship. Each of us who knew his kindly and understanding smile, had many evidences that the spirit of compassion reigned in his heart and mind for us. Words, at best, are ineffectual instruments with which to build a citadel of conviction; however, may I, as the voice of Marin-Dell, tell you this, Mr. and Mrs. Boss:—many, many times in personal talks with this man (who was lovingly known to his friends and associates as "Tony") would say, "Well, Budda, you do it the way Mr. and Mrs. Boss want it done";—and that is what every single employee of Marin-Dell tries to do.

Death is an Imperial Master. The exclamatory finger of death touched our friend and brought deep sorrow to our hearts. It is our privilege to tell you this:—men and women (five hundred strong) who make up the family of Marin-Dell, have deputized me as their voice, and if you can sense a percentage of the sanctity and earnestness of these words, my job will be done.

You and I, Mr. and Mrs. Boss, have known each other now for a long period of time. Each word, each gesture that we of Marin-Dell have made, have received their inspiration from "Tony." The errors that Budda has made, you have condoned;—undoubtedly, I shall make others. But, Oh! my friends, and Oh! my foes, I pledge you I shall try harder and more earnestly to do what would be "Tony's" bidding.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty—Maker of Heaven and Earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. I believe that the "BIG BOSS" delegates certain people to live on earth so that we may concretely know of His constant and everlasting existence. Thus it is, Mr. and Mrs. Boss, that I dedicate to you, not despondency—not defeat—but rather a new-born determination on the part of those of us who serve you at Marin-Dell, to hold high the inspiration that "Tony" gave to us. To his Family—our humble respects;—to you, "Tony," in Death, this, our simple pledge. We shall live finer in the knowledge of having known you:—we shall try to live as you would have us live. The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make His Face to shine upon thee and bring thee peace now and forever more, Anthony Faustine Silveira.

Donated in memory of our
Grandfather – Anthony F. Silveira

Our Dad - George Silveira 1920 - 2013
wife Alice Egisti 1922 - 2014

Our Uncle - Joseph F. Silveira 1923 - 2003
wife Mary Evelyn Affonso 2012
RIP

Judith Ross, Janet Sosa and
Kevin Silveira

YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE MARIN-DELL FAMILY HISTORY AND IN ITS SUMMARIZATION MAY IT BE SAID, THAT YOURS IS A WORK THAT IS NOBLE IN CHARACTER. WHILE IT IS TRUE YOU ARE IN YOUR OCCUPATION TO OBTAIN A LIVELIHOOD AND SECURITY, NEVERTHELESS THE RESULTANT GOOD THAT IS DERIVED BY THE MANY FROM YOUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE OF REAL GRATIFICATION TO YOU. HOWEVER AT NO TIME SHOULD YOU LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO SOCIETY AND THE METHODS PURSUED BY YOU SHOULD BE GOVERNED ACCORDING TO THAT RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH IS THE PRODUCING OF THE BEST MILK HUMANELY WITHIN YOUR POWER.

MAY I SAY "THE WRITING OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL HISTORIES WAS A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE AND IT IS TO BE TRUSTED SOME PART OF THE WORK SHALL BE OF INTEREST TO YOU".

TO YOU ALL MAY THE WISDOM OF YOUR ACTIONS BE SUCH THAT THE REWARD FOR YOUR EFFORTS MAY BE A FULL LIFE OF HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF MIND.

The Author

MARIN-DELL MILK

The MARIN-DELL Co. Is Justly Proud Of Its Product. Exacting Vigilence, Scientific Blending, Freshness And Wholesome Flavor With Full Richness Are The Constant Watchword MARIN-DELL MILK HAS No EQUAL

ACCORDING TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THE STANDARD OF LIVING REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY FOR A NORMAL ADULT PERSON IS SEVENTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS OF FOOD PER YEAR AND OF THE SEVENTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF IT CONSISTS OF MILK OR MILK PRODUCTS IN ONE FORM OR OTHER.

MILK IS DEFINITELY NOT A BEVERAGE BUT A FOOD IN LIQUID FORM AND AS SUCH SHOULD BE DRANK SLOWLY.

PRIOR TO THE YEAR OF NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN, AT WHICH TIME SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DISCOVERED THE ELEMENT OF VITAMINS IN MILK, PEOPLE WHO CONSUMED AMPLE MILK UNKNOWINGLY WERE SUPPLYING THEMSELVES WITH THAT ALL IMPORTANT FOOD NECESSITY.

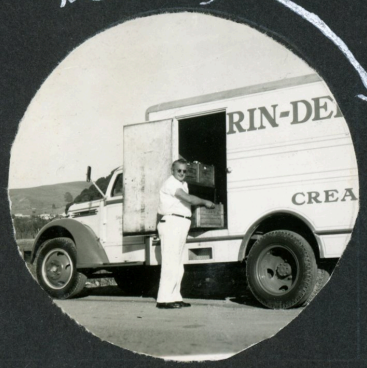
MILK MORE THAN ANY OTHER FOOD IN ITS NATURAL FORM IS A SOURCE OF VITAMINS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN GOOD HEALTH.

A SIMPLE CODE

EVALUATE YOUR POSITION CAREFULLY
BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGES
AVOID SNAP JUDGEMENT
AND UPON ARRIVING AT DECISIONS
DESTROY NO BRIDGES
THAT CANNOT BE REPLACED
MAKE NEW ACQUAINTANCES
BUT RETAIN THE OLD
THE VALUE OF THE NEW MAY BE SILVER
YOU KNOW THE OLD ARE GOLD
OBSERVE THE GOLDEN RULE
FOR PERSONAL GAIN AT THE EXPENSE
OF YOUR FELLOW MAN
MAY BE MEANINGLESS
ALWAYS EXTEND A CHEERY GREETING
IT COSTS SO LITTLE
BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR PRAISE
FOR A TASK WELL DONE
AND MOST OF ALL
ENJOY THE NATURAL AND SIMPLE
THINGS ON YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE
FOR IT MAY BE LATER
THAN WHAT YOU THINK.

PRODUCER

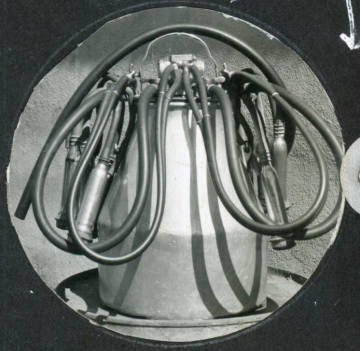
SELLING



ORIGIN

BOTTLING

MILKING



TRANSPORTING

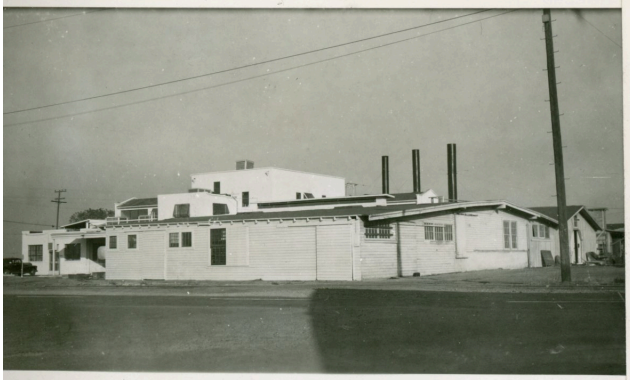
PREPARING

DISTRIBUTOR

MARIN-DELL
SAN FRANCISCO

DAIRYMAID CREAMERIES LTD.
HUGHSEN

DAIRYMAID CREAMERIES LT.D.
TRACY



DAIRYMAID CREAMERIES LT.D.
OAKDALE

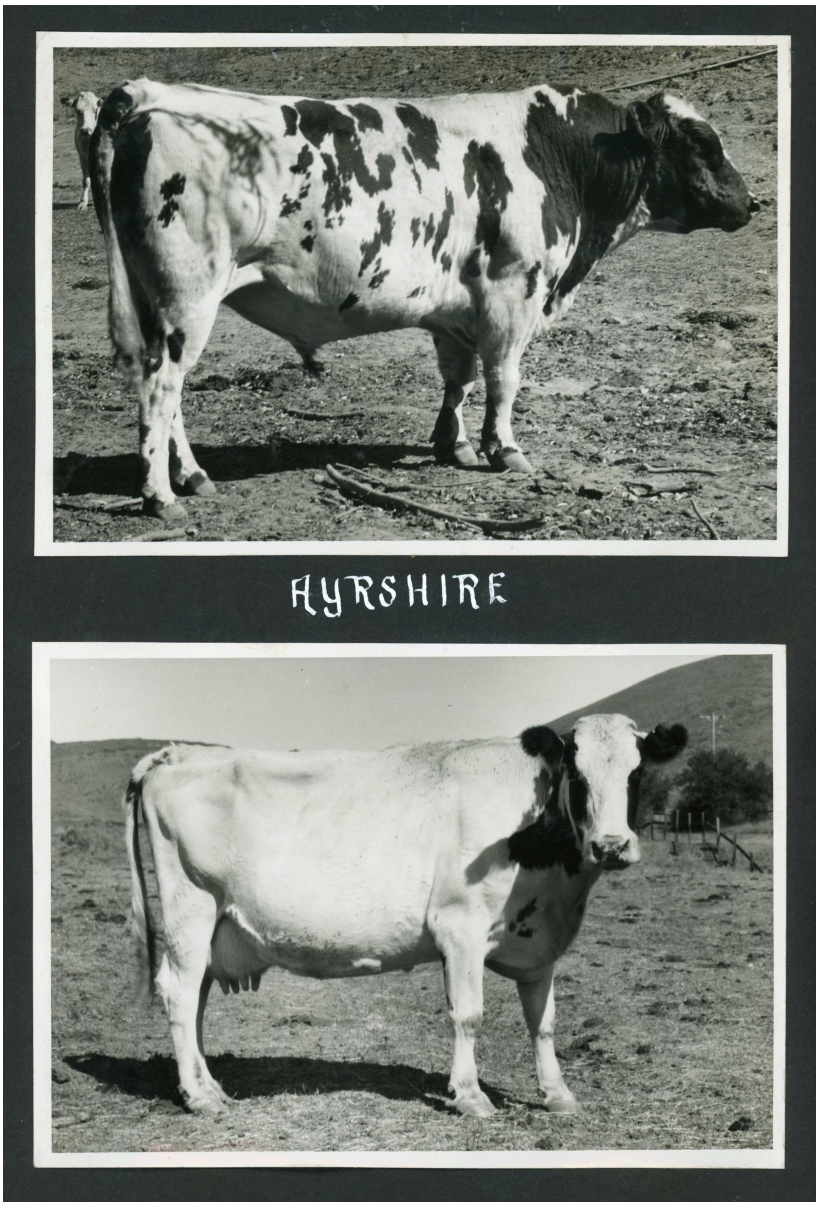
Well Kept Trucks Are Used In Serving
The Trade With MARIN-DELL Products

HER MAJESTY THE MILK COW

DAIRY CATTLE BREEDS

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES YOU WILL SEE THE VARIOUS BREEDS OF DAIRY CATTLE MOST COMMONLY FOUND ON THE DAIRYS PRODUCING MARIN-DELL MILK.
EACH OF THE RESPECTIVE BREEDS HAS ITS MERITS AND ANY PREFERENCE SHOWN BY MARIN-DELL DAIRYMEN TOWARD ANY PARTICULAR BREED IS A MATTER OF PERSONAL OPINION.

ALL PRODUCTION FIGURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM FARMERS BULLETIN NUMBER 1443, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COVER A PERIOD UP TO JANUARY FIRST, 1948.
THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ANIMALS WERE TAKEN ON MARIN AND SONOMA COUNTY DAIRIES AND NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO OBTAIN PICTURES OF OUTSTANDING ANIMALS, THE DESIRE BEING TO OBTAIN A CLOSE FACSIMILE OF EACH PARTICULAR BREED.



AYRSHIRE

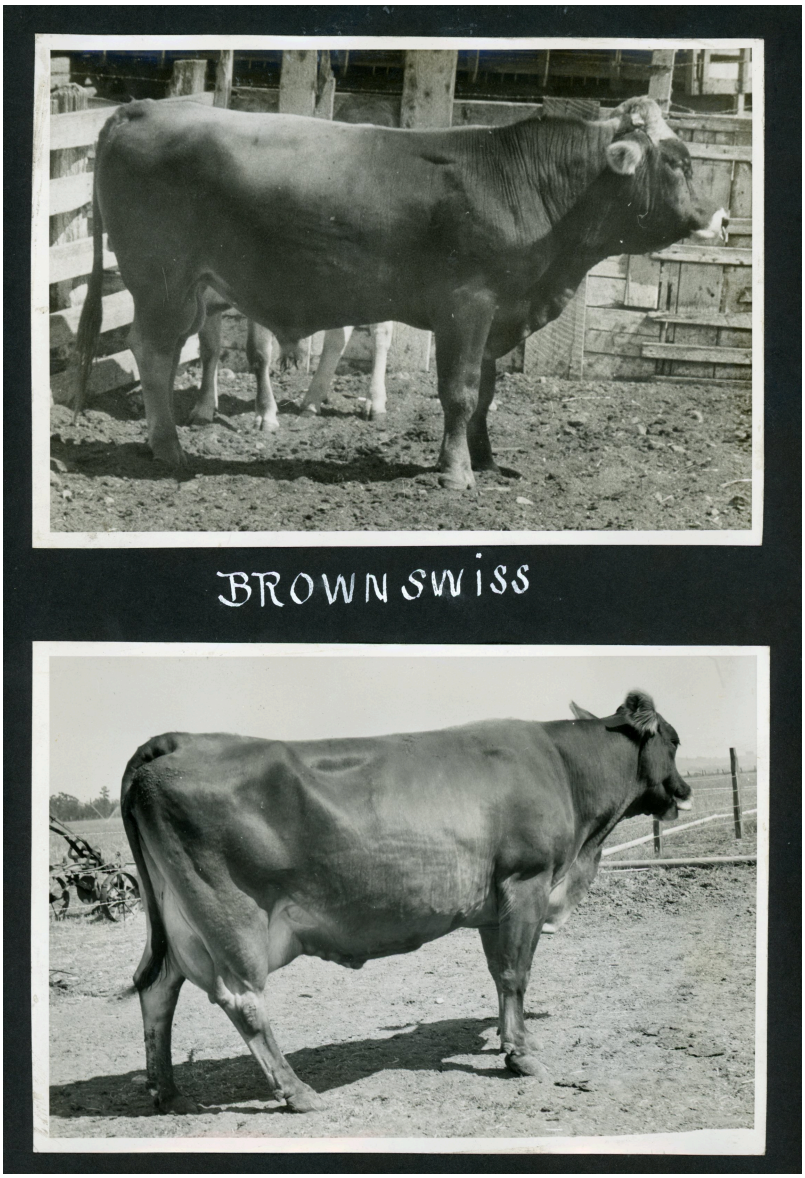
AYRSHIRE.

THIS BREED OF ANIMALS ORIGINATED IN SCOTLAND IN THE COUNTY OF AYR FROM WHICH THEIR NAME IS DERIVED AND HAD FOR ITS FOUNDATION THE WILD COW OF SCOTLAND. IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED BUT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL RECORDS THAT IMPORTATIONS WERE BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY AND FROM THAT FOREIGN BLOOD A STANDARD OF PERFECTION DEVELOPED AND IMPROVED UPON BY SUBSEQUENT JUDICIOUS SELECTION AND BREEDING. THE FIRST AYRSHIRE IMPORTATIONS OF RECORD TO THE UNITED STATES OCCURED IN 1822.

THE HIGHEST RECORD AVAILABLE IN MILK PRODUCTION FOR THE BREED WAS MADE BY VIRGIE VEDETTE STORRS AT THE AGE OF SIX YEARS AND NINE MONTHS BEING MILKED THREE TIMES A DAY FOR 305 DAYS AND PRODUCING 22,691 POUNDS.

THE HIGHEST BUTTERFAT RECORD WAS MADE BY STRATHGLASS BROWN PEG WITH TWICE A DAY MILKING FOR 305 DAYS PRODUCING 874 POUNDS.

A Small Part Of One Of The Largest Ayrshire Herds On The West Coast. The Foundation And Improving On This Herd Has Been Continuous For Over A Half Century On This Marin Co. Dairy



BROWN SWISS

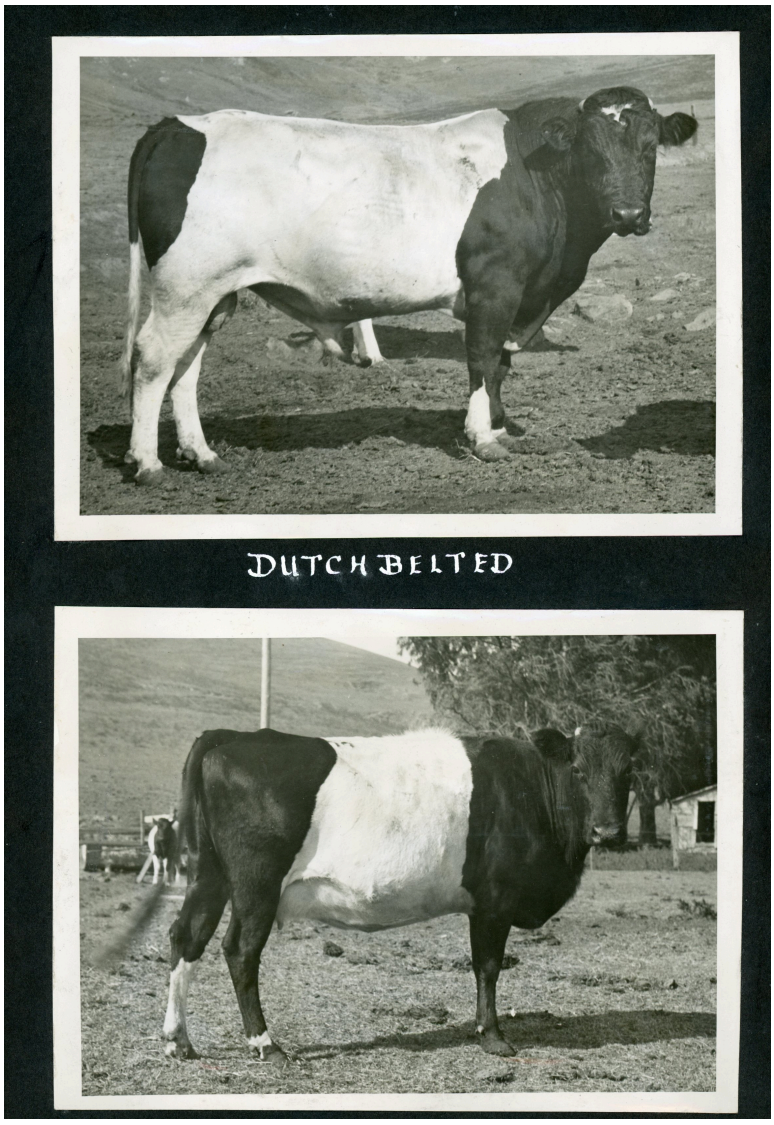
BROWN SWISS

THIS BREED OF ANIMALS DERIVES ITS NAME FROM THE COUNTRY IN WHICH IT ORIGINATED, SWITZERLAND, AND IT IS PROBABLY THE OLDEST AND MOST ORIGINAL BREED IN EXISTENCE, IT BEING ASSUMED THAT NO OUTSIDE BLOOD HAS EVER BEEN INTRODUCED SINCE RECORDS BEGAN. IT HAS IN SOME INSTANCES BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE BREED OF ANTIQUITY. THE FIRST IMPORTATION OF RECORD INTO THE UNITED STATES WAS IN THE YEAR OF 1869.

THE HIGHEST RECORD AVAILABLE FOR MILK PRODUCTION IS THAT OF ILLINI NELLIE AT THE AGE OF EIGHT YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS BEING MILKED THREE TIMES A DAY FOR 365 DAYS AND PRODUCING 29,569.5 POUNDS AND ON THAT SAME TEST ALSO HOLDING THE BUTTERFAT PRODUCTION RECORD OF 1200.41 POUNDS.

THE SECOND HIGHEST ANIMAL OF THE BREED IN PRODUCTION IS MARY'S NELL ALSO HOLDING BOTH RECORDS AT THE AGE OF SEVEN YEARS BEING MILKED FOUR TIMES A DAY FOR 365 DAYS AND PRODUCING 29,487.2 POUNDS OF MILK AND 1,109.71 POUNDS OF BUTTERFAT.

Dignified Matrons of The Brown Swiss Clan
Petaluma, Sonoma Co.

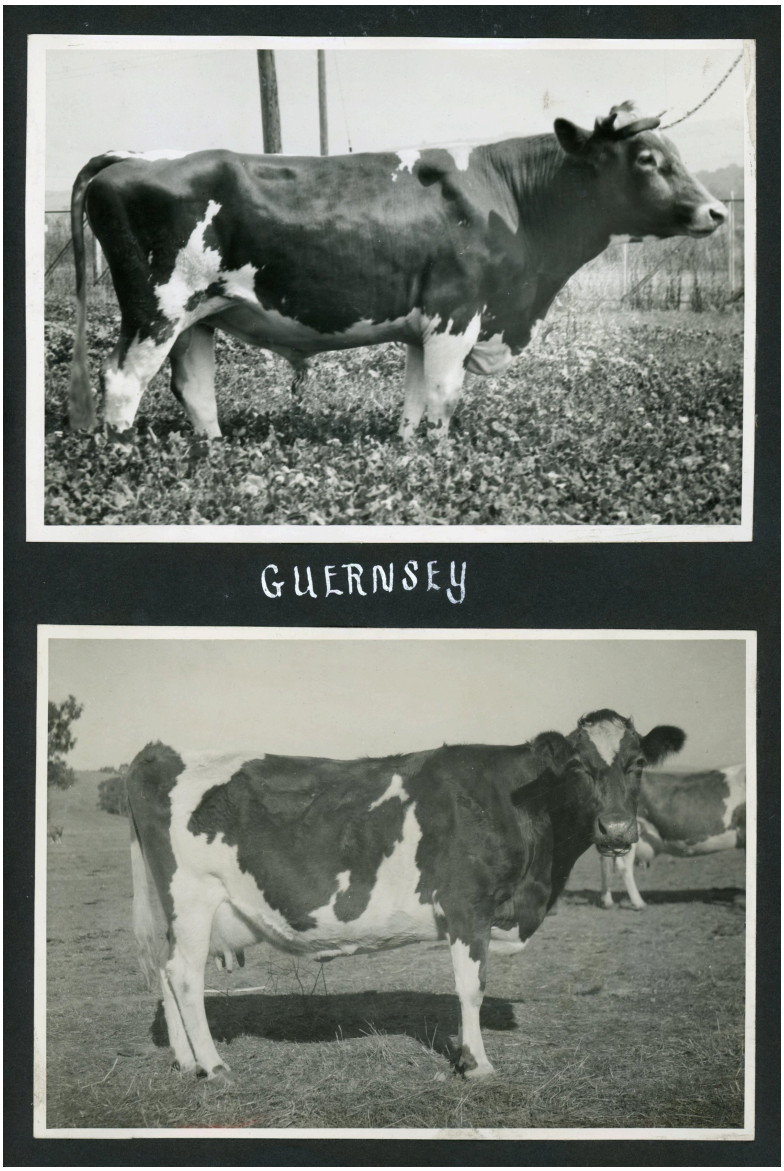


DUTCH BELTED

DUTCH BELTED

WHILE LITTLE INFORMATION IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS BREED OF ANIMALS, THEY BEING VERY MUCH IN THE MINORITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS VERY POPULAR IN CERTAIN LOCALITIES IN THE MIDWEST AND EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE QUITE DISTINCTIVE BY REASON OF THEIR MARKINGS, THEY BEING A BLACK ANIMAL WITH A WHITE BAND RUNNING CLEAR AROUND THEIR BACK AND STOMACH BETWEEN THE REAR AND FRONT LEGS.

WHILE NO RECORDS OF PRODUCTION OR ORIGIN ARE AVAILABLE THERE ARE SOME 6000 HEAD OWNED BY ABOUT 500 BREEDERS UNDER PRODUCTION TESTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THERE IS ONE MARIN-DELL PRODUCER THAT RUNS A FEW OF THESE ANIMALS.



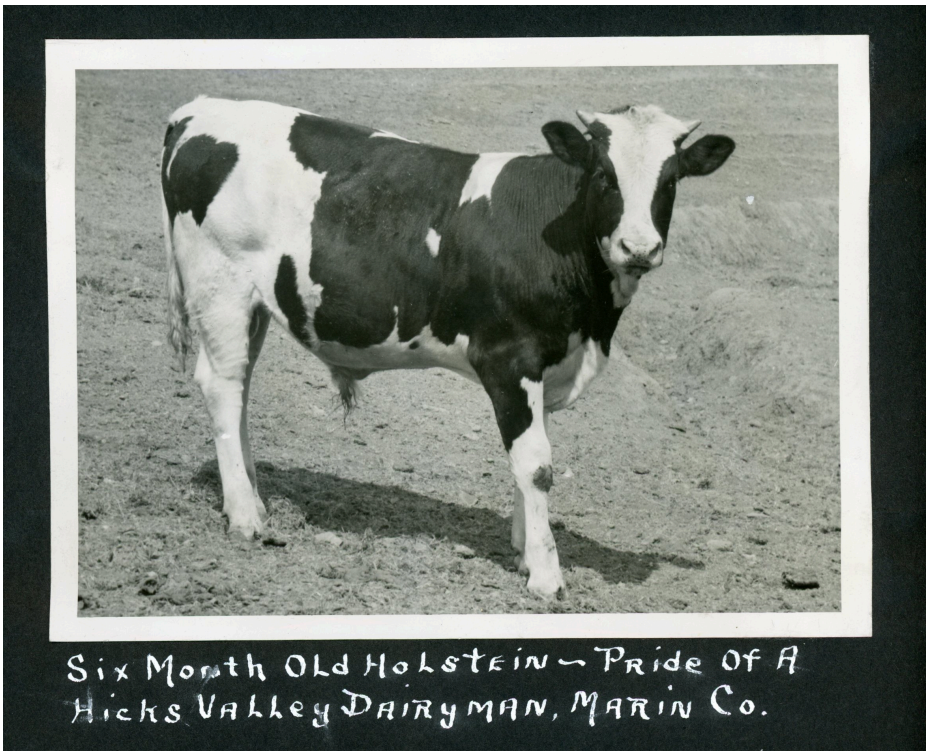
GUERNSEY

GUERNSEY.

THE GUERNSEY BREED ORIGINATED ON THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY WHICH IS LOCATED NEAR THE NORTHERN COAST OF FRANCE IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL. THESE ANIMALS ARE VERY POPULAR WITH MARKET MILK PRODUCERS, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE FACT THEY ARE AS A GENERAL RULE GOOD PRODUCERS, THEIR MILK BEING OF A VERY RICH COLOR. THE FIRST RECORD OF IMPORTATIONS TO AMERICA WERE IN THE YEAR OF 1830, HOWEVER NOT UNTIL 1870 DID LARGE NUMBERS START ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE RECORD FOR THE BREED IN THE WAY OF MILK PRODUCTION BELONGS TO MURNE COWAN, THAT ANIMAL AT THE AGE OF EIGHT YEARS AND NINE MONTHS BEING MILKED FOUR TIMES A DAY FOR 365 DAYS PRODUCED 24,008 POUNDS. THE HIGH BUTTERFAT COW OF THE BREED IS CATHEDRAL ROSALIE WITH THREE MILKINGS A DAY FOR 365 DAYS AND PRODUCING 1213 POUNDS OF BUTTERFAT. IT MIGHT BE STATED THAT THIS ANIMAL ON THE SAME TEST PRODUCED 23,714 POUNDS OF MILK AT THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS.

Prized Sonoma Co Guernsey Herd



Six Month Old Holstein – Pride Of A Hicks Valley Dairyman, Marin Co.

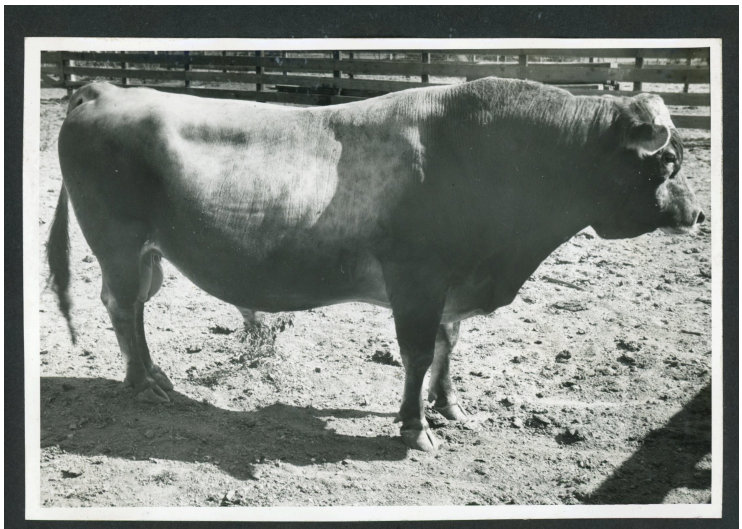
HOLSTEIN - FRIESIAN

THE HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE HOLSTEIN IS BY FAR THE MOST POPULAR BREED FOR MARKET MILK PRODUCTION. THIS PARTICULAR BREED WAS DEVELOPED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NETHERLANDS AND ESPECIALLY IN THE PROVINCE OF FRIESLAND. THE FIRST IMPORTATIONS OF THESE ANIMALS INTO THE UNITED STATES WERE MADE IN THE YEAR 1795.

THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE RECORD FOR THIS BREED IN MILK PRODUCTION WAS MADE BY CARNATION ORMSBY MADCAP FAYNE AT THE AGE OF EIGHT YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS BEING MILKED FOUR TIMES A DAY FOR 365 DAYS AND PRODUCING 41,943 POUNDS OF MILK. ASSUMING THIS ANIMAL WEIGHED 1200 POUNDS, SHE PRODUCED 35 TIMES HER OWN WEIGHT IN MILK IN ONE YEARS TIME. SHE REACHED HER RECORD BUTTERFAT PRODUCTION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AT FOUR MILKINGS A DAY AT THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS AND TEN MONTHS PRODUCING 1306.1 POUNDS OF FAT.

THE HIGHEST BUTTERFAT PRODUCTION OF THE BREED WAS MADE BY CARNATION ORMSBY BUTTER KING AT THE AGE OF EIGHT YEARS AND FIVE MONTHS BEING MILKED FOUR TIMES A DAY FOR ONE YEAR AND PRODUCING 1402 POUNDS OF FAT.

A Valuable Marin Co. Holstein Herd



JERSEY

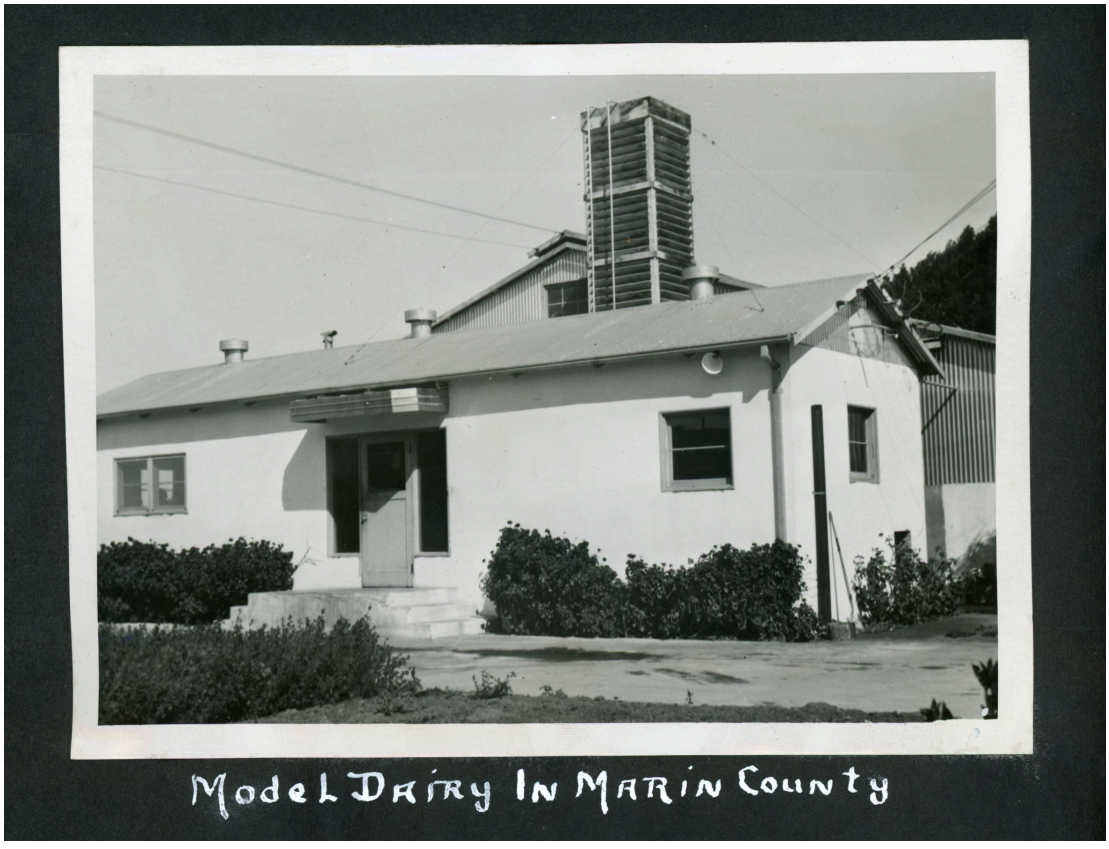
JERSEY

THIS BREED OF ANIMALS ORIGINATED IN THE ISLAND OF JERSEY LOCATED IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AND KNOWN AS ONE OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS. IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST OF THE MILK COW BREEDS AND IS MORE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES THAN ANY OF THE OTHER BREED. IT IS RECOGNIZED FOR THE RICHNESS OF THE MILK AND CAN ALSO BE CLASSIFIED AS THE NUMBER ONE FAMILY COW OF AMERICA. THE FIRST IMPORTATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES WERE IN 1850 AND FROM 1870 TO 1890 LARGE NUMBERS WERE SENT TO THIS COUNTRY.

THE HIGH RECORD FOR THIS BREED IS HELD BY ABIGAIL OF HILLSIDE AT EIGHT YEARS AND SIX MONTHS BEING MILKED THREE TIMES A DAY FOR 365 DAYS AND PRODUCING 23,677 POUNDS.

THE HIGHEST BUTTERFAT PRODUCER OF THE BREED IS LISTED AS STOCKWELL'S APRIL POGIS OF H. P. WHICH HAS A RECORD FOR THREE TIMES A DAY MILKING FOR 365 DAYS OF 1218 POUNDS OF BUTTERFAT.

Distant View Of Modern Dairy Ranch
Inverness Marin Co.



Model Dairy In Marin County

Reception Room And Office

The Aptitude Shown In The Keeping Of The Home In General Is In Continuity with The Methods Used In The Producing Of The Milk

Compact Home Kitchen With All Conveniences

Mixed Herd In Sonoma Co Resting Contentedly

A Small Part Of A Mixed Herd On A Large Lucas Valley Dairy

Milking Time On A Hicks Valley Dairy
In Marin Co.

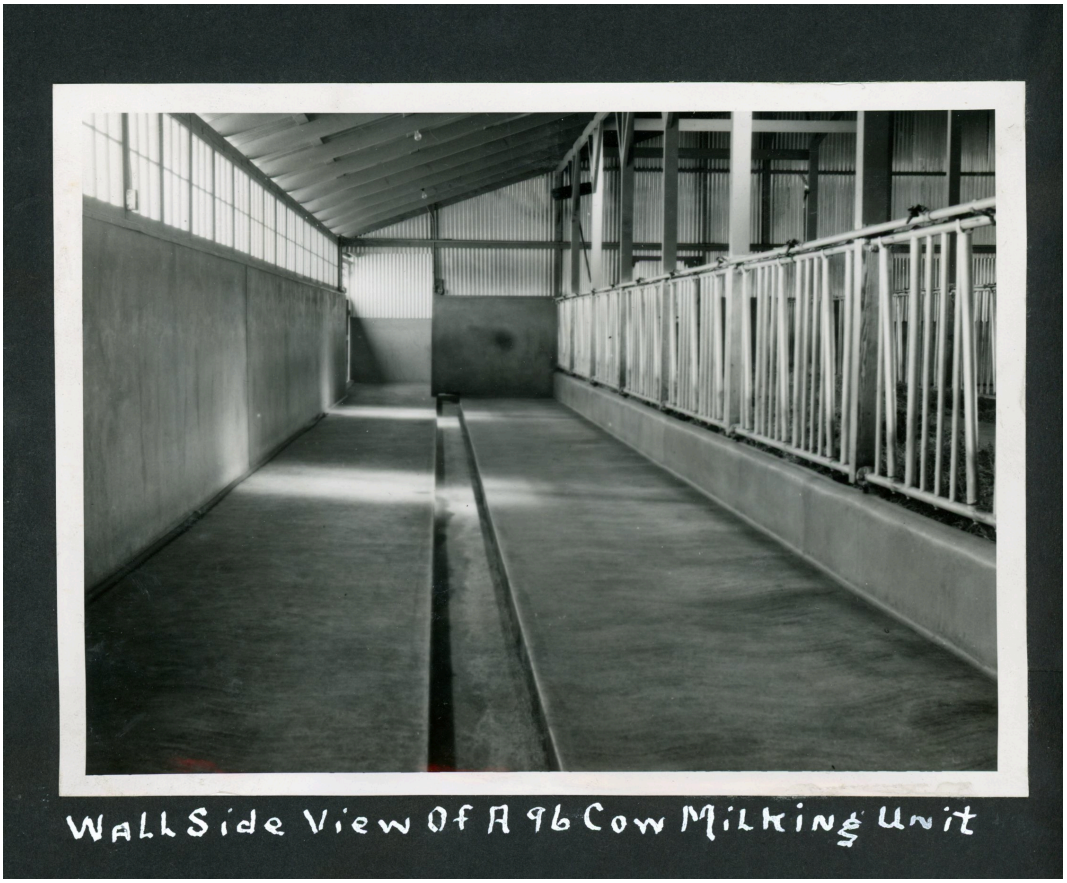
Model Small Dairy Milking Unit
In Sonoma County

A Well Kept Dairy Housing A 600 Gal. Farm Tank
In Picturesque Lucas Valley
Marvelous Marin

Concrete Corrals And Ramps Are The Key -
Note Toward Sanitation During Winter Months

Interior View Of A Steel Stanchion Milking Unit

Milking Unit With Divided Center
On A Sonoma Co. Dairy

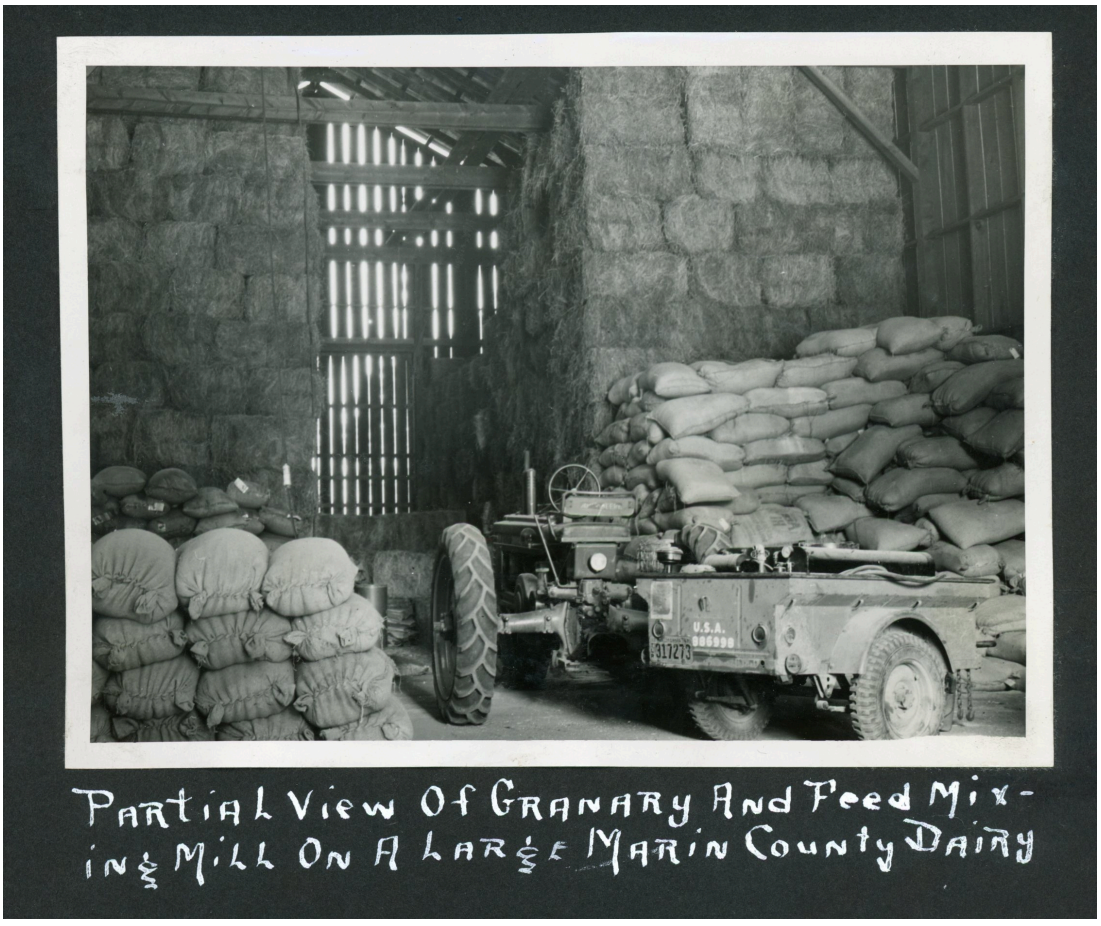


Wall Side View Of A 96 Cow Milking Unit

Feed Arranged For Evening Milking

1000 Gallon All Stainless Steel Farm Holding Tank On A Marin County Dairy

Big Business On A Sonoma Co Dairy



Partial View Of Granary And Feed Mixing Mill On A Large Marin County Dairy

Artesian Well And Forty H.P. Electric Motor Pumping 800 Gallons Per Minute And Supplying 32 Sprinklers In Sonoma Co.

Small Part Of A Field Where 12,000 Bales Of Oat Hay Was Harvested In Sonoma Co. By Pick up Bailer In 1949.

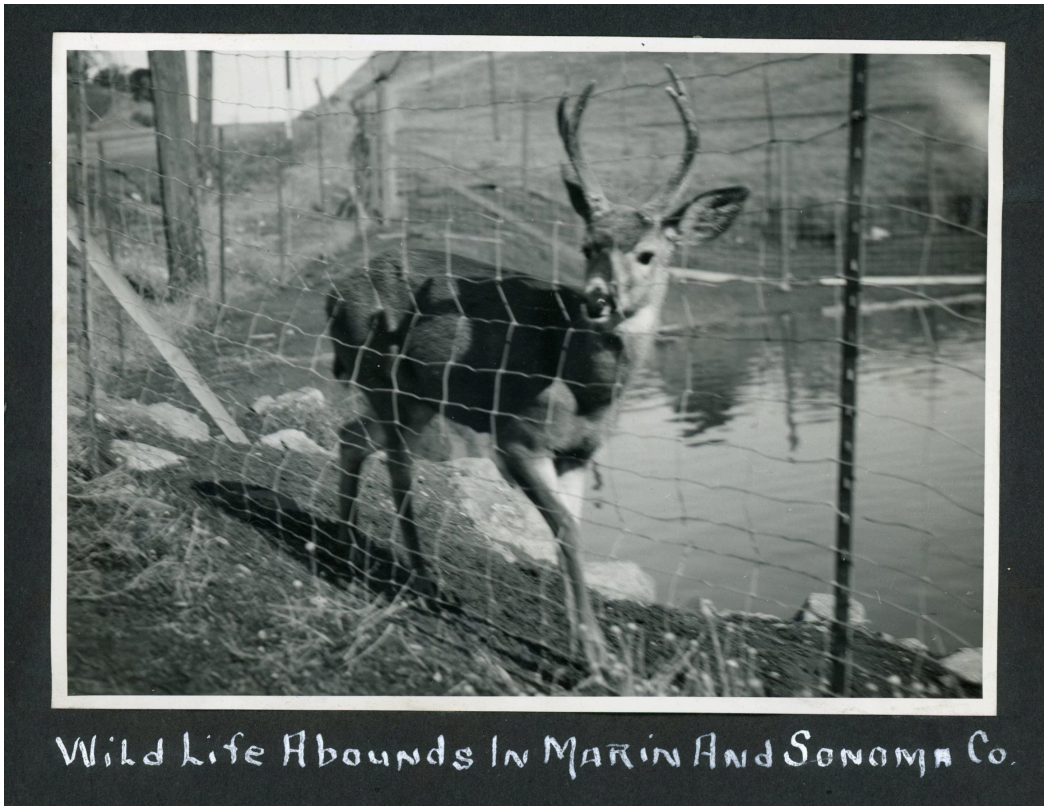
Preparing Land For The Growing Of Alfalfa
Flooding Method To Be Used For Irrigating
Sonoma Co. Dairy Producing MARIN—DELL Milk

Fourth Cutting Of Alfalfa In Sonoma Co.

Irrigating Permanent Pasture In Sonoma Co.

Thousands Of Tons Of Alfalfa Hay Are Purchased Yearly By Marin-Dell Dairymen

Looking East Toward Highway 101 In Beautiful Lucas Valley Marin County



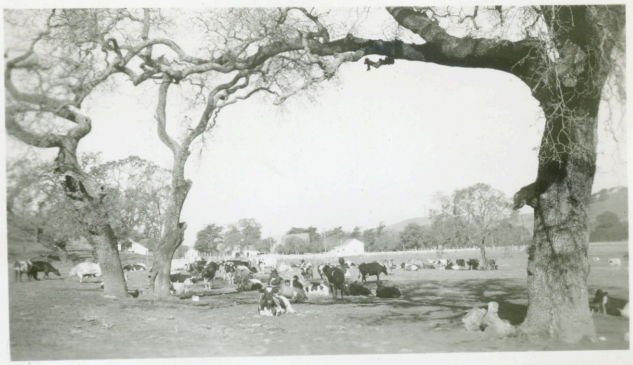
Wild Life Abounds In Marin And Sonoma Co.

OLD ADOBE FORT

THE OLD ADOBE FORT IS LOCATED A FEW MILES EAST OF THE CITY OF PETALUMA IN THE FOOTHILLS ON THE WEST SLOPE OF THE SONOMA MOUNTAINS. THE HISTORY OF THE OLD FORT BEGINS WITH THE ORDERING BY MEXICO OF GENERAL MARINO GUADALUPE VALLEJO TO THE SONOMA VALLEY AS MILITARY COMMANDANTE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN THE YEAR 1835. THE PURPOSE WAS TO ESTABLISH A LINE OF FORTIFICATIONS FROM SAN FRANCISCO NORTH TO WHAT IS NOW HEALDSBURG, THE RUSSIANS HAVING ALREADY BECOME ESTABLISHED AT FORT ROSS. THE OLD ADOBE FORT WAS BUILT UNDER SUPERVISION OF GENERAL VALLEJO IN 1836 AND CONSISTED OF A BLACKSMITH SHOP, STORAGE ROOMS, LIVING QUARTERS AND VARIOUS OTHER DEPARTMENTS NECESSARY IN THE BUSINESS OF FORTIFYING AND HOLDING OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE IN THE NAME OF MEXICO.

THE OLD LAND MARK AS IT STANDS TODAY IS 114 YEARS OLD AND IS IN A TERRIFIC STATE OF DETERIORATION, HOWEVER AFTER LONG AND TRYING EFFORT, TITLE IS BEING ACQUIRED FROM THE OWNERS OF THE LAND UPON WHICH IT STANDS BY THE NATIVE SONS AND THE HISTORIC BUILDING WILL SOON BE RENOVATED. SEVERAL MARIN-DELL PRODUCERS' DAIRIES ARE LOCATED IN THIS VICINITY WHERE EARLY CALIFORNIA HISTORY WAS MADE.

Mary E. Silveira Dairy
San Antonio Dist.
Petaluma, Calif.



Producer Number 4 and 40.
Mary E. Silveria.

The prominent position California holds in our nation of States in respect to the dairy industry can largely be attributed to the coming of a race of people to America, who in their native land were greatly handicapped in many ways. It is little wonder therefore that these ambitious people upon arriving in America from their isolated island homeland easily adjusted themselves to conditions of the new world and readily chartered the course of their lives with great aptitude and soon were on the road to success.

It is therefore with complete humility that an effort shall be made to relate the achievements of an individual whom, with a limited education, came to America from one of these islands and in the course of a few years achieved success. He became identified by his foresight and judgment as a leader in the occupation of his choosing. It is with profound regret however, that the narration of this outstanding man's career must necessarily be terminated by his untimely and tragic death, and with it all the heroic effort and fortitude put forth by his grief-stricken young widow, and the ultimate success that was forthcoming to her and her children.

To those who were identified in the dairy industry from the turn of the century on in northern California already by their reading of the introductory chapters of this history know to whom it is referred, to those of lesser acquaintance it is the history of the late Anthony Faustine Silveria.

In respect to the memory of Mr. Silveria may a digression be made from the regular procedure of producer history and a limited discussion be made of the land of his birth, the Azore Islands.

The Azore Islands are located in the North Atlantic Ocean and are geologically known to be of volcanic origin. This group of islands while being under the mandate of Portugal are nevertheless 800 miles distant from that Country's shores, while the population predominately are of Portugese extraction there are people of various nationality inhabiting the islands. The true Azorean, however, is very pro-American and there is scarcely a family but what has had a relative living in America either in the past or present time. Due to the fact that America has been a nation affording great opportunity to the sons and daughters of the Azores, the people of those islands during the last world war had complete confidence of their own security upon America entering into the conflict. While in the average American mind the Azore Islands are considered as a far away group of islands, in reality they are much closer to the American continent than our own Hawaiian Islands, being only 1300 miles distant from the Continental United States.

Due to the abundance of various species of ocean fish, the men of the Azores are considered experts in their occupation as fishermen, and American fishing and whaling ships readily hired these people, and as a result large populations of Azoreans are now located in America. On the eastern coast of the United States it is estimated 20,000 of these people live at New Bedford, Massachusetts, and also a great number at Providence, Rhode Island, while in our own State of California they are well represented in the agrarian population.

The Azores are composed of three groups of islands widely separated over a distance of 375 miles from their fartherest points while in land area are less than our smallest state of Rhode Island which has a population of 650,000 people within a boundary of 1248 square miles, while the Azores comprise an area of 922 square miles with a population of 250,000 people.

The three groups are distinguished by their location as the southern group comprising the Islands of St. Miguel, Santa Maria, and Formigas. The central group comprises the Islands of Fayal, Pico, St. George, Terceira, and Graciosa, while the northern group includes the Islands of Flores and Corvo. The capital city of the Islands is Ponta Delgada, and is located on the Island of San Miguel. The highest peak in this volcanic chain of islands is located on the Island of Pico and rises from the floor of the ocean upward two and one half miles. It is estimated to be 7612 feet elevation and on a clear day is visible to air pilots for a distance of 85 miles.

The early history of the Islands undoubtedly was dominated by several nations during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and records show people of Flemish ancestory inhabited the islands and their influence is still somewhat prevalent at the present time. In the year 1640 the Portugese Government gained control of the islands and up to the present time claims them as her possessions.

Due to the geographical location of the islands they are considered of great strategic value by the Western powers and were closely guarded during the last World War. They also serve as a stop over landing for trans-Atlantic air flights during adverse westher conditions. The fluctuation in temperature on the islands for differect seasons is very nominal and seldom varies over eleven degrees. The islands due to their latitude and longitude position are provided with an abundance of rainfall and rarely a week goes by that they do not receive a bountiful amount of moisture. As a result of the consistent rainfall, the islands remain green the year around providing a haven for artists to display their talents on canvas. As well as being exceedingly picturesque, they also serve as a mid-Atlantic terminal for the great Atlantic cable which is located on the Island of Fayal and at the time of its laying was one of the wonders of the world.

From the dairying standpoint the Island of St. George presumably is the leader and as near as can be gathered from questioning many people who have visited the Island or lived there, the size of the herds range from one family cow to about ten head, while any amount over that is considered a large dairy. The Island of St. George is one of the central group of islands and unlike its sister islands it is long and narrow, providing an abundance of soft succulent grasses for the little dairy herds that graze on its hillsides and valleys. And so it was on this little Island of St. George on November 22, in the year 1885, that Anthony Silveria was born, being one in a family of seven children, from humble God-fearing parentage.

As a young boy Anthony Silveria grew up and attended school on the island of his birth and it was with awe and wonderment that he would attentively listen to his parents when they would talk about America, and this they often did as young Anthony's older brother, John, had left for that far away land several years before and was in partnership in the dairy business with a family friend by the name of Borges. When Anthony was eleven years old his brother's partner, Mr. Borges, returned from America to his homeland for a short visit and it was then that the young man, after talking with their family friend and asking questions about his brother, began to show a keen interest as young as he was, in the land across the sea to which his brother had gone and where he was doing so well. His desire to go to America soon became apparent to his

parents and his brother's partner, and so upon Mr. Borges' return to America he made arrangements to bring young Anthony Silveria with him.

Upon their arrival in California Anthony made his home with his brother and Mr. Borges on the Little Reed Ranch which they were then renting and which is located on the Mill Valley-Tiburon Highway in Marin County. Anthony Silveria was a willing worker assisting with the chores morning and night and attending the Hilarita School which was located at that time between the Little Reed and Big Reed Ranches.

Anthony Silveria took his school work seriously and at the end of two years had acquired sufficient education to enable him to start out for himself and it was then that he obtained employment on the Butler Ranch at Pt. Reyes. Mr. Butler was the father of the Honorable Edward I. Butler who has for many years and is still at present presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Marin County. Young Silveria was a willing hard worker and made friends readily and soon became known as Tony Silveria to his acquaintances. However, Tony Silveria was not destined to work long as a ranch hand and at the end of three years at Pt. Reyes he had saved enough money to go into business for himself, and as reluctant as Mr. Butler was to lose the services of the young man, Tony Silveria was on his way to success and it was never necessary for him to again work for wages during his entire tenure in the dairy business.

Upon leaving the services of Mr. Butler, Tony Silveria, at the age of sixteen, became associated with Mr. Frank Silva in the operating of a dairy business on the Miller Ranch located five miles north of San Rafael, and for five years he and Mr. Silva operated the dairy very successfully. At the termination of their lease which was for five years, Tony Silveria then purchased his partner's interest in the business, renewed the lease, and proceeded to operate the business entirely as his own and by so doing in the short time of ten years after coming to America and still only twenty-one years old, he was the sole owner of a large dairy business. Taking into consideration the economic condition of the country in the years from 1902 to 1907, that being the period which Tony Silveria first went into business for himself, the early success of this young man can be considered nothing short of phenomenal.

After a few years of operating the Miller Ranch Dairy, Tony Silveria's thoughts again turned to his homeland and leaving his business in competent hands, after being in America for fourteen years and at the age of twenty-five, he made the trip back to his homeland for a brief visit with his family whom he had left while still a very young boy. After a short but very enjoyable visit to the land of his birth, Tony Silveria returned to America accompanied by two of his sisters.

After returning from the visit to his homeland Tony Silveria continued to operate the Miller Ranch, steadily increasing and improving his herd, and it soon became apparent here was a man of exceptional ability. Although his days were fully occupied in the operating of his business, Tony Silveria had the faculty of making and retaining friends and his advice was constantly sought by people who knew him.

After sixteen years of continuous operation of the Miller Ranch with exceptional success, Tony Silveria's security for the future was established and it was then that his thoughts turned to marriage. On the twentieth of January, nineteen hundred and eighteen, he and his young bride were united in marriage at their parish church at San Rafael.

Mrs. Silveria was born at San Rafael and was one of a family of eight children, her parents having raised four sons and four daughters. She received her education and grew into womanhood in the city of her birth. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Silveria seven childred were raised, four sons and three daughters.

After their marriage at San Rafael Tony Silveria returned to the Miller Ranch with his bride and it was while operating this ranch that his children were born and Mr. and Mrs. Silveria were very happy and busy, Mrs. Silveria raising and caring for her family while Mr. Silveria was managing his business.

During the period of the late nineteen twenties Tony Silveria again proved himself as a man of great foresight and ability. Due to an unstable market and unsavory conditions then being practised by existing milk distributors, Tony Silveria for the benefit of his fellow milk producers as well as himself became associated with a few men of high character and proceeded to discuss the feasibility of forming their own organization for the distributing of their product. After countless days of untiring effort on the part of Mr. Silveria and his associates, complete arrangements were made, details and plans promulgated and an organization known as the Marin Dairymen's Milk Company was ready to start business. Tony Silveria gave a great deal of his time and effort in the organizing of this new business enterprise, and it was with great satisfaction on his part that in the month of May of 1930 that the milk produced from his dairy combined with the milk from the dairies of his fellow associates first flowed into the holding vats of their newly organized small plant.

In succeeding years after the starting of their own distributing plant, Mr. Silveria gave unsparingly of his time in the interest of its success, acting in the capacity as the first vice-president of the organization and later being elected to the position of President.

While Mr. Silveria devoted a great deal of his time to the newly formed milk company he nevertheless in no way neglected his own dairy business and in 1932 he purchased a large acreage of land directly opposite the ranch he was then operating and which is at the present time the Silveria Home Dairy. For three years Tony Silveria utilized his newly purchased property as additional pasture in conjunction with the operating of the Miller Ranch. In 1935 Mr. and Mrs. Silveria started construction of a new home on their property and after its completion they with their family moved into the new residence July 15, 1936. After moving into their new home Mr. Silveria then proceeded to construct a complete new Grade A milking unit with feed and storage barn facilities and after the completion of the entire new set of buildings moved his fine herd on to his new ranch in the month of January 1937.

After the moving of their business from the Miller Dairy to their own ranch both Mr. and Mrs. Silveria with the assistance of their eldest children were very busy, Mrs. Silveria taking care of her new home and gardens, Mr. Silveria in attending to his outside interests and the many details involved in the improving and perfecting of his new ranch property. During the spring, summer and early fall months of 1937, a year that will never be forgotten in the minds of the Silveria family for generations to come, they accomplished a great deal, buildings were painted, new quarters for the help constructed, fields divided by the building of long lines of fencing around the boundaries of the property and for the purpose of rotating the grazing of the land. By late September of that year, the many tasks confronting Tony Silveria had been accomplished and he was able to survey with pride and satisfaction the results of his toil.

On the morning of October seventh Mr. Silveria was approached by a close friend of the family to go to San Francisco with him to use his influence in respect to gaining employment for his young friend. This Mr. Silveria readily consented to do as he was always ready and willing to assist people whom he felt were deserving and desirous of improving their position in life. It was decided they would leave early in the afternoon and the young man stayed at the Silveria ranch in readiness to make the trip. Shortly after they had finished discussing the proposed visit to San Francisco, Mr. Silveria was advised that the last of several truck loads of hay he had purchased some days previous would arrive at his ranch in early afternoon and as a result of this information, reluctant as he was to disappoint his young friend, Mr. Silveria was forced to change their plans and remain home to supervise the unloading of the hay, as it was to be stored in the loft of his newly constructed barn. Upon completion of the unloading of the hay Mr. Silveria was called away from his ranch returning in late afternoon. Shortly after his return he was paid a visit by a business associate and after discussing business matters for a short time the visitor departed. Mr. Silveria then walked into the main floor of the barn to inspect the timbers holding the loft, probably realizing they were inadequate to hold the weight, as he cautioned his young son to stay outside when he attempted to follow him. The men who were present at the time Mr. Silveria walked under that loft of newly stored hay emphatically relate that no imminent danger could be foreseen other than the planking which constituted the floor of the loft appeared to be sagging somewhat. As Mr. Silveria stood under the loft appraising the situation and undoubtedly formulating plans in his mind to add additional uprights to strengthen the structure, a resounding crash occurred and in a split second without warning the planking midway between their supports gave way and eighteen ton of alfalfa hay pummelled down on the helpless form of Tony Silveria. The men on the ranch who were milking in an adjacent building were summoned and with frantic speed in twenty minutes time moved the hay and uncovered the limp body of their friend and employer. An ambulance was hastily summoned with a faint ray of hope that possibly something could be done, but the men who lifted Tony Silveria out from under those many tons of baled hay fully realized he was beyond the reach of any earthly aid.

Upon learning of the death of Tony Silveria, the entire community in which he lived and did business was enveloped in sorrow and scarcely could people realize the man they had known so well would no longer be with them. Men of all walks of life stood with bowed head and paid their final respect to the man they admired, respected and loved, and Tony Silveria was left to rest in peace in the cemetery located a short distance from his home, ranch, and family, all of which meant so much to him. In the sudden death of their husband and father may there be a great amount of gratification derived by the Silveria family in this year of nineteen hundred and forty-nine in the knowledge that the memory of their loved one still exists in the minds of the people who knew him and by his strength of character he greatly enriched the community in which he lived.

People as they journey through life, sooner or later are confronted with sorrow, by the passing on of a loved one, however in most cases a knowledge of what to expect eliminates the element of mental shock. In the tragic death of Mr. Silveria on the afternoon of October seventh, 1937, nothing more remote could have been in the minds of that fine family that destiny could decree to them any misfortune such as befell them. It would therefore be nothing short of travesty to endeavor to elucidate their feelings, and only sympathetic imagination can afford the slightest realism of the mental suffering that was so cruelly thrust upon them. The only solace that family had was the knowledge that their

loved one was in the hands of his creator.

During the years that Mr. and Mrs. Silveria were married they were blessed with seven children and in those years Mrs. Silveria assumed her responsibility in rearing her family with great devotion and seriousness, and her time was fully occupied. Due to the complete capability of her husband in managing his business affairs along with the lack of time on her part, prevented her from failiarizing herself to any great extent with her husband's business enterprises. Upon partial recovery of her almost unbearable sorrow, she realized the herculean task that confronted her, the carrying on of her husband's business. It was then that this thirty-six year old widow and mother of seven minor children ranging in age from five to eighteen years summoned within herself all the courage at her command and made her decision to continue the business to the best of her ability, rather than dispose of it. In arriving at her decision, Mrs. Silveria was not thinking of herself, her paramount thought was to retain for her children that which their father had already established. Having elected to carry on the business, Mrs. Silveria with sorrow in her heart and with complete humility prayed that with the help of her maker she would be bestowed with the will-power and courage to successfully conduct the business which she had practically no knowledge of, to the end that she would be able to hold intact, for the children whom she bore into the world for their father, who so dearly loved them. To this devoted courageous mother may it be said, the fortitude displyed by her in her hour of tribulation may well reflect her strength of character and to all who know her, no one can deny the admiration that is forthcoming to her in the dignity and sacredness with which she has conscientiously carried the burden of responsibility to the best of her ability with little thought of her personal welfare, to the end that the comfort and security for her children might be preserved.

After the death of her husband the business then became known as the Mary E. Silveria Dairy and as Mrs. Silveria with the assistance of her four sons have greatly expanded their holdings since the death of Mr. Silveria it is necessary to designate the properties she now operates in the following manner. The ranch which Mr. Silveria purchased in 1932 and they moved onto in 1935 and on which Mrs. Silveria still resides is known as the Silveria Home Dairy.

This ranch is located five miles north of San Rafael on the 101 Highway and lies adjacent to the properties of the St. Vincent School for Boys. The family home is a beautiful structure of spanish type architecture and includes a large wing of corresponding type of construction for the housing of the family's cars. The frontage of the residental property is still further enhanced by the presence of a finely constructed rock wall, while the beauty of the home is made still more pretentious by the natural surroundings in the form of several huge stately Oaks.

The ranch buildings are situated about one-eighth of a mile from the family home and include a huge milking unit and newly constructed milk room built for the express purpose to accommodate a large stainless steel farm holding tank which was recently installed and is now in use for the more efficient handling of the milk. For the accommodation of the help there are three well constructed farm cottages. Besides the already mentioned buildings there are calf barns, machinery sheds, hospital barn, and hay storage barns, and to the west of all these buildings, a newly constructed feed mixing plant and feed storage building. The corrals, loading shoots, and fencing are of the finest construction, and it can be earnestly said without exaggeration the improvements on the Silveria Home Dairy are comparable with the finest in

northern California and are a real credit to the family that owns them.

Circumstances as has already been related in this history forced Mrs. Silveria to assume the management of the dairy business, and although her sons were very young at the time, she discussed the various problems of the business with them from the beginning, and as a result her four sons grew up familiarizing themselves in the various phases of the business. As a result of this wise policy on the part of Mrs. Silveria, today her sons are well-qualified to carry on the business, relieving her of a greater part of the burden. However, before any decisions of importance are made, they are thoroughly discussed with their mother before taking any action.

With harmonious relationship existing between all concerned in the operating of their dairy interests, the Silveria family prospered and expanded their business. In 1947 they purchased eighty acres of marshland and by this additional acreage are able to raise oat hay for their dry stock. While the Silveria family prospered and continued to increase the size of their herd, they also were not entirely without misfortune. In 1942 the same barn in which Mr. Silveria lost his life five years previous was razed to the ground by one of the most disastrous hay barn fires in the history of the county. Disastrous due to the magnitude of the loss, there being thirty thousand dollars worth of newly stored hay destroyed along with the structure, and this unfortunately was not covered by insurance due to the fact that they desired to complete the fall storage operation before placing a protection policy on the hay. While the loss sustained was great, it did not deter the Silveria family from immediately constructing a new barn of the same dimensions as the one destroyed by the fire. In 1947 the Silveria family again expanded their operations by constructing a huge feed and storage barn and equipping it with modern grinding and mixing machinery. This large building was entirely constructed by the Silveria Brothers themselves, and is a real credit to their ability and ingenuity, the workmanship being of the highest type. By the constructing of this new building the Silveria family are now able to mix their own formula and at the same time realize a substantial saving in their feed costs. The Silveria Home Dairy consists of 360 acres of fine open land which is especially adaptable for the growing of succulent grasses. The milk barn is the head to head type holding 60 animals while the hospital barn accommodates 64 head. While the most of the ranch is utilized for pasturing, a small portion along with 75 acres of rented land is used for the growing of hay, making it possible to produce a small part of their requirements of that kind of feed.

In conjunction with the operating of their home dairy the Silveria family also rent and operate what is known as the Burdell Ranch. This ranch is also located on the 101 Highway about six miles south of Petaluma in what is known as the San Antonio District. The ranch buildings are located a short distance from the highway and are compactly situated. While the buildings do not compare with the improvements of the Silveria Home Dairy the grade A unit nevertheless is very adaptable for the efficient production of market milk. The terrain of the Burdell Ranch varies from a vast level acreage situated east of the 101 Highway and which provides excellent pasturage for summer and fall, to brush covered rolling hills west of the highway providing protection as well as fair grazing for the coldest months. The Burdell Ranch consists of 2100 acres and it may be truthfully said the Silveria family have spent a great amount of time and effort in the way of improving the property. The property having been neglected by previous tenants, they have constructed miles of fencing and the dividing of fields for rotating pasturing for a more efficient operation for themselves as well as increasing the valuation for the owner. The milking barn is of the head to head type holding 120 head while the hospital barn holds 38 animals.

While the Silveria family do all of their milking and operating on the two ranches already described, they also rent other vast acreage for the running of their dry stock and young stock. About two miles north from their Home Dairy they have the pasture rights on what is known as the Old Pacheco Ranch. This ranch wile it is void of improvements is well fenced and comprises 1000 acres of rolling brush covered hills and due to the close proximity of their Home Dairy makes it a very desirable piece of property for the keeping of dry stock. For the purpose of maintaining an adequate supply of replacement stock for their large milking herd, they carefully select all heifer calves from high producing cows and with great diligence and care, regardless of cost, raise these calves, personally taking care of the young animals themselves. When these young animals reach the age that permits them to be turned out on pasture they are taken to the Nicasio district in central Marin County where the Silveria family also rent 500 acres of land.

While each of the Silveria Bros. individually assume specific responsibilities in the operating of their large dairy business, they also when necessary work together where it is to their advantage in accomplishing large jobs such as building and repairing fencing, branding and dehorning stock and such tasks of a similiar nature. The eldest son, whose name is George, was born on the Miller Ranch at San Rafael where he spent his boyhood days receiving his education at the local elementary school and attended San Rafael High School. He is married and is the proud father of a baby daughter. Mrs. George Silveria, his wife, was born in San Rafael receiving her education there and growing into womanhood in the city of her birth. While they have been residing in San Rafael, they are at present having a modern new home constructed for themselves on the Silveria Home Ranch. The new home when completed will be very attractive, being ideally located in a natural setting of mammoth Oak and Pepperwood trees and situated from the highway far enough to insure complete privacy. George Silveria is a hard worker and in the operating of the business has the responsibility of purchasing the feed and the operating of the mill. He has his own formula and is recognized as an authority on dairy feeding. He served his country with distinction during World War II being in the army for three years of which one and one half years was spent in Italy with the 361st Infantry, 91st Division.

Anthony, the second eldest of the Silveria Bros was also born on the Miller Ranch and received his education at the local and San Rafael High School. Upon completion of his high school education he also spent one and one half years at the Agricultural College at Davis, completing a course in dairy management. He is married and is the proud father of a young son. Mrs. Anthony Silveria was born at Sausalito where she received her education and grew into womanhood, her parents having operated dairies in that community. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Silveria with their young son reside a short distance north of San Rafael, Tony, as he is called by his friends is well versed in ranch work and no problem is too difficult for him to solve. He is very proficient in the operating and maintaining of machinery and by his adaptability to that work is able to derive substantial savings for the business. Besides being an expert in the handling of machinery he is also a keen judge of cattle and assists his brothers in the buying and selling of stock. Anthony Silveria is the possessor of a very fine disposition, has a kindly nature, is courteous and respectful, and is admired by all who know him.

Joseph, the third eldest of the Silveria Bros., was born while his parents were still operating the Miller Ranch. He received his elementary education at the local school and completed his high school course at San Rafael. Unlike his older brothers, he is single and makes his home with his mother. Joe Silveria, as he is called by his friends,

although still very young is very adept at herd management and displays keen judgment and ability in regulating their large herd so as to produce an even flow of milk through out the entire year. His temperament is of a very quiet nature and he assumes his responsibilities very seriously. Joseph Silveria's keen judgment and foresight has been a dominant factor in the very successful operating of their business.

Carlos, the youngest of the Silveria Bros., while rather small of stature is possessed with an unlimited amount of energy and it is very seldom that he is not engaged in some difficult task which is vital to the smooth running of the business. He also was born on the Miller Ranch and like his older brothers received his education at the local and San Rafael High Schools. He is single and makes his home with his mother. Carlos is of a quiet nature, having an even disposition and one rarely finds him without a broad smile. He seldom enters into discussions with his older brothers regarding the business unless it is something of importance, however when the occasion demands he voices his opinion without reservation and commands full attention and consideration in respect to his judgment. In the operating of the business, Carlos aside from his routine duties has full charge of the feeding and maintaining of the dry stock, and also the young stock and in good weather and bad he will be found diligently taking care of his animals. One cannot help but admire Carlos Silveria for he is a little man doing a big man's job.

Regarding the Silveria sisters, the eldest daughter is married and she and her husband make their home in San Francisco. The second oldest sister lives at home and assists her mother in caring and maintaining the home and gardens, while the youngest sister is completing her education by attending the Dominican College at San Rafael.

The combined interests of the Silveria family which includes their rented property and their own Home Ranch consists of over four thousand acres of land. While some of this land is of a marginal nature being quite brushy, they do have however many hundreds of acres both on their Home Ranch and the Burdell Ranch which can be considered as some of the best land in Marin County. In respect to their herd the majority of the animals are of the Holstein breed with a small number of Guernsey included to enrich the color of the milk. The total number of stock on all their ranches is 1000 head of which 600 head of these animals are milking cows and the balance of 400 head consists of young stock from three months of age to two and one half years. The peak production of the Silveria family reaches 150 cans of milk per day and with the large herd of young stock soon to come into production, it is reasonable to believe not too far in the offing their production will reach 200 cans a day. All of the milk produced on the Silveria Ranches since the first beginning of the Marin-Dell Company has been sold to that Company.

In concluding the history of the Silveria family may it be said that from the time of the arrival of Anthony Faustine Silveria on California soil up to the present time which is a period of fifty-two years, the success of this family has been very outstanding. Mr. Silveria Sr. was without question a leader among his people, an organizer as well as a successful dairyman, and it is regrettable his life was taken so abruptly that he may not have been able to have lived to enjoy his family and the fruits of his labor. Also may it be said without the use of adjectives in behalf of his widow, Mary E. Silveria, that she without experience not only held the business together but vastly increased its size and no one can deny her full credit and admiration for her courage and business ability. Mary E. Silveria is recognized by the people who come in contact with her as having a very lucid mind

with clear understanding. At the present time she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Marin-Dell Company. With respect to the four sons of Mary E. Silveria and the late Anthony Faustine Silveria may it be said without reservation that these four brothers deserve great credit in the interest they display toward their business, may they be tolerant to one another and to their fellowman, may they use wisdom in making decisions, avoid snap judgment, and continue to pursue the harmonious relationship that at present exists among them, that their mother will be ever proud of their integrity and forth righteousness to the end that they and theirs for generations to come may bear with dignity the name of their father.

Lavio Bros Dairy,
"D" Street Extension,
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 79
Lavio Bros.

The Lavio Bros Dairy is located four miles from the city of Petaluma on the Petaluma - Pt. Reyes Highway. To reach the ranch from Petaluma it is necessary to drive out the "D" Street extension highway to a point where the San Antonio Road converges into the "D" Street Highway and where by turning right you enter the property of the Lavio Bros. The homes and improvements of the ranch are visible from the main highway and are reached by travelling a short distance over a well-kept provate roadway. Upon entering the property of the Lavio Bros Ranch the visitor if at all observing cannot help but be attracted by the manner in which the improvements are maintained on the ranch. Two fine homes are located within a short distance of one another, one being the family home with its stucco finish surrounded by an elegant garden and shrubbery, while the second a newly constructed modern cottage which is the home of the son and daughter-in-law of the eldest of the Lavio Bros. Besides the homes, the buildings required in the operating of their dairy business include barns for storage facilities, Grade A unit and numerous other buildings, and as stated before kept in perfect shape as well as being well-painted denoting the pride in which the owners have in their property. The ranch while not large in terms of acres as some dairies, is nevertheless more than the equivalent of many ranches of larger acreage in that it can practically all be utilized being in the most part free from brush and of a rolling terrain making it very desirable for pasture as well as the growing of hay on the level portions.

The home of the parents of the Lavio Bros was in northern Italy in what is known as the Lombardy District located in the Province of Como, the name of the village being Civenna. It was in this village of Civenna that the elder Mr. and Mrs. Lavio, parents of the Lavio Bros, operated a mercantile business and raised their family of ten children, being the proud parents of four sons and six daughters, and it was there that the happy family spent their childhood days, receiving their education and assisting their parents in the operating of their business and the keeping of the home.

The parents of the Lavio family were of modest means and like all good parents their foremost thought was for the comfort and happiness of their family of ten children. Often times while operating their business they had the opportunity to converse with people who had relatives or had themselves been to America, and it was during some of these conversations that one of the eldest sons, although still very young, became interested in that far away land that according to the stories he heard held such great opportunities for anyone who was willing to work. It was then that this elder son whose name was Dazio approached his parents with the request that he be allowed to go to America where he could take advantage of some of the opportunities he had heard so much about. After careful deliberation by the parents who as already stated had the welfare of their children the uppermost thought in their minds, reluctant as they were that he leave them gave their consent for their son to come to America, trusting that he would be able to fulfill his ambitions in the new world and that they would have no regrets in later years by the granting of their permission.

Dazio Lavio first touched American soil in 1906 landing at New York and from there came directly to San Francisco. When young Dazio arrived in San Francisco he was but fifteen years of age and truly a long way from his homeland, however although still a boy as measured in years, young Lavio was possessed of great determination and after a few days in San Francisco he had secured work on a dairy ranch and was on his way to Novato, Marin County. Dazio Lavio worked on the Novato dairy where he first obtained employment for three years doing a man's job and happy in his new

adventure. At the end of the third years work as a dairy hand, young Dazio felt he would like to try his hand at some other type of work and it was then that he left Novato and went to Eureka, California, where he obtained employment at a lumber mill. At the end of a year working at the lumber business he again returned to Marin County and went to work on the Corda Ranch located in Hicks Valley and it was there that Dazio Lavio put in his next nine years as a faithful and trusted employee for the late Joseph Corda, father of the well-known Corda families who still own and operate large dairy interests in Marin County.

Seven years after Dazio Lavio arrived in America Luigie, his younger brother who at the present time with his elder brother constitutes the partnership known as Lavio Brothers, also became imbibed with the desire to come to America, and so in the year 1913 Luigie Lavio like his older brother before him arrived in San Francisco by way of New York at sixteen years of age. Due to the fact his brother was employed on the Corda Ranch, Luigie without stopping over in San Francisco came direct to the Corda Ranch in Hicks Valley to visit his brother and it was then that he also received an offer of employment from Mr. Corda. Both Dazio and Luigie Lavio were willing and conscientious workers and for four years Luigie was steadily employed on the Corda Dairy. At the end of the first four years in America, Luigie then left the Corda Ranch and became employed on a dairy in Chileno Valley where he stayed for seven months.

Soon after Luigie Lavio left the employment of the Corda family and took employment on a Chileno Valley dairy, his brother Dazio also terminated his many years of employment with the Corda family for the reason that he and a trusted acquaintance formed a partnership and by doing so leased for a period of three years the Litchenburg Ranch located in the San Antonio District of Marin County, and proceeded to operate it as a dairy. After Dazio Lavio and his partner became established in business, Luigie Lavio then left the Chileno Valley ranch where he was employed as stated before for seven months and went to work for his brother and partner where he remained employed for a period of one year and at the end of which, by reason of mutual agreement by all concerned, he then purchased his brother's partner's interest and in so doing established the partnership now known as the Lavio Bros and which has continued to last, prosper and operate harmoniously down through the many years to the present time.

Luigie Lavio purchased his brother's partners interest in the year of 1918 and he and his brother then operated the Litchenburg dairy for two years disposing of the business in 1920. The Lavio Brothers next leased the Marshall Ranch located in Hicks Valley and situated back of what is known as Hicks Mountain. This ranch at the present time is owned by Chas Barboni and is utilized by him and his son for pasture purposes in the operating of their large dairy. After moving onto the Marshall Ranch the Lavio Brothers operated the business for one year and it was then that the eldest brother Dazio married in 1921, his bride being a sister of Mr. Steffenoni whom the Lavio Bros. purchased the business from upon their moving onto the Marshall Ranch.

Mrs. Lavio, Dazio Lavio's wife, like her husband was also born in northern Italy, her parents home being in the village of Gravendona, Province of Como, in the Lombardy District, where she received her education and grew into womanhood. At the age of 28 years she came to America in the year 1919 and located at Petaluma and Nicascio prior to her marriage to Dazio Lavio. From their marriage she bore her husband three fine children, two sons and a daughter, the eldest son and daughter being twins, and at the time of this writing they have all grown to maturity and are a fine credit to their parents.

Luigie and Dazio Lavio operated the Marshall Ranch from 1920 until

1934 and in that period of fourteen years experienced some good as well as poor years in the dairy business, especially in the early thirties when butterfat dropped as low as fourteen cents per pound, however while they were unable to show a profit in their business at times in those lean years they did by careful management curtail their operation costs to a minimum and emerged from the depression financially sound. In 1934 the Lavio Bros moved from the Marshall Ranch onto the Haningan Ranch and entered into a partnership agreement with Chas. Barboni, the owner of the property and which ranch is operated at the present time by Mr. Barboni and his son. After five years of successfully operating the business and by mutual agreement the partnership was dissolved and it was then that the Lavio Bros purchased the fine ranch they own and operate at the present time. Since purchasing the ranch which they are now on and which is known as the Mason Ranch the Lavio Bros have been very successful in the operating of their dairy business and will soon have been in business on this ranch for a period of 12 years. During those twelve years they have also increased their property holdings by the purchase in 1945 of a very modern and well improved dairy ranch consisting of 220 acres located on the Old Petaluma Hill Road a mile north of the town of Penngrove in Sonoma County. The Lavio Bros acquired this property at the time of its purchase as an investment and as such have it leased out to a responsible and reliable tenant.

As stated before the eldest brother, Dazio, married soon after they moved onto the Marshall Ranch in Hicks Valley and from this marriage three children were born, the eldest brother and sister being twins. Leo, the eldest son, was born during the time his parents operated the Marshall Ranch where he spent his childhood days receiving his education at the district school and assisted his father and uncle in the operating of their dairy business. After the Lavio family moved from Hicks Valley to their present location he continued working for his parents and uncle until 1944 when at that time he formed a partnership with a close friend and they went into the dairy business, leasing a ranch located near the Lavio Ranch in the San Antonio District, and which they have operated successfully and harmoniously for almost five years.

Elsie, the twin sister of Leo Lavio and only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dazio Lavio, like her twin brother was raised and received her education in Hicks Valley and later attended and graduated from Petaluma High School and then attended a San Francisco Business College. Upon completing her education and during World War II she assumed a position with the United States Government working at the San Francisco Presidio where she remained employed for a period of seven years. In 1948 she resigned her position with the Government for the reason of preparing for her forth coming marriage and upon her resignation becoming effective she was given the distinctive recognition for the services she rendered her Government by receiving a medal of honor from none other than General Mark Clark and both she and her family can well be proud of the honor bestowed upon them by their Government as well as having the distinguished General Participating in the presentation. She is now married and as such is the wife of James Albertoni, a young business man of Petaluma, his parents having been in the dairy business for over 30 years in the Nicascio District and by the marriage two prominent dairy families became united.

Hugo, the second and youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Lavio like his brother and sister was born in Hicks Valley where he received his education and assisted his father and uncle in the operating of their dairy business. He is married and he and his wife reside in a new modern cottage which was recently built and is situated a short distance from the family home. His wife was born and raised in Petaluma receiving her education in that city where both she and her husband enjoy a wide acquaintanceship. Hugo like his father and uncle is well versed in the dairy business and possesses marked ability in the handling of live stock.

The Lavio Brothers ranch consists of 320 acres of land which is mainly utilized for the pasturing of their animals, however they do farm a portion of their acreage, producing around 100 ton of hay a year. Their herd is of the mixed breeds of which Jersey and Guernsey animals predominate. The total number of stock maintained on the ranch is 165 head of which 102 are milk stock and the balance of 63 are young stock of various ages. The milking barn is the head to head type and accommodates twenty animals. Lavio Bros have been shipping all of the milk produced on their ranch for four years time to Marin-Dell Company, and it is reasonable to believe the pleasant business relations which have existed between the Company and them in the past four years will continue on for many years to come.

In concluding the Lavio Bros history a great amount of credit can truthfully be given them for their success. Having come to America as boys, at the ages of fifteen and sixteen years, they by their willingness to work and by reason of their frugality and strict application to business have in a period of two score years acquired ownership of two very fine dairy ranches, their combined size being 540 acres, including excellent improvements. They are quiet, unassuming reliable men who are proud to be a part of our American society of peoples, appreciating the opportunities that were afforded them by their coming to America and taking advantage of the opportunities by advancing themselves to their present station in life which is one of security and happiness. Commanding the respect and admiration of their fellowman may it be the destiny of Luigie and Dazio Lavio to enjoy the fruits of their labor for many years to come and may their successors follow the tradition of their blood line as established by the Lavio Bros in that they will carry on with the honor and dignity that is so much a part of Luigie and Dazio Lavio.

Lavio And Giacomelli Dairy,
San Antonio District.
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 77
Lavio and Giacomelli.

The Lavio and Giacomelli Dairy is located on the San Antonio Road, and is bounded on the south by the San Antonio Creek which is used in that district as a boundary line separating Sonoma and Marin Counties. To reach the ranch from the city of Petaluma it is necessary to travel out the "D" Street Extension highway for four miles to the point where the San Antonio Road converges onto the "D" Street highway, where by turning left and driving east on the San Antonio road you arrive at the farm buildings which are located adjacent to the highway and are situated on the north side of the road.

The highway divides the ranch property and that portion lying to the south of the road is utilized for the growing of crops as well as pasture, it being the more desirable for farming by reason of it being less hilly than other parts of the ranch and not subject to erosion. The acreage situated on the north side of the highway is of a rolling type of terrain and is principally utilized for pasture. The buildings also situated on the north side of the road are very compact, consisting of hay storage barns, Grade A milking unit and numerous sheds as well as a new garage and storage room recently constructed by the tenants, Mr. Lavio and Mr. Giacomelli. The home while it was built a great many years ago is well painted and very presentable from the outside while the inside is without exaggeration spotless, denoting the meticulous care and attention it receives from Mrs. Giacomelli who is the wife of Pete Giacomelli, one of the partners in the business. The ranch is known as the Dick Harris Ranch, Mr. Harris being owner of several ranches in that area at one time, however for several years it has been in the possession of the Antognini family of Petaluma whom Mr. Lavio and Giacomelli lease the property from.

In the fall of 1944 Leo Lavio and Pete Giacomelli being very close friends of long standing decided they wanted to try their hand at the dairy business on their own, having worked for wages on dairy ranches for several years, and as a result of their desire formed a co-partnership known as Lavio and Giacomelli and proceeded to lease the ranch the location of which has already been described.

Upon securing their lease these two young men who are known to their friends as Pete and Leo, while having a limited amount of capital to invest of their own, did have due to their fine character and stability unlimited backing, and as such proceeded to stock their newly leased ranch with Jersey cattle, and be so doing were soon shipping Grade A milk into the San Francisco market and at the same time were aiding in the war effort by reason of supplying that all vital necessary product so desperately needed at that particular time for the multitude of people employed in war industries as well as for our armed forces.

At the time of this writing five years have passed and Leo Lavio and Pete Giacomelli are dissolving their co-partnership formed in 1944, not by reason of dissatisfaction, disillusion, or disgruntlement, or personalities but for no other reason than that their five year lease has expired and the owners of the property desire the ranch to operate a dairy business of their own.

In the five years Pete and Leo operated their dairy business they have both worked hard, each doing his just share and in that period of time on the eve of the dissolution of their partnership that friendship which drew them together has become stronger and finer throughout the years, and no greater tribute can be given these two fine men than to say their actions speak louder than words, and may they upon going their individual ways continue to prosper as they did as partners and may it also be decreed that in the years to come that nothing will occur to mar that fine friendship that existed between them during the time they were in business together.

Leo Lavio is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dazio Lavio, his parents and uncle being in the dairy business and located a short distance from the ranch operated by him and his partner. He is one of three children, having a twin sister and a younger brother. Leo was born at the time his parents and uncle operated the Marshall Ranch, located back of Hicks Mountain in Hicks Valley, and it was in that community that he attended and graduated from the local district school. Upon finishing his schooling, Leo assisted his father and brother in their dairy business first on the Hanningan Ranch in Hicks Valley and later on their San Antonio Dairy. It was while he was working on the Lavio Bros. Ranch in the San Antonio District that he and his partner decided to go into the dairy business for themselves. Leo, besides being well qualified at dairy management, is also an accomplished carpenter and takes great pride in any work he does in the line of building. Leo Lavio is a possessor of a quiet disposition and is imbibed with a fine sense of fairness and as such has many friends. While his time is fully occupied in operating his dairy business he does in hunting season find time to enjoy a few days in the hills following his favorite sport which is deer hunting. It has been mutually agreed between him and his partner that upon dissolving their partnership in the dairy business they will divide their herd each taking half of the stock, and with that arrangement Leo will move his part of the herd to the ranch belonging to his father and uncle and by so doing continue to operate and milk the herd in conjunction with the Lavio Bros herd.

Pete Giacomelli, the second member and co-partner of the Lavio and Giacomelli Dairy business, was born in Italy in the village of Le Prese located in the Province of Sondrio. When he was one year old sorrow fell upon his parent's home by reason of the death of his father. When Pete was eleven years old and with three years of schooling, he and his mother left Italy for America. Upon arriving at New York they came directly from there to San Francisco and then to Bennett Valley near Santa Rosa where there were relatives by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Gaspari, operating a dairy business in that locality. After coming to America Pete's mother re-married and after staying about one year on the Gaspari Ranch he then moved with his mother and step-father to Pt. Arena. Upon locating at Pt. Arena, Pete Giacomelli resumed his schooling, this time in America, and when possible secured work on neighboring ranches during vacation time.

After living at Pt. Arena for three years, he accompanied his parents to the Windsor District of Sonoma County, his step-father having obtained work on the Charles Lawson Dairy, where they remained for one year and at the end of which time he and his parents then moved to Marshall, Marin County, where his step-father secured employment on the Paul Cheta Dairy and remained for another year. Upon leaving the Cheta Dairy at Marshall his parents then moved to Valley Ford and during the moves of his parents to the different localities, Pete anxious to obtain an education kept up his schooling. Upon locating at Valley Ford, Pete worked on dairies before and after school for three years in that locality at which time he completed his elementary education.

Upon finishing grammar school and desirous of furthering his education, Pete then took employment on the Mitchell Dairy at Tomales, Marin County, and attended the Tomales High School. After working for Mr. Mitchell for sometime he again returned to the Valley Ford area working on dairies and continuing to attend high school at Tomales. After completing his high school education Pete then worked in the Fallon District of Marin County for one year and at the end of that time then took employment on the Corda Bros Ranches located in Hicks Valley where he remained for six years.

After working for the Corda Bros on their ranches for that length of time Pete decided he would like to try his hand at something other than working on dairies and it was then that he secured employment at the Marin French Cheese Company where he remained for a period of four years, and at the end of that time then secured employment with the Bottini Construction Company of

San Rafael where he worked on various kinds of construction for one year.

It was during the time that Mr. Giacomelli was employed in the construction work in 1941 that he married. His wife was the former Elvina Garzelli, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garzelli, a prominent dairy ranch family of the Hicks Valley District who have successfully operated a dairy in that community for many years. Mrs. Giacomelli, Pete's wife, was born at the time her parents operated their dairy in Hicks Valley, she being one of a family of four children, they being three daughters and one son. She received her elementary education by attending the local district school and later completed her academic training by graduating from the Petaluma High School. From their marriage two children were raised and it is needless to say Mr. and Mrs. Giacomelli are not only proud but extremely devoted to their little family. Mrs. Giacomelli is the possessor of an exceptional personality in that she is quiet, soft spoken and readily impresses people with her sincerity and as a result of her fine personality enjoys a wide acquaintanceship.

After working at the construction business for one year and during which time he married, Mr. Giacomelli then became employed in the grocery business at Petaluma working at the Volpi Grocery located in that city. After one and one-half years working as a grocery clerk for Mr. Volpi, Pete again returned to the dairy business by going to work for his brother-in-law Elmo Garzelli on the Garzelli Dairy located in Hicks Valley where he remained for one year and at the end of that time went into business for himself.

It was during the time that Pete Giacomelli was employed by his brother-in-law that he and as stated before his close friend Leo Lavio decided to go into the dairy business for themselves on a co-partnership basis in 1944. As already explained the time of this writing being five years later, in the year 1949, Leo and Pete by reason of termination of their lease are dissolving their partnership.

Upon terminating their partnership Mr. and Mrs. Giacomelli and their family are moving onto what is known as the Skivington Ranch located on the "D" Street Extension highway about four miles from Petaluma, this ranch being recently purchased by his brother-in-law and from whom Pete is securing a five year lease. Mr. Giacomelli by mutual agreement between him and his partner will take one-half of the Lavio and Giacomelli herd onto his new ranch and by purchasing additional animals will proceed to run the business as a full scale operation. Mr. Garzelli, Pete Giacomelli's brother-in-law, since purchasing the Skivington Ranch has completely rebuilt all the dairy buildings on the ranch and by so doing has brought the dairy unit up to a standard comparable with the best dairies in the community.

The new Giacomelli dairy ranch consists of 325 acres of land with a tail to tail milking barn holding 36 head of animals. The herd will consist of 80 head of milk cows of Jersey and Holstein breed and 25 head of young stock of various ages.

In concluding the history of Leo Lavio and Pete Giacomelli may it be said, the four years that they have sold milk to Marin-Dell Company the relationship existing between them and the Company has been one of mutual satisfaction. The Marin-Dell Company admires them for their character and integrity and wishes them continued success in the years to come. To Leo Lavio who is returning to associate himself with his father, uncle, and brother in business may that association be one of mutual agreement and understanding. To Pete Giacomelli may his new venture be one of success and happiness and may a word of admiration be given him in the ability he has shown during his life in America, having lost his father when still a baby, his being brought to California and moved from one ranch to another he through it all acquired not only an elementary education but also a high school training. May he retain his health and fine disposition which he now possesses. May he and his family propser and in the years to come may he and his partner look back and discuss the time when they first went into the dairy business together.

John Nadale Dairy,
Middle Two Rock Road,
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 20.
John Nadale

The John Nadale Dairy is located five miles from the city of Petaluma on what is known as the Middle Two Highway. To reach the dairy it is necessary to travel west from the above mentioned city on the Bodega Avenue Highway for about two miles to a land mark known as the Twin Bridges, which name is derived by reason of there being two small bridges located in close proximity of one another. At that point, by turning left the traveler enters the Middle Two Rock Highway and from there by driving three miles on that thoroughfare you arrive at the Nadale holdings. Upon reaching the dairy the visitor cannot help but be impressed by reason of the fine view obtained of the country side to the east, including the city of Petaluma and the vast area of poultry ranches stretching north to Cotati as well as the Sonoma Mountains, and in the distance Mt. St. Helena and Cobb Mountain in Lake County.

The ranch improvements consist of large hay storage barns, equipment sheds and numerous other buildings required in the operating of the dairy. The Grade A unit is a new structure and was built by Mr. Nadale by arrangement with the owners of the property in 1946. The family home while it has been built for some years is of a ranch style structure and is located a very short distance from the highway making it necessary to maintain only a minimum amount of private roadway. About one third of the ranch property lies on the north side of the highway and is utilized as pasture and the growing of hay, while on the south side where the ranch improvements are located is largely used for the pasturing and holding of the stock. The ranch terrain is of a rolling nature affording good drainage and as such can practically be used in its entirety for the maintaining of the stock. While describing the ranch it also should be included that there are magnificient spreading oak trees of an unusual form which are not only pleasing to the eye but also are a valuable asset in providing shade and shelter for the stock.

In the year of 1895 there was born in the village of Garzano, in the Province of Di-Como, Italy, a son to parents of humble and modest means. This family like the great majority of the populace derived a livelihood from a small tract of good earth in their native land, and raised a family of four children, they being three sons and one daughter. The son referred to was named John and his parents' name was Nadale, and so it was that young John Nadale was given birth in a land that down through history has been recognized and admired by the civilized world for its culture in arts and music.

Young John, along with his sister and brothers, assisted his parents on their small farm and attended school. After completing his education, besides helping his parents, he performed various tasks around the neighborhood and was looked upon as a willing and ambitious young man. Whenever the opportunity afforded, John would slip away to the village gathering places and listen to the conversations of his elders, and his greatest delight was when those conversations pertained to America, which they often did by reason of the fact many of the towns people had friends or relatives in that land across the sea. As young John listened intently there gradually developed a desire in his mind that some day he too might find it possible to journey to that land which people spoke so much about and which offered opportunities to all who wished to work. And so it was that he patiently waited and planned, and at the age of seventeen his dream materialized, John Nadale was on a ship bound for New York and America.

When the young man arrived in New York he immediately took passage on a transcontinental train for the west coast and in a few days was riding on a ferry boat from Oakland to San Francisco on the last lap of his long

journey, terribly tired but very happy. After a few days of rest in San Francisco where he contacted some people of his own nationality and made known to them his desires and ambitions, John was given instructions as to where to go and by carrying them out again found himself for a second time in a few days aboard a ferry boat plying between San Francisco and Sausalito, Marin County.

Upon leaving the ferry boat he boarded a narrow guage steam train and for three hours John Nadale traveled north, riding through wooded country side the likes of which people dream but seldom see, passed fertile fields of pasture and then for twenty miles along the winding shore of Tomales Bay. On that three hour ride young John Nadale peered out of the train windows at each station endeavoring to familiarize himself with the names of the little towns he went through enroute to his destination, names that later became a part of his every day life. After John had ridden the length of Tomales Bay on that jolting and rocking train, he was informed by the kindly conductor that the next stop was where he left the train, and so it was he arrived at the town of Tomales and his first job in America.

After making inquiries in the little town as to where the dairyman lived that he was to work for, John was given instructions as to the location in his native tongue, and it was then that he started walking from Tomales out the Dillon Beach Road. After walking steadily for three miles all of which was up hill, he arrived at the Zimmerman Ranch and from there was given further instructions. From that ranch he was required to leave the dusty country road and travel on a poorly maintained private roadway past sand hills and sage brush for two more miles when he finally arrived at the well known Soldate Ranch located west of Tomales and overlooking the lower end of Tomales Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Upon arriving at the Soldate Ranch John took employment as a milker and general farm hand, his employer being a Mr. Jim Robertson who leased the ranch at the time.

For a few days John Nadale's mind was almost at the point of confusion, in the matter of a few weeks since leaving his homeland he had traveled across the Atlantic and without stopping over the entire width of the Continental United States, and in the end to start working on a ranch facing on the largest body of water in the world, the Pacific Ocean.

John Nadale worked willingly and conscientiously putting in full days for his employer, and it soon became known in the community that he was trustworthy and frugal with but a single thought, and that was to succeed. After two years working on the Soldate Ranch for Mr. Robertson, he then left Tomales and moved to Chileno Valley where he went to work on the B. L. Garzoli Ranch for six months and at the end of that time again returned to Tomales and took employment on the Buchanan Ranch which was then rented by Charles Pozzi. John also remained with Mr. Pozzi for six months and then with a close friend formed a co-partnership and went into business for himself. Mr. Nadale and his partner upon deciding to enter into the dairy business for themselves secured a lease on no other dairy than the Soldate Ranch, the same ranch where he first became employed after coming to America.

During the time Mr. Nadale and his partner operated their own dairy business, he married. Mrs. Nadale his wife, like her husband, was also born in the village of Garzano in northern Italy, and as a young woman came to America. Soon after arriving on the west coast she also obtained employment in the little town of Tomales, working at the Plank Hotel and which structure a few years later was completely destroyed by fire. After working for some time at the local hotel she then obtained employment on the already mentioned Zimmerman Ranch where her husband made inquiry as to the direction of the Soldate Ranch upon his arrival in Tomales. It was during the time she was employed on the Zimmerman Ranch by a Mr. Vanoni

that she met and married her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Nadale were united in their bonds of marriage at their parish church in the little town of their adoption, and from that marriage three children were raised, they being two daughters and a son.

At the end of three years of operating the dairy business on the Soldate Ranch, Mr. Nadale disposed of his interest in the business to his partner, and it was then that he and Mrs. Nadale moved to the Petaluma district and onto the ranch which their son operates at the present time and for whom this history is being written. Mr. and Mrs. Nadale leased the ranch, which location has already been described, from the owners in the year of 1918, it being known as the Gaston Estate Ranch and at that time being operated by a Mr. James Giannini from whom they purchased the business.

From 1918 until 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Nadale operated their dairy business on the Gaston Ranch successfully, raising their family of three children and prospering. However as the years went by the long hours and hard work performed by Mr. Nadale in the operating of his dairy began to show their effect on the rugged and energetic son of Italy, and in 1937 his health began to fail. Although a sick man, Mr. Nadale refused to give up and with indomitable courage he carried on until the day came when he was forced by sheer exhaustion to cease working in an effort to regain his health. After six months time in which he waged a gallant fight to correct his ailing health to no avail, John Nadale Senior at the age of 42 years passed on from this earth, leaving a bewildered and grief stricken family.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Nadale and her children, although their sorrow was great and their problems many, courageously continued on in the dairy business. In 1940 Mrs. Nadale's and her late husband's son, John Junior, who although only thirteen years old at the time of his father's death, purchased his sisters interest in the business and proceeded to operate it as a mother and son partnership. John Nadale Junior and his mother successfully operated their dairy in that manner until 1946 at which time Mrs. Nadale disposed of her interest in the business to her son and purchased a small acreage in the Penngrove - Cotati district where she resides at the present time.

After purchasing his mother's interest in their dairy business and by so doing becoming sole owner, John Nadale Junior married, his wife being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Corda of the Hicks Valley district of Marin County. Mrs. Nadale, John's wife, was born at the time her parents operated their large dairy in Hicks Valley and it was in that community that she spent her childhood days and attended the local Burdell District school. Upon completing her elementary education she attended and graduated from San Rafael High School in 1944, and from then until the time of her marriage assisted her father in a secretarial capacity in the keeping of the books and records of the vast Corda Bros business. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John Nadale Junior one child was born, a son, and it is needless to say the young parents are not only very proud but exceedingly devoted to their little son.

In 1946 after purchasing his mother's interest in the dairy business and prior to his marriage, John Nadale had constructed on his ranch a modern Grade A dairy unit, after an agreement was reached with the owners of the property that his lease would not terminate until after the cost of the structure would be amortized over a period of years.

The John Nadale Junior's ranch consists of 396 acres of land, all of which is utilized for the pasturing and growing of feed for the dairy stock. The Grade A unit is the tail to tail type holding 24 animals while the feed barn adjacent to the milking unit accommodates 46 head. The total number of stock on the dairy is 155 head of which 140 are milk cows and the bal-

ance of 15 head are young stock of various ages. The Nadale herd is composed of animals of different breeds and consisting mostly of Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey in the ration in which they are mentioned. Mr. Nadale raises on an average of 140 ton of oat hay each year all of which is used for the feeding of his stock. The peak production has reached 38 cans per day and since going into Grade A production all the milk has been sold to Marin-Dell Company and the relationship existing between Mr. Nadale and the Company has been highly satisfactory for both parties.

In concluding the John Nadale Junior history little can be added to his father's dairy career in America that has not already been covered. Mr. Nadale Senior like a great many of his countrymen that came to America by sheer determination frugality and hard work in a few years were able to start in the dairy business for themselves. In the case of Mr. Nadale three years from the time he arrived in California he was forming a co-partnership and going into business. It is regrettable that he could not have lived to enjoy the fruits of his toil. However in the twenty-five years that he spent in America he acquired something far greater than monetary success by reason of his fathering a fine family and of which, had he lived, he would be justly proud. In respect to his only son who bears his father's name may it be said, having lost his father at the age of thirteen years John Junior bravely assumed the task of filling his father's shoes and although young as he was did a magnificient job assisting his mother in the operating and managing of their dairy business. Twelve years have passed at the time of this writing since his father's death and in the period of time he first acquired his two sisters interest in the business and a few years later purchased his mother's interest. At the present time John Nadale is still a very young man, howeve in his foresight and managing ability he has displayed judgment comparable with that of men many years his senior. May it be decreed that the characteristic of straight thinking so well exemplified during the short time he has been in business be of a lasting nature. In respect to his wife the former Miss Corda, her background speaks for itself, on both her parental grandparents sides outstanding success was achieved in the dairy business. On her mother's side she is the granddaughter of Mrs. Sartori and her husband the late Archangelo Sartori of Lakeville. On her father's side she is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Corda. She is the possessor of an exceptional personality and as such both she and her husband are great favorites among their wide circle of friends. May it be decreed that success, health and happiness be theirs to the end that this fine young family be allowed to live a full and abundant life for many years to come.

Barboni Estate Dairy
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 25
Barboni Estate.

The Barboni Estate Ranch is located ten miles southwest of the city of Petaluma on the Marshall - Hicks Valley Highway. To reach the ranch from Petaluma you travel over the Petaluma - Pt. Reyes Highway to the intersection of the Hicks Valley Highway turning to your right for a distance of one mile and a half. The ranch buildings are located a very short distance from the highway making it practically unnecessary for the owners of the ranch to maintain any provate roadway. The family home is a spacious building erected by the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni and is at present occupied by those sons and daughters of the family who are not married. Also located near the family home is a new modern cottage which is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Barboni and their daughter. The ranch buildings consist of large hay storage barns, feeding barns, modern Grade A Dairy unit, and tool sheds as well as numerous other buildings necessary to conduct their large dairy business. The buildings of the Barboni Estate are well maintained denoting pride and careful attention by their owners and they are to be commended for the constant vigilance which they put forth to keep them in the fine state of preservation in which they are found to be in.

The terrain of the Barboni Estate Ranch varies from a broad brush free valley to the south of the ranch buildings to open rolling hills and tree covered canyons which afford protection for the stock both in summer and winter against the possibility of excessive heat and storms. The ranch which consists of 860 acres it can be truthfully stated is one of the finest in the area in which it is located. This statement can be made due to the many acres of bottom land situated in the valley which provides and abundance of natural grass far into the summer for the large herd and it is a scene of rare pastorial beauty to observe their fine animals contentedly grazing knee deep in an abundance of feed.

Out of respect to the memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni may a humble effort be made to elucidate to the readers of the Barboni Estate History in a limited manner, a vague word portrayal of the land of their parents birth, that great little country by her sons and daughters having come to America has provided this great land of ours with some of its finest citizenry. That small but great country of self governing stalwart people who have survived for centuries within a war torn continent by constitutional democratic popular government and whose flag has proudly flown for centuries against hostile hordes whose diabolical leaders have attempted to usurp from them their freedom. A country whose people would not be subordinated and who down through the ages have cherished, fought, and maintained their freedom.

The country of Switzerland is a confederation consisting of twenty-two cantons and governed by a republican and federal constitution. It is centrally located in Europe being bordered on the north by Germany, on the east by what was formerly Austria, and on the south and south-by-east of three principalities of Italy, namely Trentino, Lombardy, and Piedmont, and on the southwest, west, and northwest by France. The country has little physical unity, consisting of numerous small districts differing widely in language, religion, and customs. This difference in their language, custom, and worship however is brought about largely by the influence exerted upon them from the different countries bordering them for the many centuries in the past. While the people of this country do differ in the above mentioned manner there is one thing they are strongly solidified on and that is their form of government.

In the year 1291 which is up to our present time 658 years ago these

people of different culture, customs, religion, and one might say nationality, due to being invaded, exploited, subjugated, and harassed for centuries by rulers, nobility, and unscrupulous leaders, bound themselves together in a common alliance politically for the sole purpose of defense and self preservation. Upon formation of this political alliance and it might be included that the first meeting of the leaders was held on the shore of one of the many lakes of Switzerland, a form of government was set up whereby the people would be self governing and it is needless to say this same principle of self government has continued to exist and become strong and resist invading armies, although greatly outnumbered, for all the centuries it has been in existence. It also may be said the people of Switzerland hold only contempt for advocates of totalitarianism, dictatorship, or communism, and subersive agitators find no fertile fields to preach their lethal doctrine to in that land that fought for generation after generation for the purpose of holding their freedom intact.

In comparison with most countries of the world Switzerland is a very small nation, however when the type of terrain is taken into consideration mountainous as it is, the number of people it supports leads to only one conclusion that the Swiss people are thoroughly versatile, energetic and frugal. The greatest length of the country at anyone point is 226 miles and its greatest width is 137 miles. It consists of three great river valleys running between great mountain chains. The loftiest peak of the Alps reaches a height of 15,217 feet and for height is comparable with our Mt. Whitney in California, it being the highest peak in the continental United States. However, in the state of Colorado there are 19 peaks rising to heights well over 14,000 feet including the famous Pikes Peak. The lowest point in the country is located on Lago Maggiore which is 646 feet as compared with our lowest elevation which is also in California, in what was once the Salton Sea having an elevation of 200 ft. below sea level. Taking into consideration the fact that the lowest point of the land is still 646 feet above sea level makes it more readily discernable that it is a country of mountainous formation.

Switzerland is noted for its many beautiful lakes, some of the largest being Lake Geneva, Constance, Lago Maggiore, Lucerne, Zurich, and Lake Lugano, while the largest lake being entirely within the confines of the Swiss border is Lake Nuechatel being over 92 square miles in area. There are also numerous small lakes of lesser importance and the often spoken of Lake Lacarno that holds fond memories for many of our Swiss pioneers of America, a generation of men who are fast passing on.

Switzerland has long been known as a mecca for tourists, some of the reasons for this being the many pleasures derived from the snow fields, the mountain climbing, the benefits obtained from the high altitudes for certain ailments, and the scenery. Undoubtedly one of the most important factors in this scenic wonderland are the many beautiful waterfalls. The rivers and their tributaries having their source high in the mountains at the glacier lines almost infinitesmal at the start, race down the mountainsides ever increasing in size, and in their mad rush to the sea form innumerable falls all too numerous to describe, however one of the most fascinating falls has a veil of water making a sheer drop over a precipice 1000 feet in height and it only requires imagination to discern the beauty of such a sight. Still another scenic wonder of this country is her many glacier fields. It is claimed there are more glaciers in Switzerland than in all the combined countries surrounding her. Government records estimate the number of glaciers large and small to be well over 1000 in number and one of the largest of these covers a distance of sixteen miles running down the mountain side. These glaciers however are not increasing in size but diminishing as time goes on, but they will long continue to feed the rivers of the country which are the Rhine, Rhone, Ticino Po and the Inn Danube.

January is considered the coldest month of the year in Switzerland and probably the month of the heaviest snowfall, and it also has been known in extreme cases to record snow packs reaching a depth of forty-five feet during the winter season. The climatic conditions existing in the Alps varies constantly throughout the year according to the locality and elevation and it is not uncommon in some localities to have local winds blow down the mountain sides in the morning and reverse themselves and blow in the opposite direction up the mountains in the afternoon. It is also necessary for summer vacationists to be extremely careful in certain locations especially in the lower level snow fields while pursuing their sports to avoid becoming snow sun burnt, and also from snow glare, this condition being rather hard to understand due to the fact snow is associated with coldness, nevertheless this condition does prevail.

The population of the country in 1941 which was the last year a census was taken was 4,260,179 and of this number 356,000 were people belonging to other nations. The country has a total area of 15,994 square miles and of this amount 77 percent of this will support plant growth of some sort, and these figures should not be confused as productive agriculture land. Of the 77 percent supporting growth 63 percent of this is in the form of pasture land promoting grass growth and 31 percent of the 77 percent is classified as forest growth, this being the case, while figures were not available stipulating the area suitable for agriculture, it would not be unreasonable to assume the balance of 6 percent were available for agrarian pursuit or 738 square miles. Statistics show the country is not self-supporting from an agricultural standpoint having to import two-thirds of its grains. Due to this existing condition during World War II the government fearing their grain imports would be cut off limited consumption to a minimum and built up stock reserves. However building up a stock reserve was not their only problem, to safe guard it against any aggressor invasion and confiscation also confronted them. This problem was solved by Swiss ingenuity in sealing the grains in water tight casks and lowering them into their lakes at given points secretly. However as history is written now of that world conflict, little Switzerland was wisely able to maintain her neutrality and by doing so was not forced to undergo a too great amount of suffering during the many years of hostilities. The unproductive area of land in the country which is made up of glaciers, bare mountains and lakes is given as 3,600 square miles. While the given figures would lead one to arrive at the conclusion that a great portion of the country is non-productive from an agricultural view point, we in America also have waste land and as a comparison according to the Department of Agriculture of the State of Utah statistics show that only 3 percent of that great state is suitable for agriculture. However the wealth of Utah is enormous being derived from mining and other natural resources. The largest open faced copper mine in the world being located there and supplying one-third of the copper of the world.

The population of Switzerland can be listed as that of four distinct classifications as to nationalities and consists in the following order in respect to their numbers: German Swiss, Italian Swiss, French Swiss, and Austrian Swiss. About 875,000 people of the country follow agriculture which is mainly carried on in the grass producing sections. Immigration from the country from records available was highest in the year 1883 at which time 13,502 Swiss people left their native land, and undoubtedly a great many of those people came to America, however in 1938 it had dwindled down to less than 2,000 leaving their homeland. The 1941 census lists eighteen cities having a population exceeding 15,000 and the four largest cities and their population in round figures are Zurich 339,000, Basle 161,000, Berne 129,000, and Geneva 124,000. The highest inhabited village is located at an elevation of 6,900 feet and the lowest is 666 feet. These figures as to high altitude inhabitation however can hardly be looked upon as being in any manner unusual in that there are any number of vill-

ages in the Rocky Mountain chain of America located at higher altitudes, one being a mining camp in the State of Colorado located at Tenessee Pass at the continental divide with an altitude of over 12,000 feet and at which point it is the highest in the world where standard gauge trains pass.

The Federal Constitution of Switzerland guarantees full religious liberty and freedom of worship and from statistics taken in the year 1930 the religious population was given as fifty-seven percent Protestant located largely in the metropolitan cities such as Zurich and Bern, while the Catholic population comprised forty-one percent being located in Lucerne, Fribourg, Ticino, and Valais. The balance of two percent comprised people of other denominations of which the majority were Jews.

From an agricultural standpoint the raising and running of live stock predominates and in the spring after the snow has melted and the grass starts growing the stock is driven from the valleys up the mountain sides to graze. It is customary before leaving with the herds of cattle for the mountains that each settlement participate in a festival bidding farewell to the herdsmen and wishing them safe return in the fall before the snow starts falling again. During the time the cattle are grazed on the slopes of the mountains, the milk is utilized by making it into cheese for which the Swiss are renowned and have long excelled in the art.

Taking into consideration the roughness of the country and the fact that over four million people are able to exist in the land seemingly under fair economic conditions signifies the stability of the Swiss people. Their better hotels are popular with the tourist trade, especially in the French dominated section and the Hotel Beau Rivage on Lake Geneva situated in the resort town of Ouchy is world renowned. While the narration of the history of this great little country necessarily has to be of a limited nature in this writing nevertheless one cannot help but realize the inexhaustable determination of her generations of people who have so cherished their independence and freedom and have so valiantly fought to maintain it, never being frightened or coerced into becoming vassals of some despotic form of government and by so doing have maintained the constant admiration of all freedom loving self respecting nations of the world. May it be said in concluding this brief history of Switzerland that today in the United States of America the sons and daughters of that small country who have come to and settled in our great nation and with their off-spring have by their coming contributed greatly in the development and prosperity of our land to the extent that they are a law abiding, honorable and highly respected segment of the society of peoples of many nations constituting our population.

The parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni were of Swiss nationality, having come to America and settled in California in their youth, carrying in their veins the red blood of independence so sacredly cherished and fought for by the forebears of their homeland. The history of the parents of the late Joseph Barboni having been covered in the Chas. Barboni and Son History it is quite appropriate and fitting that in this the history of the Barboni Estate that the coming to America of their grandparents on the mother's side of the family be included, and it is with great pride that the children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni have for their grandparents, on both their father's and mother's sides of the family, for the success that they achieved and the full and productive life that was theirs.

Michael A. Dolcini, grandfather of the Joseph Barboni family on their mother's side, was born in the village of Cevio, located in the Canton Ticino, Switzerland, in the year 1849. His parents like the majority of the people of the Canton Ticino were of modest means raising a family of

eight children, four sons and four daughters. Young Michael with his brothers and sisters received his education in the village school and assisted his parents in the caring of their small dairy, however like many of the young Swiss men of his time he had heard of America and although still very young and without any connections in that land far across the sea he determinedly made up his mind that some day he would come to that country he had heard so much about. Finally the day arrived that young Michael Dolcini had looked forward to, he had reached the age of 18 years and his parents consented that he could go to America in the hope that his dreams and ambitions would be fulfilled in the new world. He bade his family farewell and landed in New York in the year 1867 and from there soon arrived in San Francisco.

After stopping in San Francisco for a short time and making inquiries he then came to Petaluma, a strange young man in a strange land. Upon his arrival at Petaluma he was advised after making his intentions known that he was desirous of obtaining employment on a dairy ranch, that there were a number of dairies located in the Two Rock Valley area where he might be successful in his quest for work. Upon obtaining directions young Mr. Dolcini started walking, never failing to stop at every dairy ranch he came to in the hopes he would find employment. Due to the fact it was the spring of the year all the dairy ranch owners he called on had sufficient help to operate their business, the custom being at that time to employ the help they needed in the late fall and keep them on until the harvest was over in mid-summer of the following year. According to Mr. Dolcini's experience as told by him to his family in later years, he finally arrived tired and weary from his days search for employment to the locality where the Two Rock Presbyterian Church is now located and where at that time there was a small hotel. Upon stopping at the hotel he met Mr. Molseed, one of the early pioneer ranchers of the Chileno Valley-Two Rock district, and it was from him that he received his first employment. While the type of work Mr. Molseed desired to have done was not entirely to young Michael Dolcini's liking, nevertheless he was happy to be employed and for thirty days steady he pulled mustard out of the Molseed grain fields.

After completing the job of clearing the grain fields of the mustard, Mr. Molseed had no further need for his services and it was again necessary for him to start once more looking for work. Leaving the Molseed Ranch young Michael continued on into Chileno Valley being advised by Mr. Molseed that he was very likely to obtain employment in that locality on some of the large dairies which were owned by Swiss people. After a not too long a walk he arrived at the Charles Martin ranch and it was here that he obtained his second job after coming to America.

A short time after becoming employed on the Martin Ranch, Mr. Martin approached Michael Dolcini seeing he was a willing worker and offered him better wages if he cared to go to Santa Cruz and work on a ranch he had an interest in at that locality and known as the Martin and Moretti Ranch. Anxious to please Mr. Martin, he readily accepted the offer and soon after was located at Santa Cruz. For six years Michael Dolcini faithfully and conscientiously performed his duties as a dairy worker on the Martin and Moretti Ranch and although wages were none too high, he diligently layed aside a part of his earnings for the day he would be able to go into business for himself. As a result although only eighteen years of age when becoming employed by Mr. Martin, young Mr. Dolcini was never again faced with the problem of finding employment from that time on during his entire life.

At the end of six years of steady employemtn on the Martin and Moretti Ranch at Santa Cruz, Michael Dolcini again returned to Petaluma and Sonoma County, but in a much different frame of mind than he had six years previous when he first arrived from Switzerland, for he was now a young man of self-assurance, confident in his own ability to make his way and with a

sizeable bank account to back up his own convictions.

In a short time after returning to Sonoma County, Michael Dolcini, having had in his mind while working at Santa Cruz to some day go into business for himself, purchased a business at Bodega Bay and leased the property for a term of three years on what was then known as the Hitchcock Ranch. After operating his dairy business successfully for three years on the Hitchcock Ranch and his lease having expired, he then disposed of the business and next moved to the Nicascio Valley.

Upon coming to Nicascio, Mr. Dolcini then associated himself with his brother in the leasing and operating of what was then known as the Pacheco Ranch. After he and his brother had operated the Pacheco Ranch successfully and harmoniously for a few years, Michael Dolcini further expanded his business by purchasing an interest in a dairy ranch at Guadalupe located in Santa Barbara County and proceeded to also operate that business on a partnership basis. After having spent sixteen years in America working hard and diligently taking care of his business in his climb to success, and of which seven of these years he had been associated with his brother at Nicascio, Michael Dolcini truthfully as well as financially felt he was entitled to a rest. He was further prompted in making this decision in that his mother then seventy-five years of age had long desired that her son would some day return home for a visit for to her he was still her boy that had left home very young to make his way alone in a strange and far away land. After confiding to his brother his intentions and arranging for his brother to operate and fully manage their business in his absence, Michael Dolcini left for the land of his birth with the complete satisfaction in his mind that after sixteen years absence he was returning again to the land from whence he came being fully rewarded for the effort he put forth in the land that afforded him the opportunities he so desperately sought for upon leaving his homeland.

Michael Dolcini returned to Switzerland in the year 1883 and needless to say his return to the village of his birth was a joyfull one, many happy reunions with his relatives took place, friendships of his youth were renewed and most of all the joy that was his mother's upon his return made all other matters of little importance, her son Michael was home. While Michael was enjoying his visit to the fullest with his relatives, there was also something else occupying a great amount of his time soon after he arrived home, and that something else was none other than a young woman, and so it was in the due course of time a wedding was taking place in the parish church and Michael Dolcini and his bride were the recipients of the well wishes of their many friends and relatives. After his marriage and having spent two years time in his homeland, Michael Dolcini again felt the urge to return to America and his business, and so in 1885 he and his bride returned to America and Marin County the land of their adoption.

Mrs. Dolcini, Michael Dolcini's wife, was born in the village of Cevio located in the Canton Ticino in the year 1861 and it was in the village of her birth that she received her education and grew into womanhood. She was one of a family of six children having three sisters and two brothers. Her parents were very prominent in the community in which they lived, her father being a highly educated man held the position of school teacher as well as being mayor of the village, and during his life time held other positions in the capacity of postmaster and city councilman. Mrs. Dolcini was twenty-four years old when she married and accompanied her husband back to America.

Upon Michael Dolcini's return to America with his bride, he immediately resumed active participation in the operating of the dairy business with his brother at Nicascio and this partnership continued on until 1887 when by mutual agreement between him and his brother he disposed of his interest

to his brother thus ending a partnership which lasted eleven years.

After having disposed of his interest in the Nicascio Ranch business to his brother he with his wife and their young daughter, who was born on the Pacheco Ranch then moved to the Guglielmetti Ranch located on the Spring Hill Road in the Two Rock Valley, Mr. Dolcini having signed a three year lease with the owners of the property. At the expiration of their three year lease on the Guglielmetti Ranch, and, it was on this ranch their second child was born it being a son, that they again moved. From the Guglielmetti Ranch Mr. and Mrs. Dolcini with their children next moved to Hicks Valley taking out a lease on the Hanigan Ranch, the ranch which is now owned and operated by Chas. Barboni and Son. After moving onto the Hanigan Ranch in Hicks Valley it was never necessary for Michael Dolcini to sign anymore leases or move again while in the dairy business, for it was here he established himself, successfully operating his business for 31 years after which he went into retirement.

From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dolcini five children were born, three daughters and two sons, all of whom received their education at the local district school in Hicks Valley except one. The eldest child, a daughter as stated before, was born while her parents operated the Pacheco Ranch at Nicascio and she upon growing into womanhood became the wife of Joseph Barboni and the mother of his children for whom this family history is being written. The second child, a son whose name is Emedio, was born as also before stated during the time his parents operated the Guglielmetti Ranch, and upon completing his education assisted his parents in the operating of their Hicks Valley dairy until they disposed of their business. The last three of the Michael Dolcini children were born after their parents moved to Hicks Valley. The third child, a daughter whose name is Elvina, grew into womanhood on their Hicks Valley Ranch assisting her mother in the keeping of the home until her parents disposed of their business. She is now married to Victor Albertini well known resident of Petaluma who is prominent in American Legion activities having served in World War I, being on board a troop ship in mid-ocean on his way to France when the armistice of 1918 was signed. Their fourth child also a daughter whose name was Dora passed away at the tender age of two years causing sorrow for the first time to enter into the lives of this otherwise happy family. The fifth and youngest child of the Michael Dolcini family, a son whose name was Dante, grew into manhood on the ranch of his parents in Hicks Valley assisting his father and elder brother in operating it. Dante Dolcini like most young men at his age was carefree and happy, he took a keen interest in his father's business always anxious and willing to do his share and in return his father was proud of his two sons, proud in the knowledge that he had raised two boys who would carry on in his footsteps.

In 1914 Europe was a seething caldron of unrest, war clouds were fast forming, Britain controlled the commerce of the seas and France and Germany were bitter toward each other as a result of a past war and control of a corridor lying between them. As a result of all this in that same year Germany was on the march and Europe was throuwn into armed conflict. The United States eyed the situation carefully and decided to remain neutral. In 1916 there was a presidental election and a change of administration, the Democratic party came into power on a platform to keep America out of war and President Wilson was inducted into office. The average citizen of the United States however little realized the gravity of the situation. The President sincere in his campaign pledges and in keeping with the party platform desired no war. Our safety was assured in the minds of the people due to the fact the Atlantic Ocean separated us from the hostilities. Germany however accused the United States of shipping war materials to her enemies, and after a curt warning to discontinue, and without provocation, torpedoed one of our ships flying the American flag, for hers was a submarine war of viciousness, the like of which was never known before, strik-

ing down defenseless ships in her orgy of death. As a result of this unprovoked and cowardly attack upon our flag, the sentiment of our people changed over night, from the singing of the popular ballad of the day "I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier", the slogan became "Keep the World Safe for Democracy", and in a short time our country was in frenzied preparation to wage war.

The United States never having been a warring nation, maintained only a small standing army and consequently as a result of this condition immediately upon declaration of war upon Germany and her unfortunate and misguided allies our government started inducting the flower of our youth into army, navy, and marines.

With this procedure getting under full swing it soon became apparent in the minds of all red blooded American families with sons in the age bracket requirements, that sacrifices would have to be made and the Michael Dolcini family along with hundreds of thousands of other families throughout the elngth and breadth of the nation were in this catagory in as much as their youngest son Dante, having a short time previous passed his twenty-first birthday was eligible for induction.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dolcini and their children full realized the situation and while no family enjoys having their loved ones march away to war nevertheless Michael Dolcini came from a country of freedom loving people, the blood that coursed in their veins for countless generations was that of sacrifice and bloodshed to maintain their independence and as such although regretting the world could not live in peace he, his wife, and children swelled with pride in their hearts that their son and brother would wear the uniform of the land of their parent's adoption.

Dante Dolcini entered the armed service of the United States Army at twenty-one years of age and after a limited period of preparatory training was on his way to Europe aboard a troop ship carrying the youth of our land to fight on foreign soil. After landing in France it was but a short time until Dante's Company was ordered to the American Sector of combat. It would be utterly impossible to endeavor to describe the activities of Dante Dolcini during the time he spent in the front lines, his letters to his family were assuring, his complaints were minor, the war would soon be over, in a short time he would be back with his family. Dante Dolcini's one thought was to encourage and dissuade his parents of worry over his safety. Dante Dolcini was a good soldier, army discipline was not disagreeable and caused him little discomfort for he was raised and taught the principles of exactness and proper ethics as a boy. What he did not tell his family about was the days and nights of horror in the front lines, the mud and vermin in the trenches, the heart rendering agony of dying men and then the Michael Dolcini family of Hicks Valley received a message from U. S. Army Headquarters, Washington D.C., a message for those of nearest of kin, couched in sympathetic but definite language, their son Dante Dolcini killed in action in France, August eleventh, 1918. One thing Dante Dolcini was correct about in the letters he wrote to his family was that the war would soon be over, for exactly 92 days after Dante Dolcini gave his life for his country, the armistice was signed, terminating hostilities, but providence did not decree that the boy from Hicks Valley without an enemy in the world should survive those 92 days to return to his home and family.

Sorrow for a second time had entered the home of the Michael Dolcini family, their grief was genuine and the only consolation in their great loss was that their son had given his life for his country, and theirs, the land of their adoption, the land where their children were born, the land they loved. No greater sacrifice can be made by anyone than that made by Dante Dolcini, he bravely and heroically gave his life in the de-

fense of his country and his family, his nieces and nephews and their off-spring for generations to come should well be proud of the honor and sacrifice of Dante Dolcini.

After the death of their son in 1918 in France, he being the youngest of their family, Mr. and Mrs. Dolcini with the assistance of their eldest son, Emedio, and their second daughter, Elvina, their eldest daughter having married, continued to operate their ranch until 1921. In that year, Mr. Dolcini's age then being over three score and ten, the family after careful deliberation decided to discontinue their business and with that decision it was soon disposed of and by so doing culminated a continuous operation of their dairy business in Hicks Valley by Mr. and Mrs. Dolcini and their children for, as said before, a period of thirty-one years.

After disposing of their business, Mr. and Mrs. Dolcini purchased a home in Petaluma and with their son and daughter accompanying them moved to that city where the elder Dolcinis went into retirement. Mr. Dolcini from the time he arrived in America until his retirement had been in the dairy business for fifty-four years, six years as an employed dairy worker and forty-eight years as operator and manager of his own business, and from that record it cannot be denied he was entitled to a well earned rest. As the years passed by both Mr. and Mrs. Dolcini were very happy in their retirement, he occasionally visiting friends, and Mrs. Dolcini assisted by her daughter taking care of her home and garden. They also derived a great amount of pleasure from their grandchildren, their eldest daughter as stated before having married several years before was the proud mother of a fine family of sons and daughters, and nothing was more gratifying to the Dolcini grandparents than to be with their grandchildren. And so it was that Michael Dolcini in his declining years was contented and at peace with the world, however that much deserved peace was disrupted in the twilight years of his life, disrupted by sorrow again entering his life in the sudden death of his eldest daughter, the mother of his grandchildren that he loved so fondly. After the death of his daughter, Mr. Dolcini's health gradually failed and while he was given devoted care and attention by his wife and daughter, the shock of his eldest daughters death was constantly on his mind, and in 1932 at the age of 83 years he passed away. Michael Dolcini was a man of fine character, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him, coming to America at the age of 18 years from his native Switzerland, his life in this country was one of fullness, achievement and success, his youngest son honored his fathers name by giving his life in the defense of his country and may it be said in tribute to the memory of Michael Dolcini, that by his coming to America from his native land he has enriched the community in which he chose to settle, and may his heritage be carried on for generations with dignity.

Mrs. Dolcini equally as grieved as her husband, in the loss of her eldest daughter, has bravely carried on in the years she has survived him. She continues to reside in the home purchased by her and her late husband upon their retirement. She is given every care and attention by her eldest son, daughter and son-in-law who reside with her. While she has lived far beyond the average span of life, she still remains in good health and in her declining years she may well look back with fond memories of the past that hers was a full life of goodness, and may the sacrifices that she made during her life be a comfort to her now in old age and in the knowledge that she is honored as a Gold Star Mother.

Joseph Barboni, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Costantino Barboni, was born near Pt. Arena, California, on what was known as the Light House Ranch, that being the ranch his parents operated at the time of his birth. Having covered the life of his parents in the Chas. Barboni history, he also being a son of Mr. and Mrs. Costantino Barboni, it would be a needless repetition to further include it in this the history of the Costantino

Barboni grandchildren on their father's side of the family. As explained in the Chas. Barboni history, Costantino Barboni with his wife and three children, two sons ans a daughter, left America after seventeen years in the dairy business at Pt. Arena and returned to Switzerland remaining there four years. Upon their return to America they located on a small ranch at Petaluma and later moved onto a dairy in the Red Hill District, this ranch being now operated by the Mack Bros. and in those days being known as the Nissen Ranch.

After Joseph Barboni returned to America from Switzerland with his parents, he being the eldest of the children, assisted his father on their little ranch near Petaluma, and also whenever possible worked on other ranches for wages. Upon their moving onto the dairy in the Red Hill District he continued to take employment on the outside whenever his parents could spare him in the operating of their own ranch. Joseph Barboni for a young man was very frugal and after a few years of working for wages he had accumulated enough money with some assistance from his parents to go into business on what is now known as the Bassi Ranch in Hicks Valley and as a result of this purchase was in the dairy business for himself.

The Bassi Ranch adjoins the ranch known as the Haningan Ranch which is now owned and operated by his brother and nephew, Chas. Barboni and Son. The farm buildings on these two ranches are situated a very short distance apart, and at the time Joe Barboni bought the business on the Bassi Ranch, the business on the Haningan Ranch was then owned and being operated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dolcini and their children. It was only natural as a result of the close proximity of these two ranches to one another that their owners visit, and soon a very close friendship existed between the elder Mr. Dolcini and the young man just starting out in business for himself. The Dolcini family were very fond of Joseph Barboni and he in return was very grateful for their kindliness and friendship, and so it was that in the due course of time there developed a romance between Joseph Barboni and the eldest of the Dolcini sisters whose name was Irene. As a result of this romance in a short time they were united in marriage, thus bringing together two of the prominent Swiss families of the community.

Mrs. Joseph Barboni as stated in the history of her parents was one of five children, receiving her education at the district school and growing into womanhood on the ranch of her parents. After their marriage which was in 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni operated the Bassi Ranch until 1912, leaving there in the fall of that year to go onto the Lewis Ranch located in Chileno Valley. The reason for their moving to the Lewis Ranch was that Joseph's father and brother Charles and himself had rented that ranch and formed a partnership known as the Barboni Bros. As stated in the Chas. Barboni history, Joseph and Chas. Barboni operated the Lewis Ranch with their father acting in an advisory capacity for two years and at the expiration of that time were forced to dispose of the business due to the ranch property being sold. After disposing of their business on the Lewis Ranch, Joseph and his brother Charles then dissolved their partnership, each going into business separately for himself.

Soon after leaving the Lewis Ranch, Joseph Barboni with his wife and children, they at that time being the proud parents of a son and daughter, then purchased the property and business known as the Canepa Ranch, and by so doing again returned to Hicks Valley. At the time of the purchase of the Canepa Ranch by Joe Barboni, it was then operated by Mr. Robert Brown who was familiarly known in the community as Bob Brown. Mr. Brown at that time was specializing in the raising and breeding of Ayrshire dairy cattle and Joe Barboni after taking over the ownership and management of the business continued with that breed of stock and up to the present time the ranch now being operated by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni still operate with that breed of animals, details of which will be given later of the famous Barboni Ayrshire herd.

At the time of the purchase of the Canepa Ranch and dairy business from Mr. Brown, Joe Barboni was still only 24 years of age, and taking into consideration the size of the ranch which consisted of close to 900 acres of land and the business, one cannot help but admire the fortitude of this young man, and especially in view of the fact that at the time of purchase economic conditions, the year being 1914, were none too good. However Joe Barboni, regardless of his youth had long range planning and with keen business foresight immediately began increasing and improving his herd for the future. He not only paid careful attention to his animals, but likewise began improving the property, new fencing was constructed, old buildings replaced and repaired, until eventually the improvements on the ranch were all in good condition, modern and efficient for the operating of his dairy business.

As years passed by Mr. and Mrs. Barboni were also confronted with another problem, their family was increasing in size and it became very apparent to them that a new home was needed to accommodate their growing family. This however they readily solved after discussing and considering several types of homes, by constructing a spacious ranch home of the type architecture which at the present time still is of a modern style exemplifying their good judgment, after a lapsation of over thirty years time since it was built.

Both Joe Barboni and his wife were a very happy as well as a busy couple during the years they had been on their own ranch, he improving the property and expanding his business, Mrs. Barboni caring for their home and raising their family, for Joe and Irene Barboni were then the proud parents of nine fine children, four sons and five daughters, and seven of these children were born after they purchased their own ranch and returned to Hicks Valley.

From the time Joe Barboni purchased the Canepa Ranch and business from Mr. Brown virtually everything he undertook was a success for him. Soon after acquiring ownership of the ranch economic conditions started to improve, Europe was at war and prices of farm produce increased and were maintained at a high level for over six years and in that period by acting wisely and using good judgment, Joe Barboni became financially secure. It was then that he began to visualize greater expansion for the years to come for he had four growing sons and his desire was to some day have his sons and himself associated together in the dairy business on a huge scale and by so doing keep the family ties closely knitted together. However as Joe Barboni visioned and planned for the future little did he or his family ever have a thought that anything could happen that would disrupt their plans and happiness. However as it has been throughout the lives of all men uncertainties exist and often happiness is replaced by sorrow when least expected, and so it was that sorrow suddenly thrust itself upon the Barboni family unexpectedly and without warning.

Joseph Barboni during his entire life aside from an occasional cold had never experienced sickness of any kind and as it is often said was too busy to become sick, however the time came when he did feel ill, but being one reluctant to complain to his family and feeling it was not serious, he continued to carry on as usual. It soon became evident to him however that his illness was of a nature that required medical attention and advising his family in a manner not to cause them alarm he proceeded to contact a doctor. After receiving medical attention from his physician and his condition did not improve, it was then decided to perform an operation for appendicitus, but unfortunately too long a period of time had elapsed from the time Joe Barboni had first become ill, complications had already set in and in a short time after the operation, despite frantic efforts to save his life, he failed to rally and passed on from this world.

The people of the community upon hearing of the death of Joseph Barboni were shocked and it was difficult for them to realize that their friend Joe would no longer be with them, for in his passing an abrupt ending was brought to a most successful career in the dairy business, he being only 37 years of age at the time of his death. It is difficult to enumerate the fine qualities of Joe Barboni for in this respect he had many, he was a man of high character, sincerity and integrity with a personal code of fairness, a man of keen business judgment whose word was as good as his bond, and people who knew him and did business with him admired him. The death of a loved one in every hime is sad but in the case of Joe Barboni it brought unusual sorrow in that here was a man taken in the prime of life, leaving a grief stricken widow and nine children at a time when they needed him the most.

Upon recovering from the shock of her husband's sudden death Mrs. Barboni fully realized the enormity of the responsibilities she was confronted with, and with grim determination and assurance from her and her husbands relatives that they would assist her in every way possible, she determinedly faced realities and proceeded to operate the business, along with the taking care of her children. For the first few months after her husband's death Mrs. Barboni bravely carried on, her first and foremost thought being for the welfare of her children, the children their father loved so dearly, to the eldest she would encourage and advise, the younger listen to and help them solve their little problems, however to those relatives closest to Mrs. Barboni it became more and more apparent as time went on that their loved one was steadily failing in health. While Mrs. Barboni was given every physical and known medical aid, science was unable to correct the complications that she had become afflicted with, one of which was an aggravated throat condition. Although Mrs. Barboni realized the severity of her condition she never complained, assuring her family she would soon be on the road to recovery to alleviate their anxiety, however this was not to be and while she fought desperately for her recovery it was a loosing battle and seven months after her husband's passing she joined him in death.

It would be utterly futile to endeavor to put into words the sorrow that gripped the hearts of the relatives and friends of the Barboni family in the passing of Irene Barboni, it was greater than sorrow, it was tragic, for in her death nine fine children were left without father or mother, the youngest of the children being four years, scarcely old enought to remember her parents. While such sorrow is hard to understand in the minds of men as that which befell the relatives and children of Joseph and Irene Barboni in their sudden passing on from this earth, may it be of consolation to them to feel that their creator had recognized by their deeds that they had fought the good fight and in just reward had summoned them to Him to take their rightful place in the hereafter.

As stated before, Joseph Barboni passed on at the age of 37 years in the month of March 1927, his wife and the mother of his children followed him in death seven months later at the age of 40 years in the month of October 1927. In their deaths nine minor children were left in this world without their mother or father. May it be said at this time that the relatives of Joseph and Irene Barboni, their parents on both side, their brothers and sisters all took a responsible part in assuming the obligations they owed to their deceased loved ones in the looking after and caring for the welfare of their children, and at the time of this writing those of them that are still living can look with gratification at the outcome of their efforts.

At the time of the writing of this, the history of the dairy business owned by the children of Joseph and Irene Barboni, twenty-two years has passed since the death of both their parents. In those twenty-two years

the children have grown to maturity, some with families of their own, of the four sons two are married and two are single, of the five daughters three are married and two remain single. While they do not all live on the ranch inherited by them from their parents, they all do retain their interest in the estate and as a family are closely knitted by their family ties. Those remaining on the ranch and operating their large dairy business work harmoniously and efficiently for the mutual interest of all concerned.

Esther, the eldest of the Barboni family, was born in Hicks Valley at the time her parents operated the Bassi Ranch. She received her education at the local school and being the oldest of the family assisted greatly after the death of her mother in caring for her younger brothers and sisters in their childhood days. She takes a very keen interest in the welfare and happiness of all her brothers and sisters and especially her two single brothers with whom she lives and maintains the old family home. She is the possessor of a very pleasing personality and derives great pleasure in the keeping of their home and gardens.

Arthur, the second eldest of the family, was born at the time his parents operated the Lewis Ranch in Chileno Valley. He received his education at the local district school and after graduating assisted in the operating of his parents dairy business. Arthur being second oldest of the family and the eldest son by mutual agreement on the part of his brothers and sisters assumes the management as well as his share of the physical effort in the operating of the dairy business. Like his father before him he is of a quiet nature, possesses keen business judgment and foresight avoiding snap judgment and weighs important decisions carefully before arriving at conclusions. He is married and he and his wife are the proud parents of a young daughter. His wife is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mr. R. L. Mazza, prominent dairy operators of the Red Hill District of Marin County. Arthur with his wife and daughter reside in their new modern cottage situated adjacent to the old family home.

Anita, third eldest of the Barboni family, is married and resides in the Chileno Valley district, her husband being Maurice Respini, prominent dairyman of that community. Mr. and Mrs. Respini are the proud parents of two children, a son and daughter. In the marriage of Maurice Respini and Anita Barboni two prominent families were united, their parents before them being successful Swiss dairy ranch operators of the community. Anita like her brothers and sisters is of a quiet disposition, a pleasing personality with a wide circle of friends.

Vivian, fourth eldest of the family, was born in Hicks Valley receiving her elementary education at the local district school and later attended St. Vincents Academy at Petaluma. She is married, her husband being Henry Ielmorini, prominent dairyman whose ranch is also located in Hicks Valley. Vivian and her husband are the proud parents of three children, two sons and a daughter. By her marriage to Henry Ielmorini two prominent families of Swiss nationality were united in family ties. Her husband like her brothers is recognized as a very successful dairyman, his parents before him being pioneers in the dairy business. Vivian possesses a fine personality has a great devotion for her family and is admired by all who know her.

Henry, the fifth member of the family in respect to age, was born in Hicks Valley receiving his education at the local school and later as he grew into manhood assisting in the operating of his parents ranch. He is married and he and his wife are the proud parents of two daughters. Mrs. Barboni, Henry's wife, was raised on a dairy ranch, her parents whose name is Albertoni being prominent dairy operators of the Nicascio District of Marin County. Henry and his younger brother Walter, in conjunction with their home ranch,operated what was known as the Mission Land and Cattle

Company ranch located in Napa County for three years from 1941 to 1943. Henry at the present time is operating a dairy of his own located in the San Antonio District of Marin County and of which a history will be written. Henry like his other brothers understands the dairy business thoroughly and has been very successful in his business enterprises.

Walter, the sixth member of the family and the third eldest son, was also born in Hicks Valley receiving his education there. He is single and assists his two brothers in the operating and managing of their large dairy. As stated before he with his brother Henry operated the Mission Land and Cattle Company ranch located in Napa County from 1941 to 1943. He like his elder brother Arthur is of a quiet disposition possessing a fine sense of righteousness and is a favorite among his many friends. Walter is very adept in the operating and repairing of machinery and besides his work in operating the dairy he at certain times of the year is kept very busy preparing the ground, planting and harvesting the large acreage utilized for the growing of hay. However like his brothers he does find time to enjoy a few days hunting during deer and duck seasons each year and is noted for his marksmanship.

Florence, the seventh eldest of the family and the next to the youngest daughter, was born in Hicks Valley receiving her elementary education at the local school and later attending St. Vincents Academy at Petaluma. After completing her education at Petaluma she then attended a beautician school receiving her certificate as a beauty operator, later working for wages for a short period of time at that profession. However, Florence like her late father possesses a good business mind, and it was not too long until she was in business for herself and at the time of this writing is owner and manager of one of the finest beauty parlors in the city of Petaluma. She has a very fine personality which undoubtedly has been a great asset toward making her business career successful. While Florence's business is located at Petaluma she being unmarried makes her home with her brothers and sisters in Hicks Valley, commuting to and from her business daily.

Dante, the youngest son and the eighth member of the family in respect to age, was also born in Hicks Valley receiving his education at the local school and upon graduation then attended Petaluma High School. He also like his elder brothers is very proficient as a dairy operator, having been associated with his brothers in the business since completing his education. However, it was necessary for Dante to take some time out from his dairy business during World War II for the defense of his country. Like his uncle Dante Dolcini, whose first name he bears, and who gave his life for his country in World War I, Dante Barboni served with honor and distinction in the Navy for four years in the South Pacific campaigns and at the termination of the war spent six months in Japan during the early occupation of that country. Unlike his uncle however, Dante upon his discharge returned to his home and family safe, providence decreeing that sorrow should not be brought to his family as it was in World War I. Dante is single and resides in the family home with his brother Walter and his two sisters, Florence and Esther. He also has a fine personality and is never without a warm greeting for his friends.

Mable, the ninth and youngest of the children of the late Joseph and Irene Barboni family as stated before, was only four years old at the time of the death of her parents. She also was born in Hicks Valley receiving her grammar school education there and like her sisters Vivian and Florence later attended St. Vincents Academy. She is married, her husband being John Figone, well-known and successful business man of Petaluma. Mable and her husband are the proud parents of a young daughter which they greatly idolize. While their residence is in Petaluma, Mable nevertheless takes great pleasure in visiting with her brothers and sisters in Hicks Valley where she spent her happy childhood days. She like her older sisters takes a great pride in her home and is very popular among her wide circle of friends.

Having briefly covered the lives of the children of the Joseph Barboni family individually may it be stated without reservation that they, the owners and operators of the Barboni Estate Dairy, are a remarkable family. Remarkable in many ways. Having been deprived of both their parents' guiding influence during their childhood and adolescent years, nevertheless they have all grown to maturity without the slightest stain or blemish on their individual personal character. Remarkable due to the fact that they being a large family have never allowed petty grievances or jealousy to infringe on their family tranquility, remaining devoted and closely associated. Remarkable in that those that have married, have married well and by so doing have born children to perpetuate and carry on the name and tradition of their family, and further remarkable in that they are all financially successful insuring personal security and by so being are classified individually by their State and Nation as dependable, self-sustaining, and productive individuals who by their inherent rights and stability places them in our top segment of society among our commonwealth of peoples, and by reason of this stability they have contributed to the augmentation of this bracket of our citizenry which solidifies our nations security and leadership of the world.

As stated in the introductory chapters of this the history of the Barboni Estate Dairy their ranch consists of 860 acres of land. Their milking barn accommodates four 24 cow strings for a total of 96 head of animals. The total number of animals maintained on the ranch is 325 head of which 210 head of these are milking cows and the balance young stock of various ages. The Barboni herd is exceptional because of the fact as stated briefly before it is made up in its entirety of the Ayrshire breed of animals. This herd it can be truthfully stated is one of the finest and largest of its kind in the country and for over a long period of years it has been continually and systematically improved upon for a standard of perfection both in type and production. Prior to the development of homogonized milk, the milk of the Ayrshire cow was greatly in demand for infant consumption and hospital use due to its easy digestibility and still is, in some cases, preferred to all other types of milk. The Barboni herd besides being a valuable herd economically, to the interested observer and admirer of fine animals, rarely can this herd be equaled for beauty, while grazing on their bottom land or rolling hillsides. This herd prior to being acquired by the Barboni family was started by Mr. Brown in the year 1900, and while the Barboni family being a conservative people do no bragging about their herd nevertheless its record of productivity speaks for itself and it would be a difficult problem to interest them in any other type animal. The peak production of this herd has reached 66 cans per day and due to the long period of time the Barboni Estate has been in the market milk business their fluctuation in production throughout the year is very slight. The milk from this fine herd of animals has been shipped to and distributed by the Marin-Dell Company from the time of the Company's organization with the result that the Marin-Dell Company and the Barboni family have enjoyed a long period of years of mutual satisfaction in their business dealings. While it is necessary for the owners of the Barboni Estate Dairy to purchase a great amount of of alfalfa hay to maintain their large herd they do grow around 250 ton of oat hay a year. They have recently installed a 750 gallon all stainless steel farm holding tank in their dairy and by so doing are keeping astride with the advancement of the dairy business for a more efficient and sanitary operation of their fine dairy.

In concluding the history of the Barboni Estate may it be said that they have every justification to be proud of their achievement and success. May they always keep in mind the courage of their grandparents who came to America and successfully established themselves in a strange land, and may they and their children for generations to come continue to bear their name with pride and dignity, and by so doing perpetuate the precious heritage that will be handed down to them as time goes on, to the end that the name and memory of Joseph and Irene Barboni shall continue to exist and the fine blood that flowed in their veins continue to be transmitted to the present and future offspring that those that bear their name shall do so with honor.

HENRY BARBONI DAIRY
SAN ANTONIO DIST.
PETALUMA, CALIF.

Producer Number 38,
Henry Barboni.

The Henry Barboni Dairy is located four miles from the city of Petaluma in the San Antonio District. The ranch can be reached from that city by several routes, the most direct being to drive due south on the I Street road which converges into the San Antonio Road and by turning right on the San Antonio Road and driving west a short distance you arrive at the Henry Barboni Dairy. The ranch buildings are situated a short distance from the highway and are well protected to the east and south by rolling tree covered hills.

The history of Henry Barboni's grandparents on his father's side of the family, namely Mr. and Mrs. Costantino Barboni and the history of his grandparents on his mother's side of the family, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dolcini, having been covered in the Chas. Barboni and Son, and The Barboni Estate history respectively, it would necessarily be a duplication of the events of their lives to include it in this The Henry Barboni history. Also the history of Mr. Barboni's father and mother, that of Joseph and Irene Barboni being covered fully in his brothers and sisters history, that of the Barboni Estate, it will therefore not be included in this history for reasons of duplication.

Henry Barboni was born at the time his parents were operating their large dairy located in Hicks Valley, Marin County. He was one of a family of nine children having three brothers and five sisters, all of whose lives also have been briefly covered in the history of the Barboni Estate Family. As a young boy Henry grew up and received his education at the Hicks Valley elementary school and upon completing his education assisted his family in the operation of their ranch. However, as related in his brothers and sisters history which is also his, sorrow entered the life of Henry Barboni when he was eleven years old in the sudden death of both his father and mother a short time apart from one another.

After the death of his parents Henry continued to work on the home dairy for thirteen years with his brothers and his uncle Chas. Barboni who was appointed by the Court as the executor of Henry's parents estate. Upon reaching the age of 24 years, he and his younger brother, Walter, leased what is known as the Mission Land and Cattle Company ranch located in Napa County on the Silvarado Trail north of the city of Napa, and proceeded to operate that ranch on a partnership basis for three years. Upon the expiration of their lease on the Napa County ranch, Henry and his brother disposed of the business and returned to Hicks Valley. After returning to Marin County, Henry then proceeded to take employment on the Fred LaFranchi dairy located at Nicascio while his brother Walter returned to the home dairy again assisting his brothers in the operation of that ranch.

After being employed on the LaFranchi Ranch at Nicascio for eight months Henry then leased the ranch and purchased the business where he is located at the time of this writing, the dairy being known as the George McLaughlin Ranch, and where he and his wife, he then having married, moved on to in the fall of 1944.

Mrs. Barboni, Henry's wife, was born at Nicascio, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Albertoni, her parents having operated a dairy in that community for 32 years. She received her education and grew into womanhood in the Nicascio district and as a young woman had a large circle of friends, being the possessor of a very fine personality. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barboni two daughters were born and needless to say both Henry and his wife idolize their daughters.

The ranch which is leased and operated by Henry Barboni consists of 320 acres of land. The milking unit is of the straight string type accommodating 12 animals, while the feed barn holds 60 head. The Barboni herd is composed of mixed breeds of animals, however like his brothers he is partial to the Ayrshire breed of animals. The total number of stock run on the ranch is 150 head of which 100 of these are milk cows and the balance yearlings and two year olds. Mr. Barboni raises all the hay he can and in 1948 harvested 400 ton, all of which was used on his own ranch. He also purchases large quantities of alfalfa hay each year being a firm believer of keeping his stock in the best shape possible. Henry Barboni due to the many years he has been associated in the dairy business has a well regulated herd and he can be truthfully classified as a successful market milk producer. He has been shipping milk to Marin-Dell Company since going into business for himself which is for a period of nine years and the relationship between him and the Company has been very pleasant and satisfactory during that period of time.

Guido Albertoni Dairy
Corona Dist.
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 27
Guido Albertoni.

The Guido Albertoni Dairy is located six miles northeast of the city of Petaluma on the Corona Road. To reach the ranch it is necessary to drive north from Petaluma on U. S. Highway 101 for four miles, where by turning right at the business establishment known as the Willow Brook Inn you enter the Corona Road. It is then necessary to drive due east on the Corona Road for two miles before arriving at the Albertoni Dairy. The ranch improvements are located a short distance from the paved highway and are easily visible to the passing motorist.

Guido Albertoni was born in the year of 1910 in the village of Cadenozzo, Canton Ticino, Switzerland. He was one of a family of seven children, there being five sons and two daughters. His parents Mr. and Mrs. Leonardo Albertoni like many other Swiss families residing in that Canton were of modest means and their main source of income was in the operating of a small dairy.

Guido spent his childhood days in the village of his birth where he received his elementary education and grew to young manhood. Young Guido having heard a great deal about America as he was growing up often voiced his desire that some day he would like to have the opportunity to come to California, and by reason of his having an aunt in California his ambition materialized much sooner than he anticipated. His aunt whose home was in Petaluma became aware of his desire and it was then that she made the necessary arrangements and sent for him.

He arrived in Petaluma from his homeland when he was eighteen years old in the year of 1928 and after a pleasant visit with his aunt whom he was very grateful to for having given him the opportunity to come to America, he proceeded to find employment on a dairy ranch. His first employment was on the Steffenoni Ranch located near Penngrove where he remained for two years. Upon leaving the Steffenoni Ranch he next took employment on the A. D. Corda Ranch located in Hicks Valley where he worked steadily for a period of four years. At the end of four years as an employee of Mr. Corda in the capacity as a dairy worker, Guido then worked on other dairies for a period of one year and at the end of that time foresook the dairy business for another line of endeavor.

Having worked for wages since coming to America which was seven years, and in that period of time it might be stated wages were relatively low due to the world wide depression, nevertheless Guido by being thrifty had accumulated his earnings to the extent that he had sufficient capital to go into business for himself, and as a result of his agressiveness and confidence in his own ability he then rented a small poultry ranch located in the Two Rock Valley and went into the business of raising chickens.

After being in the poultry business for a period of time and enjoying success in his new venture Guido Albertoni then married. Mrs. Albertoni, his wife, was born in northern Italy and as a child of two and one half years of age came to California from the land of her birth with her parents who located in Petaluma. It was in that city of her adoption that she received her education and grew into womanhood. She and Guido Albertoni were married in that city and from their marriage three children were raised, they being two daughters and a son. Mr. and Mrs. Albertoni after their marriage operated the poultry ranch for a total of six years and at the end of that time had been successful enough to purchase the ranch located on Corona Road where they are at present located and which at the time of purchase consisted of 45 acres of excellent land.

During the time that Guido Albertoni was raising poultry in the Two Rock Valley he not only wanted to be successful in business, he also desired to acquire an education and for that reason after putting in full days on his poultry ranch, attended night school at Petaluma and with further assistance from his wife readily acquired a very good education to the extent if one was unaware that he was born and educated in Switzerland it would be taken for granted in conversing with him that he received his education in our American schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Albertoni after having purchased their Corona Road Ranch produced manufacturing milk until 1946 when they then constructed a new Grade A unit, increased the size of their herd and started producing Grade A milk. In 1947 Guido Albertoni increased the size of his ranch by purchasing an additional 130 acres of land a portion of which joins his 45 acre ranch and part bordering the Ely Road. With the purchase of the 130 acres Mr. Albertoni greatly increased the valuation of his ranch as a dairy and at the present time uses most of the additional land he purchased for the raising of hay and grain.

The Albertoni Dairy Ranch consists of 175 acres of clear, level to slightly rolling land, located within five minutes driving distance of the city of Petaluma. The new Grade A unit is of the tail to tail type holding 16 animals while the feed barn situated adjacent to the milking unit accommodates 31 head. The herd is of mixed breeds consisting of 100 head of which 40 are milk cows and the balance of 60 head are young stock of various ages. Aside from the operating of his dairy Mr. Albertoni also produces around 120 ton of oat and vetch hay and 1000 sacks of grain of which the bulk is oats each year. The peak production of the Albertoni dairy has reached 15 cans per day and since going into the Grade A production all of the milk has been sold to Marin-Dell Company which has been a period of three years.

In concluding the Guido Albertoni history full credit must be given Mr. Albertoni for the great stride he has made toward success in the short time he has been in America. Arriving from his homeland within one year of the time the country became enveloped in a world wide depression, he nevertheless after working seven years for wages, courageously went into business for himself by his leasing of a poultry ranch and with the assistance of his wife operated it with success for six years and at the end of that time purchased his own ranch and proceeded to build himself up in the dairy business. While Mr. Albertoni cannot be considered at the present time a large milk producer he nevertheless is laying the ground work for much greater production than that which he is getting at the present time and barring unforseen reverses his progress will merit watching. Mr. and Mrs. Albertoni are both possessors of fine dispositions and are never too busy to greet their friends with a hearty welcome. Their little family is very devoted to one another and may their progress toward success and their ambitions be unhampered during the years to come.

Simon P. Azevedo Dairy
Fallon – Two Rock Road
Petaluma, Calif

Producer Number 13
Simon Azevedo

The Simon Azevedo Dairy is located ten miles west of the City of Petaluma on what is knows as the Fallon-Two Rock Road. To reach the ranch you drive west from Petaluma on the Bodega Avenue Highway to a point one quarter mile past the little settlement of Two Rock, thence turning to your left on the Fallon road for a distance of about three and one half miles. The ranch buildings are but a short distance from the paved highway while the ranch property lies partly in Sonoma County and partly in Marin County, the dividing point between the two counties being located at the driveway entrance to the Azevedo dairy. The family home an imposing two story structure, is located on a knoll well-protected by a tall eucalyptus grove. The architecture being of the type commonly used at the turn of the century on the better farms in northern Marin and southern Sonoma Counties during that period. The ranch terrain is of a rolling nature affording good drainage and providing a long pasture season, being close enough to the coast to benefit by night fogs yet far enough inland to have the warm sunshine during the day.

Simon Azevedo was born on the Island of St. George in the Azores being the only son in a family of three children. At the age of nine years Mr. Azevedo suffered the greatest loss any young boy at that age could have befall him, the loss was the death of his mother. When Simon, as Mr. Azevedo is known to his friends, reached the age of 12 he had already heard of California, and when the opportunity arose that he might come to America, Simon lost no time in making preparations to leave his homeland.

Upon reaching the United States Simon landed at Boston and came directly to California, arriving at the ranch of his aunt and uncle located at San Pablo in Contra Costa County. After staying with his aunt and uncle at San Pablo for six months, young Simon Azevedo moved to San Rafael locating on the Miller Ranch then being operated by his uncle Anthony Silveria. Mr. Silveria was very fond of young Simon who even then was only 13 years old, and although having to do certain chores morning and evening was sent to school. Simon attended the Dixie School which is still located on the Miller Ranch by the bank of Miller Creek. Simon Azevedo having gone to school in his native land soon grasped the fundamentals of American schooling and in three years completed his elementary education.

Soon after completing his education at the age of fifteen, Simon went to work in earnest, obtaining employment on the Hoataling Dairy ranch then being operated by Mr. Herzog of San Rafael. After spending one season on the Hoataling Dairy Simon again returned to his uncle's ranch at San Pablo and worked one season there. Simon still a boy in his teens then moved to Butte County, locating at Gridley where he spent his next seven and one half years working on dairies. From Gridley he next obtained employment at Newman for two seasons and then returned to the ranch of his uncle Anthony Silveria at San Rafael. After a short stay at the Miller Ranch, Simon's thoughts turned toward his homeland and in 1929 he made a trip back to the alnd of his birth visiting nine months with his father and sisters.

Upon his return to California he again worked on the Miller ranch for Mr. Silveria, later milking for one season on the McNear Dairy at San Rafael.

Simon then made application for employment with the Marin-Dell Company and having in the many years he worked on dairies established an untarnished record for strict applications to his duties was immediately employed as a highway truck driver hauling milk from the dairy ranches to the company plant.

Mrs. Azevedo, Simon's wife, was born on the Dillon Beach Dairy at Tomales, Marin County, and at the age of ten months her parents moved to Novato where she was reared, receiving her education there and in San Rafael, growing into womanhood in that community. Mrs. Azevedo's father, the late M. A. Nunes, was one of the outstanding dairymen of Marin County.

Mr. and Mrs. Azevedo were married at Novato and from the marriage three children were born, two daughters and a son. Simon Azevedo stayed in the employment of the Marin-Dell Company for seven and one half years at which time he and his family resided in San Francisco.

Upon the death of Mrs. Azevedo's mother in 1940, Simon Azevedo submitted his resignation to the Marin-Dell Company and he and Mrs. Azevedo with their children returned to Novato to the Nunes Ranch. Mrs. Azevedo feeling that due to her father's advanced age and being the only daughter her father needed her care in his declining years. For six and one half years the Azevedo family lived with Mrs. Azevedo's father, Simon working at the dairy business for his father-in-law, Mrs. Azevedo bestowing every care and devotion upon her ailing father.

A short time after the death of Mrs. Azevedo's father in August of 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Azevedo purchased the ranch in Two Rock Valley on which they now reside.

Looking back and reflecting on the active life of Simon Azevedo, now a man approaching middle age, one can not help but admire his courage and ability to succeed, he being truly a self-made man. Having lost his mother at nine years of age, coming to America at twelve, self-reliant as a boy, gaining an elementary education while working, and at the age of fifteen taking a man's place in the world at as rugged an occupation to be found in any agricultural pursuit, that of dairying, and with it all down through the years of Simon Azevedo's life, today he stands out amoung his fellowmen strong of character with a sympathetic understanding to those less fortunate in the world, sincere and honest, asking no quarter of anyone and willing to assist toward any worthy cause. Simon Azevedo in his journey through life has acquired certain aspects far greater than could ever be gained from great wealth. To intimately know the man is to admire him with profound respect. Mrs. Azevedo like her husband possesses fine characteristic strength, kind, sincere, with great understanding. The three Azevedo children are also a perfect portrayal of the atmosphere and environment in which they have been raised, soft spoken, quiet and well-mannered with a beautiful devotion to their parents.

The Azevedo ranch consists of 180 acres of fine grazing land. The milk barn is of the head to head type holding 40 animals. The total number of stock run at present is 75 head of which 46 are milk cows, the balance 29 head of young stock of various ages. Mr. Azevedo's herd is composed of a mixed breed which in the short time he has been in business is quite well-regulated. Mr. Azevedo buys all the feed required for his stock with the exception of some volunteer hay which he raises. The peak production has reached 15 cans per day, and since starting to produce Grade A milk which has been about two and one half years all of it has been sold to Marin-Dell Company.

A. Moreda Dairy.
Chileno Valley Road,
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 15
Antone Moreda Dairy.

The Antone Moreda Dairy is located in Chileno Valley eight miles distance from the city of Petaluma. To reach the ranch from Petaluma it is necessary to drive west on the Western Avenue extension highway for two miles where at that distance by turning left you enter the Chileno Valley road and continue for six miles to the Moreda Ranch. The ranch buildings are situated about one half mile from the main highway and you arrive at the dairy by turning right and traversing a privately maintained road at that point.

The property which is known as the Murphy Ranch having been owned by Mr. Murphy a pioneer rancher of that community and upon his retirement rented and operated by Mr. Moreda's late parents for many years can truthfully be classed as one of the best if not the best dairy in the district. While there are several dairies in Chileno Valley which have a larger acreage, nevertheless the type of land on the larger ranches is of less value due to its thick covering of brush and steep hillsides. The Moreda dairy situated on the north side of the highway has several hundred acres of bottom land which provides excellent pasture far into the summer and of which part of this bottom land is also utilized for the growing of hay and it is seldom that the rich land does not produce abundant crops. Beside the bottom land the ranch also has rolling hillsides which provide good drainage in the winter months and is largely used at that time of the year for the maintaining of the stock.

Mr. Moreda with his parents and brothers and sisters located on the Murphy Ranch when a young man and he assisted his parents in the operating of the ranch until the time of their death in 1938. He then assumed the management of the business until the settlement of the family estate at which time he purchased the interests of his brothers and sisters and proceeded to operate it as his personal business. After the death of his parents Mr. Moreda continued to lease the ranch from the widow of Mr. Murphy until 1945 at which time he purchased the property and by so doing became owner of as stated before, one of the finest ranches in Chileno Valley.

Antone Moreda's father like most of the Portugese dairymen of Sonoma and Marin County came to America from his homeland which was the Azore Islands, having been born on the Island of Santa Maria. Having covered the history of both Mr. and Mrs. Moreda, the parents of Antone Moreda in his brother's "The Frank Moreda History", it will not for the reason of duplication be included in this the history of Antone Moreda.

Antone Moreda who is familiarly known to his friends as Tony Moreda was born at Valley Ford in southwestern Sonoma County and at an early age moved with his parents from that community to Nicascio, Marin County, where his parents leased and operated a dairy. It was at Nicascio that Tony received his education at the local district school and grew into maturity. As a young man he assisted his father and brothers in the operating of their dairy, Tony being the second eldest of a family of five brothers and two sisters. After several years of operating their dairy in the Nicascio district his parents then secured a lease on the Murphy Ranch, the ranch which at present is owned and operated by Tony Moreda, and he accompanied them to their new location. Tony stayed with his parents throughout the years that they leased and operated the Murphy Ranch assisting and in the late years of his father's life took over the active management of the dairy.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Moreda were married at San Rafael and from their marriage ten children were raised. Mrs. Moreda, Tony's wife, like her husband also came from a dairy family, she having been a daughter of the late

Mr. and Mrs. John Brazil who were a prominent and successful dairy family of the Novato district. She was born in Lucas Valley at the time her parents leased and operated the Big Rock Ranch and it was in that community that she received her elementary education, later attending high school in San Rafael. After she and Tony Moreda were married she assisted her husband's mother in taking care of the family home and in the last years of the elder Moreda parents lives gave them every care and attention to comfort them in their declining years.

The Tony Moreda family it can be truthfully stated are a very happy family and in some respects unusual. While it was not uncommon in past generations for parents to raise large families the modern trend is for small families and it is quite seldom that you will find a family of ten children, and Mr. and Mrs. Moreda can well be commended for the number of fine healthy children they have raised. It is an inspiring sight to see their children of various ages all gathered together at their parents home.

Besides being an unusually happy family they also can be given great credit and especially the eldest of the children in the interest they take in the dairy business. Unlike children of some dairymen who forsake farm life for some other line of endeavor the Moreda children actively assist their parents in the operating of the dairy and those who are old enough are particularly active in 4-H and Future Farmer Club work being unusually successful in the competitive showing of the fine stock they have raised by their winning of numerous blue ribbons. It also might be mentioned that the Moreda children are very adept at the art of horseback riding and it is not uncommon to see the youngest of the children riding horses around the fields with as complete a sense of security as the average child of their age would have in pushing a kiddy-car around its parents kitchen, and while the sight is breath taking the only deductions that can be made are that the young Moreda fledglings are not average children. The eldest of the children also besides assisting their parents and raising and showing fine Holstein animals also have a winter hobby in the running of hounds, and after their days chores are completed with the weather permitting they go on coon hunts, seldom returning without at least one of the varmints in their possession to signify their prowess as game hunters. However their inclination to hunt undoubtedly is inherent in that both their parents are particularly fond of deer hunting and their mother is noted for her marksmanship, very often being the first one of the family to bring down a deer the opening day of the season.

Since leaving Nicascio and moving to Chileno Valley with his parents Tony Moreda has spent a total of thirty years residing on the Murphy Ranch and of that number of years twenty-two of them have been spent in the capacity of active manager and owner of the large dairy. In that period of years Tony Moreda has worked hard and by strict application to business coupled with good management has been very successful to the point that as stated before he purchased the ranch property in 1945. Mr. Moreda for a number of years has been improving the strain of his animals and at the present time can boast of a herd that will favorably compare with the best herds of the county.

The ranch property consists of 620 acres of land and has a milking barn of the head to head type holding 24 cows. The feed barn which is adjacent to the milking barn accommodates 68 head. The Moreda herd is made up of the Holstein and Guernsey breed with the Holstein in the majority, while the size of the herd is 200 head. Of this number 140 are milk cows and the balance of 60 head are young stock of various ages. They also rent some acreage at Novato which is utilized in the pasturing of beef cattle and aim to keep 40 head of that breed of animal. Besides the operating of their dairy they also grow part of their hay which gen-

erally averages around 175 ton per year. Mr. Moreda has been shipping all of his milk to the Marin-Dell Company for over a period of ten years and both the Company and the producer have enjoyed the finest of business relationship over that long period of time. Mr. Moreda has produced during his peak season up to 49 cans per day and while his herd is not entirely regulated one hundred per cent it has improved regularly each year and it is reasonable to believe in the near future the flucuation throughout the year will be very slight.

In concluding the Tony Moreda history may it be said in all due respect to both Mr. and Mrs. Moreda that they have both worked hard, have raised an especially fine large family and by their success have become owners of a very large ranch. May they retain their good health for many years to come that they may be able to see all their children grow to maturity and take their rightful places in the community in which they were raised and may the sons follow in their parents footsteps that they also may be successful dairymen for generations to come.

Gilbert Kilpatrick Dairy
San Antonio Dist.
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 29.
Gilbert Kilpatrick.

The Gilbert Kilpatrick Daity is located six miles south of the city of Petaluma in what is known as the San Antonio District. To reach the ranch it is necessary to drive south from Petaluma on U. S. Highway 101 to the San Antonio Creek bridge where at that point by turning left you enter the dairy ranch property operated by Mr. Kilpatrick. Upon leaving the main highway one is required to travel over a privately maintained road for three-fourths of a mile before arriving at the ranch buildings. The drive over the private roadway however, is of a very pleasing nature due to the beauty of the scenery afforded the visitor by reason of the roadway running parallel to the San Antonio Creek for about half the distance with its various kinds of growth some of which are silver maple, willow, and oak trees. Upon leaving the winding creek the balance of the distance is over open land of a rolling nature with the broad level Petaluma River marsh lands to the east. Upon arriving at the ranch buildings one cannot help but be impressed by the manner in which the property is maintained. While Mr. Kilpatrick does not own the ranch and is operating it by lease from its owners it is without exaggeration to say that with few exceptions are there any dairies in the community that are maintained in a more meticulous manner than that of Gilbert Kilpatrick be they rentors or owners of the property. The ranch buildings consist of large hay storage barns, Grade A unit and numerous storage sheds for equipment as well as the family home. While Mr. Kilpatrick does not own the ranch as already stated, he has for 13 years leased it from the Corda Brothers, well known dairy operators of the Hicks Valley District and the relationship between him and the owners over the entire period of time has been of such a fine nature that both Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick look upon the ranch in the same manner as if it were their own and maintain it accordingly.

Gilbert Kilpatrick was born in the County of Armagh, Ireland, in the year 1900 and it was in the land of his birth that he received his education and grew into manhood. His parents followed agricultural pursuits in their native land and raised a family of eight children, they being three sons and five daughters. Gilbert, after completing his schooling which consisted of eight grades, assisted his parents on their farm until he was 22 years old.

Upon reaching that age and realizing the opportunities in Ireland were limited he decided to try his luck in America and as a result of that decision as said before at the age of 22 in the year 1922 he left the Old Sod for New York, and it can be truthfully stated that at the present time, 27 years after he left his homeland, what was the Emerald Isle's loss was America's and Marin County's gain, for in Mr. Kilpatrick one finds a man of very fine character, an upright loyal citizen, whom it is a privilege to know and a pleasure to do business with.

After arriving in New York Gilbert came direct to Denver where he stayed for one week visiting old acquaintances then residing in the mile high city. Upon terminating his visit there he then came to San Francisco and from there direct to Novato, Marin County. Upon arriving at Novato he was met by a cousin whose name was also Kilpatrick and who with a Mr. Hill leased and operated the well known "C" Ranch located in that community and owned by the M. T. Freitas Estate.

Gilbert worked for a total of three years for Hill and Kilpatrick on the "C" Ranch and at the end of that time terminated his services and took employment on the Santa Marguerita Ranch located in Lucas Valley and operated at that time by Tom Cummings. After working for Mr. Cummings for one year Mr. Kilpatrick then married.

Mrs. Kilpatrick, Gilbert's wife, was born at Pt. Reyes, Marin County and it was in that community that she received her education and grew into womanhood. Her father, the late James McClure was one of the most successful dairymen of that area and at the present time the family have large holdings on Pierce Point in the form of dairy ranches. She was one of a family of ten children. From their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick have raised two children, they being a daughter and son. The daughter received her education at the Petaluma schools and upon graduating from high school has been employed in San Francisco in a secretarial capacity. The son assists his father in the operating of his dairy and attends Petaluma High School

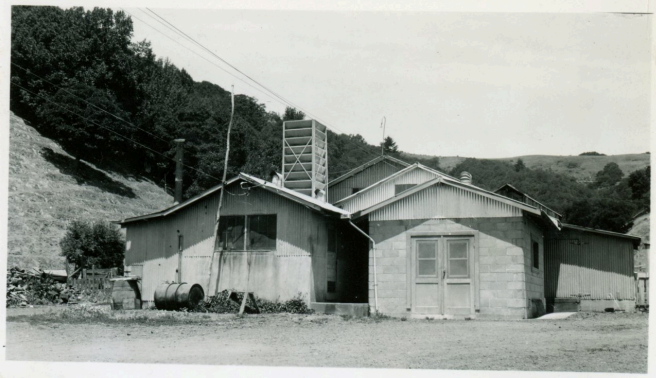
After working on the Cumming's Ranch for a period of six years Mr. Kilpatrick then became associated with Mr. F. P. Grady in a co-partnership basis in the operating of the Grady Dairy located in Lucas Valley. Gilbert then operated the Grady Dairy for five years and at the end of that time terminated the partnership, and it was then that he, accompanied by his family, moved to the ranch they operate at the present time located at San Antonio.

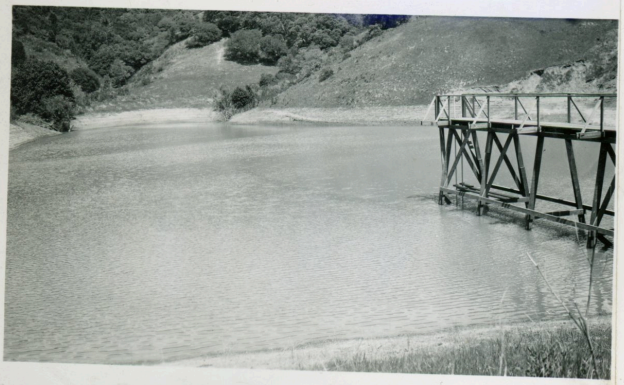
The Kilpatrick Dairy consists of 800 acres of land which is utilized for the most part as pasture, however there is some of the land farmed for the raising of oat hay. The herd consists of 225 head of animals of the Guernsey breed and of these 150 head are milking cows and the balance of 75 head are young stock of various ages. The milking shed is of the head to head type accommodating 50 animals and in an adjacent building there is hospital quarters for fifteen head. The hay feeding is done in racks situated in convenient locations near the dairy buildings.

In concluding the history of Gilbert Kilpatrick may it be stated that he at the age of 22 years left his native Ireland coming to America and going to work for a cousin of his at Novato. After working for wages on two dairies for nine years Mr. Kilpatrick then went into business with F. P. Grady for five years on the latter's ranch near San Rafael. At the end of that time he then leased the dairy he is on at the present time from the Corda Brothers and which ranch he has been operating for 13 years.

Mr. Kilpatrick has been in America for a total of 27 years of which 18 of these years has seen him in business for himself. His first venture in business was in 1931 and from then until 1936 he operated on a partnership basis. From 1936 until the present time he has been sole owner of his business. Considering the first years he was in business which were economically the poorest since the turn of the century, one cannot help but admire the aggressiveness and ability shown by Mr. Kilpatrick in the success he has achieved up to the present time. He has not only prospered financially but also has developed one of the finest Guernsey herds in northern California, having a herd average test of over 440 lbs. of milk fat. There are two reasons why Mr. Kilpatrick has prospered so well during the time he has been in business, one is that he is a hard worker and a straight thinker and the other is that he is an excellent manager and attends strictly to business. He maintains a complete record of all his animals and feeds according to production, and in respect to feeds, has his own formula, buying the ingredients and doing the mixing of the feeds himself. In regards to business dealings he has a great sense of righteousness and asks for nothing more than what is fair from anyone. Having been producing market milk for a long period of time the flucuation in production throughout the year is very slight and the milk is recognized for its high quality. The peak production has reached 45 cans per day and Mr. Kilpatrick has been selling all of the milk produced on his ranch to Marin-Dell Company since he has been in business, and during that period of time the relationship existing between him and the Company has been of the most pleasing and satisfactory nature. May it be decreed that both he and Mrs. Kilpatrick enjoy good health and continued success for many years to come.

Chas. Barboni and Son Dairy.
Petaluma, Calif.





Producer Number 30
Charles Barboni and Son.

The Chas. Barboni ranch is located nine and one half miles from the city of Petaluma on the Hicks Valley, Marshall Road. To reach the Barboni Ranch from Petaluma it is necessary to travel over the Petaluma - Pt. Reyes Highway eight miles to the intersection of the Hicks Valley Marshall Road where by turning right on the Marshall Road for about one mile you enter the vast holdings of the Chas. Barboni and Son Dairy Ranch. While the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Barboni is located a short distance from the paved highway it is necessary to travel about one mile before reaching the farm buildings and the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Barboni, son and daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Barboni who actively operates the dairy business on a partnership basis with their parents.

The contour of the land on the Chas. Barboni ranch, which comprises slightly over nineteen hundred acres, varies from broad valleys growing rich succulent grasses to clear and semi-wooded hillsides which afford both pasture as well as shade and protection for the live stock. In traveling through the property which constitutes the Chas. Barboni and Son Dairy one cannot help being impressed by the magnitude and natural beauty of the surroundings. This natural beauty is most always enhanced in the minds of visitors by the presence of wild deer standing close by or browsing near the roadway seemingly oblivious to the presence of strangers, as the Barboni family protect these animals of grace and beauty and by so doing are fully rewarded for their efforts by the pleasure derived by those who are fortunate enough to see the animals in their natural habitat.

Five years after the discovery of gold in California there was born in the village of Santantonino, Canton Ticino, Switzerland to parents of modest means a son. The parents whose name was Barboni named their young son Costantino and all went well with this happy family until Costantino reached the age of six years when sorrow befell them in the death of his father. After the death of his father Costantino with his two brothers and two sisters assisted their mother in the operating of their small dairy and as the years passed the children of the widowed mother grew to maturity.

Upon reaching a certain age the laws of Switzerland require that the youth of the country spend a stipulated amount of time for the purpose of acquiring a certain amount of military training and it may be said by some this compulsory training is very disdainful. However in the case of Costantino Barboni it was quite the opposite and it was with great anticipation that he awaited the day to arrive that he would be eligible from an age standpoint to enter the military services of his country.

When the proper time arrived that young Costantino undergo his training it was with bitter disappointment that he learned of his rejection due to his inability to meet the requirements of height. It was then that he made a major decision in respect to his future life in that if he was unable to serve in the Swiss Army because of lack of height he was nevertheless a man of determination and ability and as such would come to America. It was with this determination that at the age of twenty-three years Costantino Barboni booked passage for New York in the year 1876.

Soon after landing in New York young Mr. Barboni left for California arriving in San Francisco and so it was without pre-arranged planning or benefit of relatives this young man with indomitable courage started a

new life for himself in a strange land with little more than sheer determination and a will to succeed. This man was the father of Chas. and the grandfather of Billie Barboni.

After spending a few days in San Francisco and making inquiries from people of his own nationality as to where he might find employment Costantino Barboni left the City by the Golden Gate for the Bloom Ranch at Olema, Marin County. Upon his arrival at the Bloom Ranch the young man experienced his first disappointment in the new world. Upon leaving San Francisco he was confident he would find employment at Olema, however upon arrival there he was informed the vacancy had been filled. While the people of the ranch were considerate of the young man, suggesting he stay with them for a while, Costantino was anxious to find employment and so decided to move on. From Olema he walked north along the dusty road skirting the shore of Tomales Bay finally arriving tired and leg weary at the Louis Fillippini Ranch located at Marshall, Marin County. Here again he was subject to disappointment, in that there was no opportunity to gain employment and due to the long trip from his homeland to America his physical condition had become weakened and as a result he became gravely ill with a severe cold.

The good people of the Fillippini Ranch realizing his condition and the severity of the cold he had contracted, gave him every care and in due time he had completely recovered from his illness.

Undismayed and greatly appreciative of the kindness shown him at the Fillippini Ranch young Mr. Barboni again took to the road in quest of employment. Walking the Salmon Creek Canyon Road his next stop was at the Canepa Ranch located at the western entrance to Hicks Valley, where again he met with disappointment. May it be stated at this point in the Barboni History however that coincidental with the fact that Costantino Barboni, while he was unable to find employment on this large dairy, did in later years raise a son whose name was Joseph and who became sole owner and operator of this same ranch, and ironically at the present time this ranch is owned and operated by his grandchildren under the name of the Barboni Estate Dairy.

From the Canepa Ranch Costantino then made his way to the City of Petaluma where he made inquiries for dairy ranch employment and was informed of a possibility of being hired at the Sartori Ranch located in Two Rock Valley. Upon hearing of this and with renewed determination he made his way to the Sartori Ranch only to be advised upon his arrival the opening was not for a dairy worker but for a cook. Reluctant as he was to accept this type of work circumstances necessitated he become employed, and so it was after many miles of walking and disheartening effort on the part of this young man he became employed for the first time since his arrival in America. In later years Mr. Barboni related how it was necessary for him to arise at four o'clock in the morning to start preparing the breakfast meal.

While his responsibility was only to prepare the meals for the ranch workers young Costantino was energetic and when not occupied doing the cooking he busied himself about the ranch, and it soon became known in the neighborhood that he was a willing worker. As a result of his willingness to work Mr. Peter Garzoli whose dairy was located on the Tomales Two Rock Road offered Costantino employment on his ranch as a milker and his tenure as a ranch cook was of a very short duration. It required young Mr. Barboni only a short time after being employed by Mr. Garzoli to prove that he had exceptional ability in the handling of dairy cattle and from that time on until he went into business for himself it was never necessary for Costantino Barboni to worry about employment again.

After spending a season on the Peter Garzoli Ranch, young Barboni then became employed on the Victor Sartori Dairy at Fort Ross in Northern Sonoma County. This particular dairy at the present time is being operated by Mr. Alex Pedotti. As a result of the faithful performance of his duties on the Sartori Ranch at the end of the milking season he was approached by the then operating management of what is now known as the Del Mar Ranch farther up the coast. While young Mr. Barboni was reluctant to leave the services of Mr. Sartori the increase in wages offered him was a dominant factor, for here was a young man with ambitions to some day become owner and operator of a dairy business of his own. Realizing the young man's desire to forge ahead, Victor Sartori although well aware he was losing a top man wished young Barboni success and for another season Costantino put in long days of faithful service as a dairy hand for his new employer.

At the end of his first milking season on the ranch now known as the Del Mar property, young Costantino realized that for him to be successful in America, it was necessary to not only understand the dairy business but also to be able to speak the English language. For the length of time he had been in America his progress in mastering the language had been slow primarily due to the fact his associates in the dairy business were inclined to speak to him in his native tongue thus denying him the opportunity to pick up the language of the new world.

Determined not to be denied his desire to master the language Costantino again as he had done many times before without hesitancy arrived at a decision within his mind. Leaving the dairy ranch he went to the town of Pt. Arena and in a short time found employment in a brewery. As he was one of the first Swissmen to locate in Pt. Arena and being without the companionship of fellow countrymen it became wholly necessary for him to converse as best he could in English and with a keen sense of understanding and diligent aptitude it was but a short time until he had overcome the handicap of being unable to understand the language. While working in a brewery was not entirely to his liking he nevertheless was intent on still furthering his knowledge to converse in English and as a result of this desire when the opportunity presented itself he left the brewery and took employment in the lumber business.

After spending a considerable length of time working in the lumber business and feeling he had mastered the fundamentals of the English language Costantino again turned to his first love and returned to the dairy business taking employment on what is now known as the Tony Stornetta Ranch located at Pt. Arena.

During all the years Costantino Barboni had worked in America his constant thought was to some day own his own dairy business and as such although wages at the time were small he managed consistently to lay aside part of his earnings for the day when the opportunity would arise to realize his ambition. After taking employment and completing the milking season on the dairy that is now known as the Tony Stornetta Ranch, the opportunity which Mr. Barboni long dreamed of presented itself. In the Pt. Arena area as it had happened in other localities where Barboni had worked, his reputation as an energetic trustworthy man soon became known. It was then that a man whose name was Holiday desiring a partner in the operating of his business known as the Light House Ranch approached Mr. Barboni to go into business with him and after due consideration details were worked out and a partnership formed between these two men that lasted for many years. Costantino Barboni's dream had materialized, he was in business for himself.

Soon after forming the partnership with Mr. Holiday in the operating of the dairy business on the Light House Ranch, Mr. Barboni mar-

ried. Mrs. Barboni, his wife, was born in Switzerland receiving her education there and growing into womanhood in the Village of her birth which was Camorino, located in the Canton Ticino. As a young woman she came to America arriving in San Francisco when she was twenty years of age. It was in that city that she and Costantino Barboni were married. Mrs. Barboni accompanied her husband to Pt. Arena and from the marriage three children were born, two sons and one daughter. Mrs. Barboni assisted her husband in the operating of the dairy business whenever possible as well as raising and caring for her family.

After seventeen years of continuous operating of the Light House Ranch, the ranch on which their children were born and spent their childhood days, Mr. and Mrs. Barboni after long deliberation decided to dispose of their interest in the dairy business and by arriving at this decision dissolved a partnership of long standing. After disposing of their interest in the dairy business it was with surprise and regret that the many friends of the Barboni family in and around Pt. Arena learned that they were not only leaving the Pt. Arena community but were leaving California for the land of their birth, Switzerland. Both Mr. and Mrs. Barboni having left their homeland in early youth and by sheer determination and courage and with assistance from no one had overcome countless obstacles to attain modest success in the new world and with assured security in their possession as measured by old world economics felt confident that by returning to their homeland with their three children their future life would be one of peacefulness and contentment. It was with this thought in mind that Mr. and Mrs. Barboni accompanied by their children left Pt. Arena and returned to their native Switzerland.

After returning to their homeland Mr. and Mrs. Barboni were very happy, they were again in the land where they spent their childhood days and among their relatives, friendships were renewed and for a few years contentment prevailed. However as time went on Mrs. Barboni sensed a feeling of restlessness in her husband. Conversations starting on certain subjects ultimately ended in some incident that happened in their lives while in California. Costantino Barboni still a man of middle age and in perfect health would spend long hours pondering, meditating within himself, the peace and contentment he sought for in his native land was lacking.

Mrs. Barboni realizing her husband was not contented wisely started discussions with him which surrounded the welfare of their children. Switzerland was home to them but what about their children, they were born in America and was it right to deny them the opportunity to carve a future for themselves in the land of their birth? Opportunities were not available in Switzerland such as were to be found in America. It required only limited conversation along these lines and Costantino Barboni again arrived at a decision, he would return to California again to Sonoma County, re-establish himself and send for his family. Four years from the time Costantino Barboni had left Pt. Arena for his homeland he was bidding his loved ones good-bye to return to the land that unknowingly to him had captured his heart. The country he was determined to have his children be a part of.

Upon his return to America Mr. Barboni again located in Sonoma County and after looking around acquired a small ranch at Petaluma. After having become fully located he then sent word to his family to return to America and soon the happy family were again re-united. After living two years on his small ranch at Petaluma, Mr. Barboni leased what was then known as the Nissen Ranch located on the Red Hill Road, and it was there that he and his family successfully operated that ranch as a dairy for a period of six years.

At the end of six years operating the Nissen Ranch the Barboni Dairy business had expanded in size to the point where it was necessary to secure a larger ranch. With that condition confronting them Mr. Barboni then moved to the Lewis Ranch located in the Chileno Valley district. This ranch consisted of over two thousand acres of land and proved very desirable for the accommodating of the large Barboni herd. After becoming settled on the Lewis Ranch Mr. Barboni turned the active operating of the ranch over to his two sons assisting them only in an advisory capacity. It was while the Barboni Bros. were operating the Lewis Ranch that a group of dairymen associated themselves together for the purpose of starting a creamery and Joseph and Charles Barboni, the sons of Costantino Barboni, affiliated themselves with this group of fellow dairymen and contributed five hundred dollars toward the original organizing of what is now known as the Petaluma Co-Operative Creamery.

At the end of two years of successfully operating their dairy on the Lewis Ranch circumstances beyond their control forced them to discontinue the running of that dairy in that the property was sold necessitating Costantino Barboni and his sons to dispose of the business. After selling their dairy business the two sons of Costantino Barboni each went his own respective way and Mr. and Mrs. Barboni who were by then past middle age went into retirement.

As the years went by after their retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Barboni enjoyed life to the fullest, both living far longer than the average span of life. In their declining years they were given devoted care and attention by their children and they were extremely happy until sorrow entered their lives in the unexpected death of their son Joseph. This sorrow they both carried to their graves, Mr. Barboni passing on in 1934 at the age of ninety years, and Mrs. Barboni following her husband in death at the age of eighty years in 1945.

In the passing on of Costantino Barboni one cannot help but reflect back on the character of this little man who because of lack of height was denied in his youth the privilege of serving his country which he so earnestly desired to do. Of his coming to America and his difficulty at first in finding employment and with unshaked pride accepting the menial task of ranch cook and with determination to succeed, proved to his fellow countrymen his worthiness to the point where he was sought out and taken into partnership, and the fulfilling of the trust placed in him for seventeen years. In his realization upon returning to his homeland that he was denying his children the very opportunities he so determinedly sought in his youth himself. In his returning to America with his family and the success that was theirs in later years. To this man may it be said that his children and grandchildren may look with pride upon his character and achievements to the end that for generations to come may they pass on to American Society their proportionate share of the fineness that was in the make up of their forebear Costantino Barboni.

Upon dissolution of the partnership in the operating of the dairy business on the Lewis Ranch and known as the Barboni Bros., Chas. Barboni then still a very young man, but with a thorough knowledge of dairy management leased what was known as the Arnold Martin Ranch located in Chileno Valley. After two years of successful operation of the Martin Ranch, Charles then secured a lease on the Lichau Ranch located at Penngrove, Sonoma County. Chas. Barboni moved on to the Lichau Ranch in the fall of 1915 and after three years of operating that ranch claimed as his bride a daughter of one of the pioneer dairymen of southern Sonoma County, and by so doing united by marriage two prominent Swiss American families of the community.

Mrs. Barboni, Charles' wife, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Soldate and was one of a family of eight children, having two brothers and five sisters. The location of the Soldate Ranch is eight miles west of the city of Petaluma in what is known as the Two Rock Valley. It was on this ranch that Mrs. Barboni was born and raised, attending the district school. Upon completion of her elementary education she then received her academic education at the Petaluma High School. Upon graduating from the Petaluma High School she then further completed her education by attending finishing school at Santa Rosa.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Barboni continued to operate the Lichau Ranch and it was while they were on this ranch that their two children were born, a son and daughter. Six years after their marriage the Barboni family much to the regret of their many friends in the Penngrove District disposed of their holdings on the Lichau Ranch.

After selling their business at Penngrove Mr. and Mrs. Barboni with their children then moved to Modesto, California, locating there in 1924. After spending a year in the dairy business at Modesto, although very successful in that locality, the Barboni family due to the intense summer heat decided to return to the coast section and so in 1925 they were welcomed back by their many friends in Sonoma and Marin Counties.

After returning to Sonoma County the Barboni family next located on the Silva Ranch situated on the Two Rock, Tomales Road. After two years of operating the Silva ranch great sorrow unexpectedly cast its shadow over the lives of the Barboni Family in the death of Chas Barboni' brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni within a short time of each other.

Upon the deaths of Joseph Barboni and his wife it became necessary for the Superior Court of Marin County to appoint a guardian and executor to look after and protect the interests of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni's minor children and their large estate. After careful consideration the presiding judge of the county requested and appointed Chas. Barboni to assume the responsibility of looking after the welfare and management of the business affairs for the children of his deceased brother and sister-in-law, knowing he was well qualified due to his many years of experience in dairy management.

Due to the enormity of the responsibilities involved in the management of his brother's estate it soon became apparent to both Chas. Barboni and the Court that Mr. Barboni's full time would be required in the running of the business and as such at the suggestion and authorization of the Court a new home was built on the property of the estate, and upon completion Chas. Barboni disposed of his business on the Silva Ranch at Two Rock and he and his family moved on to his late brother's ranch to assume direct management of its affairs in the interest of his nieces and nephews and known as the Barboni Estate.

After several years of managing the Barboni Estate it became known to Chas. Barboni that the adjacent ranch to the estate was for sale, and upon verification of this information and the amount of capitol required in handling the transaction, Chas. Barboni petitioned the court for permission to purchase the property for the estate in the interests of his nieces and nephews. After careful investigation by the court of the property involved, Mr. Barboni was advised that due to the economic condition of the country, the year being 1933, the court could not conscientiously grant his petition to purchase the property for the

estate, explaining to Mr. Barboni that both the court and himself were directly responsible to exercise full precaution in handling the Estate's money to the end that when his deceased brother's children reached their maturity their business and property would be fully intact and as such and in view of the fact of the magnitude of the depression and the uncertainty of how long it would last it would be unwise to risk expansion of the estate's business due to the responsibility he was being held to in respect to the welfare of his nieces and nephews.

The court did however advise Mr. Barboni that if he felt that the ranch property which was being offered for sale was in his mind that good of an investment he was perfectly at liberty to purchase it in his own right providing no funds of the estate were involved. After considerable thought and fully realizing he could not obtain sanction of the court to purchase the property for the estate and feeling under the conditions he had not faltered in his responsibilities to the estate, he and Mrs. Barboni after due and careful consideration decided to purchase the property for themselves still feeling it was an excellent investment. As a result of the purchasing of the property the Chas. Barboni family acquired a fine ranch which is at the time of this writing sixteen years later being operated by Mr. Barboni and his son, and proving the foresight Chas. Barboni had in the years of depression that the economic conditions would right themselves, which they subsequently did.

From the time the Barboni family moved from the Silva Ranch to the Hicks Valley district and by so doing enabled Mr. Barboni to administer an efficient managership of his deceased brother's business in the interest of his brother's children eighteen years passed before all the nieces and nephews became of age. In all of those eighteen years Chas. Barboni did conscientiously and diligently administer to the best of his ability the responsibilities that were his in the performance of the duties invested in him as custodian of the welfare and financial interests of his brother's orphaned children, fulfilling his obligations dignified and honorably to the end that his record speaks for itself. Speaks for itself in that after over a score of years the children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barboni now having all reached their maturity, some being married with families of their own command the admiration and respect of all who are fortunate enough to share their acquaintanceship, a truly remarkable dignified family of young men and women and who although still young as measured by years have already contributed far more than their share toward the betterment and advancement of society.

Still further proof and justification that the performance of Chas. Barboni's obligations toward his nieces and nephews as their guardian was of the highest character is the admiration portrayed by them toward their uncle in that it is still not unusual in cases pertaining to important decisions for them to counsel him and in turn for him to advise them to the best of his ability as he did at the time when he was responsible for their welfare.

After the purchase by Mr. and Mrs. Barboni of the ranch adjacent to his brother's estate and which ranch was then known as the Haningan Ranch, they proceeded to operate it for a number of years on a partnership basis, having as their partners acquaintances of long standing. After termination of the partnership which was by mutual agreement, Mr. Barboni then assumed the managership and operating of his large ranch personally, he then being in a position to devote his entire time having been relieved of the responsibility of looking after the affairs of his late brother's estate.

As stated before the son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barboni were born while their parents were operating the Lichau Ranch near Penngrove, later moving to Hicks Valley where they spent their childhood days, attending and completing their elementary education at the local district school. Upon finishing grammar school they both then attended and graduated from the Petaluma High School. Their daughter is now married and she and her husband reside at Novato and are the proud parents of a baby son.

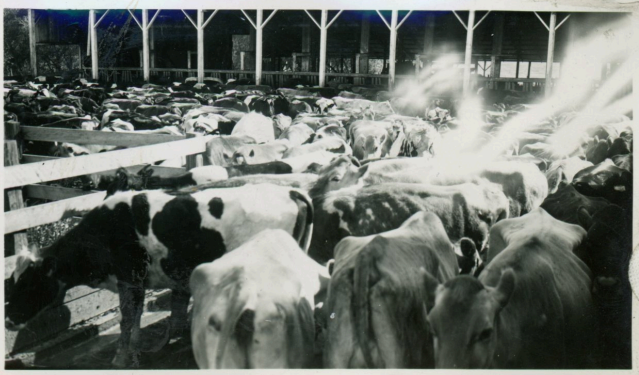
Upon completion of his High School education, Mr. and Mrs. Barboni's son whose name is William, but is known to his friends as Billie, associated himself in the dairy business with his father and the business is now being successfully operated as Chas. Barboni and Son. Billie Barboni is thoroughly versed in the operating of their large dairy, he actively participating in the management while his father assists in an advisory capacity and may it be said both father and son working harmoniously together for the best interest of all concerned are an outstanding example of deriving mutual achievement in an atmosphere of congeniality.

Billie Barboni is also married and he and his wife are the proud parents of twin babies, a son and daughter. Mrs. Billie Barboni was born and raised at San Francisco, receiving her elementary, academic, and finishing school education in the city of her birth. Her parents have long been affiliated with the business life of San Francisco and her father is recognized as a man of outstanding success.

As stated before the Chas. Barboni ranch consists of slightly over 1900 acres of land. The barn is of the head to head type accommodating fifty head of animals. The animals are fed in racks which cover a distance of four hundred lineal feet. The total number of stock kept on the ranch is 320 head of which 200 head are milk cows and the balance of 120 are young stock of various ages. Mr. Barboni and his son do not specialize on any one breed but they do however cull very carefully, keeping only high producing animals producing as evenly as possible an all year round production. They recently remodeled their dairy and installed a 750 gallon stainless steel farm holding tank. Mr. Barboni has been shipping all of the milk produced on his dairy to Marin-Dell since the company was organized and also has been a member of the board of directors for the same length of time.

In concluding the Chas. Barboni history may it be said that Mr. Barboni like his father before him has been very successful in the management and operating of the dairy business. He is the possessor of an extremely fine personality and as such has a large acquaintanceship of friends in both business and social circles. He is ever willing to lend his assistance to any worthy cause and is often called upon for advise in business matters by people who have confidence in his judgment. Mr. and Mrs. Barboni still in middle age both enjoy fine health and derive a great amount of pleasure in traveling, having made an extended tour of the European continent in the summer of 1949. One of the greatest pleasures they obtain from life is the happiness they derive from their grandchildren and may this health and happiness be theirs for many years to come.

HENRY NELES DAIRY
STAGE GULCH HIGHWAY
PETALUMA, CALIF.



John T. Silva Dairy
Magnolia Ave. Road
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 44
John T. Silva

The John T. Silva Dairy is located approximately two miles northwest of the city of Petaluma. To reach the dairy it is necessary to drive north on the main highway leading out of the city and at the city limits turn left onto Magnolia Avenue, which thoroughfare will by traveling on, take one to the Silva Ranch. The dairy is situated about one-eighth of a mile from the paved highway and is reached over a privately maintained road. The Silva ranch while it is not large in acreage is very suitable for a small dairy in that about half of the terrain is in the form of bottom land and the balance of a rolling nature providing drainage during winter months and succulent growth in the spring and summer months.

Joseph Silva, John T. Silva's father, was born on the Island of St. George in the Azores in the year 1877, and upon reaching the age of sixteen left his homeland for America, landing in New York in 1893. From New York Mr. Silva came directly to San Francisco and then to Marin County. For several years he worked on various dairies in Marin County and the San Pablo district and then moved to the Santa Clara Valley. After taking up residence in Santa Clara County he operated dairies in that locality for many years and is at the present time retired and continues to make his home in that locality.

John T. Silva for whom this history is being written was born in Santa Clara in the year 1913 and it was there that he spent his childhood days and received his education. After John reached his maturity he assisted his father in the operating of his dairy business until 1932 where at that time he left the Santa Clara Valley and moved to Marin County where he obtained employment on the Joseph C. Pimentel Ranch located in Tennessee Valley near Sausalito. After working for three years on the Tennessee Valley Ranch his employer Mr. Pimentel then moved from that community to the Chas. Silva Ranch near Hamilton Field in Marin County and John continued to remain in the employment of Mr. Pimentel.

During the time John Silva worked on the Silva Ranch at Hamilton Field he married, his wife being the daughter of his employer Mr. Pimentel. Mrs. John Silva was born at the time her parents operated dairies in the Sausalito district, and it was in that community that she spent her childhood days, receiving her education in the Mill Valley Schools. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Silva two children have been born, they being a daughter and son and at the present time are under school age.

Soon after his marriage John Silva purchased a one-half interest in his father-in-law's dairy business and he and Mr. Pimentel proceeded to operate the business on a co-partnership basis for seven years, and at the end of that time then disposed of their business. After selling his dairy business Mr. and Mrs. Silva then moved to Santa Veneita on the northern outskirts of San Rafael where they purchased a home and resided for one year. At the end of a years time John again felt the urge to return to the dairy business and as a result they disposed of their home in Santa Veneita and located at Petaluma on the ranch where they operate their dairy at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Silva and their daughter moved to Petaluma in 1946 and for sometime their ranch was operated as a manufacturing dairy, however in 1947 Mr. Silva started work on a Grade A unit completing the construction early in 1948, having done practically all the work of building the unit himself, and for which he deserves full credit for his ability.

The Silva ranch consists of 26 acres of land and as previously stated while not large in comparison with most dairies is nevertheless a valuable piece of property by reason of its close proximity to the city of Petaluma and the type of terrain being very adaptable for dairying. The Grade A unit

is the walk through type consisting of six stanchions. The Silva's herd is of the Holstein breed, there being a total of 67 head of animals of which 42 head are milking cows and the balance of 25 are young stock of various ages. Mr. Silva, due to the small acreage of his ranch, does no crop farming, purchasing all the feed for his animals and in the short time he has been in the Grade A production has reached a peak of 16 cans of milk per day, and it is only reasonable to believe that in the near future he will greatly increase his present production. All of the milk from the Silva Dairy is sold to Marin-Dell Company and the association between Mr. Silva and the Company is of a very satisfactory nature.

ERNEST SARTORI DAIRY - PETALUMA

Producer Number 59.
Ernest Sartori.

The Ernest Sartori Dairy is located six miles northeast of the city of Petaluma on the western slope of the Sonoma Mountains. The ranch acreage is large and the terrain is of a rolling type affording excellent early pasture as well as a large portion in the lower foothills being utitized for the growing of crops. To reach the ranch it is necessary to drive east from Petaluma on the East Washington Street road to the Old Adobe Road and at that point turn right driving south on the Old Adobe Road to Manor Lane where by turning left and traveling one-half mile and again turning left you enter the ranch properties of the Ernest Sartori Dairy. It might be well to state while describing the route to the Sartori Ranch that Manor Lane converges onto the Old Adobe Road at the site of the Old Adobe Fort, that structure having been erected by General Vallejo in the year 1836 and utilized by the early Californians as a storage base for grains and supplies as well as a blacksmith and repair shop and stronghold against hostile Indians and renegades. In traveling past the famous old landmark to the Sartori Ranch it requires little imagination to visualize the importance of that area in the early days in the settling of the country and it is without exaggeration the route traversed in traveling to the Ernest Sartori Dairy is replete with early California history.

Upon entering the ranch property one travels on a well maintained paved road winding over rolling knolls for over a mile before arriving at the ranch improvements. Upon reaching the buildings the visitor is afforded t he pleasure of viewing a well maintained Grade A dairy consisting of large storage barns and numerous buildings and sheds necessary for the operating of the large dairy as well as a fine modern well built ranch home surrounded by various trees and shrubs which enhance the beauty as well as protect the property from inclement weather. Due to the elevation at the location where the ranch buildings are located it would be a grevious omission if some mention were not made of the view to the west, as well as the north and south by west from the Sartori Ranch, and that view can well be described in simple terms as magnificent taking in the entire Petaluma River valley and far to t he west the coastal hills. In further describing the ranch property it may be stated that it is not only a valuable dairy ranch but also has a great asset in the vast amount of fine spring water available and flowing from the mountain ravines. This water from the Sartori Ranch and neighboring ranches if franchised to the California Water Company by the owners of the property who in return impound it and purify and filter it by maintaining equipment on the Sartori Ranch and from there it is piped to the valley below supplying the city of Petaluma.

Archangelo Sartori, Ernest Sartori's father, was born in Switzerland in the village of Guimaglio located in the Canton Ticino and it was in the village of his birth that young Archangelo spent his boyhood days receiving his education and growing into manhood. His parents were of modest means raising a family of four children, they being three sons and one daughter. While the father of the family followed the occupation of a stone mason in his native country, having constructed many buildings which still stand at the present time as proof of his craftmanship, nevertheless none of his three sons were inclined to follow their father's trade, but instead all three found their way to America and by so doing in years to come became outstanding citizens, as well as influential and successful men in their chosen line of endeavor.

Archangelo Sartori was born in the year 1865 and sixteen years later in 1881 landed in New York from his homeland and from there to San Francisco arriving in that city with the sum of ten dollars in his pocket, that constituting his entire worldly possessions aside from the energy, ability and determination in his own mind to become successful in the new world.

Prior to his coming to America Archangelo's two elder brothers had preceded him to the new world by some years and were already established in bus-

iness at the time of his arrival. From San Francisco young Archangelo came to Petaluma and the Two Rock Valley where he had a cousin in the dairy business by the name of Pete Sartori. After a very brief visit with his cousin he was then taken to the Sonoma County coast where his eldest brother Victor was operating a dairy business on the Rule Ranch near Jenner. Upon his arrival at his brother's ranch and after a short visit between the brothers, Victor naturally making inquiries about his parents and relatives in the homeland, Archangelo was then told by his brother Victor that he had come to a land, that to succeed required hard work and that he would have to take care of himself for his mother would not be around to take care of him, and Mr. Sartori in later years becoming one of the most successful Swiss dairymen in northern California often came over the almost first greeting he received from his elder brother upon arriving to America that he would not have his mother to take care of him.

Young Archangelo Sartori soon proved although he was the youngest of the family that he was well able to take care of himself by setting a pace in his ranch work that even his brother had difficulty to keep up with and in return for his willingness to work hard and long, his brother paid him better than the going wage. During his tenure in America as a dairy hand working for wages, Archangelo Sartori worked on only one ranch that being his brothers and after a period of years of working on the Rule Ranch, Archangelo never found it necessary during his entire life to ever have to work for wages again.

Upon terminating his several years of employment for his brother and during that time saving his money, Archangelo Sartori then went into the dairy business for himself locating on what was known as the Walker Ranch located southwest of the city of Santa Rosa in what is known as the Todd District. After a few years of operating his dairy on the Walker Ranch and getting the business well established, Archangelo then turned his thoughts again to his homeland and leaving his business in charge of a competent party returned to Switzerland for a visit with his relatives.

After a short visit with his family, "that being the first and only visit Mr. Sartori made to the land of his birth during his entire life time", Archangelo again returned to Sonoma County and his dairy business and again continued to expand and prosper to the extent that not too long after his return from his visit to Switzerland he married.

Mrs. Sartori, Archangelo's wife like her husband, was also born in Switzerland in the village of Someo, Canton Ticino, however unlike her husband she left the land of her birth at the tender age of four years accompanying her mother and brothers and sisters to America, her father having left sometime previous to their departure and locating in Arizona and then sending for his family to join him. She was one of a family of five children, having two brothers and two sisters. Upon arriving in Arizona with her mother she resided on a ranch near the city of Prescott, her father having established a ranch business at that location.

After five years of operating his ranch at Prescott, Mrs. Sartori's father disposed of his business and then moved to Sonoma County locating also in the Todd District and strange as it may seem leasing the Walker Ranch, the same ranch that in later years was leased and operated by her husband Archangelo Sartori. Mrs. Sartori was nine years old when her parents located on the Walker Ranch and while they operated that ranch she attended the Todd Elementary School.

At the end of five years of successfully operating their dairy business on the Walker Ranch, Mrs. Sartori's parents then purchased the Overton Ranch located in what is known as the Llano District from Mr. A. P. Overton, he being a well known and prominent business man of Santa Rosa. The ranch consists of 600 acres of land situated three miles west of the city of Sebastopol

on the Sebastopol Santa Rosa Highway and is at the present time known as the LaFranchi Ranch that being the name of Mrs. Sartori's parents.

After her parents Mr. and Mrs. LaFranchi took possession of their new ranch Mrs. Sartori then attended the Wright School and completed her education at a new school situated closer to her parent's ranch and known as the Llano School. Mrs. Sartori continued to reside on her parent's ranch after completing her education until she was twenty-one years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Sartori were married at Santa Rosa in the parish church of St. Rose, the bonds of marriage being given by the late Father Cassin who was beloved and admired by all who knew him. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Archangelo Sartori twelve children were born and raised they being eight daughters and four sons. After their marriage Archangelo Sartori with his bride continued to operate his dairy on the Walker Ranch for a total of ten years from the time he first leased the property and it was while operating that ranch that his eldest children were born.

Upon leaving the Walker Ranch in the Todd District Mr. and Mrs. Sartori with their children then moved to Marin County locating at Reclamation and leasing the 1400 acre Mecham Ranch which they operated successfully for a period of ten years. It was while operating this ranch that the younger of the Sartori children were born and both Mr. and Mrs. Sartori were busy people, he operating the large dairy and Mrs. Sartori caring for her home and the raising of their family. After operating the Mecham Ranch for a period of ten years, Mr. Sartori then declined the offer of a new lease by the owner and in doing so the only remark Mr. Mecham endeavored to make was that he regretted he was unable to induce his tenant to stay realizing it would be imposible to find another tenant for his ranch the likes of Archangelo Sartori.

However upon leaving the Meacham Ranch it was never necessary for Mr. and Mrs. Sartori to operate a dairy business as renters again, for during the time they were operating the Mecham Ranch they purchased the Dickson Ranch in the Sonoma Mountains which is known as the Mt. Hope Ranch and on which ranch their son Ernest operates his dairy at the time of this writing. It was in the year 1906 that Archangelo Sartori purchased his Sonoma Mountain Ranch and while he became owner of several other ranches in later years, the Mt. Hope Ranch can truthfully be considered the Archangelo Sartori Family Home Ranch for it was on this ranch that his children grew up, holding fond memories for them of their youthful days.

Mr. and Mrs. Sartori operated their ranch for a period of fifteen years assisted by the eldest children, and during those many years continuously prospered to the extent that Mr. Sartori,"he being a firm believer of owning land", increased his holdings by reason of purchasing several ranches in the Lakeville District and located not too far from the city of Petaluma. The ranches Mr. Sartori acquired while not as large as his Sonoma Mountain Ranch in respect to acreage were nevertheless fine ranches, they being known as the Stone Ranch, Rielly Ranch, Mitchell Ranch, Tanner Ranch, Carr Ranch, and Davidson Ranch, as well as a dairy ranch located at Shellville, Sonoma County, known as the Potter Ranch consisting of 307 acres of land.

In 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Sartori with their youngest children moved from the Sonoma Mountain Home Ranch to the Davidson Ranch which later became known as the Cream Cup Ranch, and which is operated at the present time by their youngest son Ralph Sartori. Upon leaving their Home Ranch Mr. Sartori leased the ranch and sold his dairy business to two of his sons, namely Ernest second eldest and Victor next to the youngest in age, his eldest son already being in the dairy business near Shellville, Sonoma County. After locating on the Davidson Ranch and later renaming it the Cream Cup, Mr. Sartori proceeded to improve the property building an entire new dairy unit as well as many other improvements to the extent that the Sartori Ranch at Lakeville became one of the finest dairies in that particular area. However, Mr. Sartori not only improved his property he also went further by establishing a Brown Swiss milking

herd that had for its foundation the best parent stock that was obtainable, and from that stock up to the present time selective breeding for type and production have been carefully carried on for thirty years, Mr. Sartori's youngest son continuing to maintain and improve the standard of the herd after the death of his father.

After moving onto the Davidson Ranch, Archangelo Sartori then past middle age took a great pride in the improving and developing of his Brown Swiss herd and it was with great satisfaction that each succeeding year saw his herd production average increase over the previous year. For twenty years Archangelo Sartori operated the well known Cream Cup Ranch with its Brown Swiss and as it is with all men the day comes when their work is done, and so it was with Mr. Sartori, in the year of nineteen hundred and forty his health failed and at the age of seventy-five years he passed on from this earth.

After the death of Mr. Sartori as stated before his youngest son Ralph has carried on with the widely known Sartori Brown Swiss herd, having leased the dairy from his mother, and full credit is due him for his ability and success in continuing to improve the herd that was the pride of his father's heart.

Ernest Sartori, for whom this history is being written, was born at the time his parents operated the Walker Ranch in the Todd District near Santa Rosa. He received his education at the Bliss elementary school located east of the city of Petaluma and adjacent to the Old Adobe Road near the Old Adobe Fort. Ernest from the time he was able to walk has been around dairy cattle, he having assisted his parents in the operating of their dairy ranches until he was 21 years of age. At that age in the year of 1920 he and his brother Victor leased the ranch known as the Sartori Home Ranch, "and which ranch he operates at the present time", from his parents and proceeded to operate it as Sartori Bros.

In 1928 Ernest claimed as his bride the former Miss Irene Riebli, daughter of a prominent Lakeville dairyman. Mrs. Sartori, Ernest's wife, was born at Petaluma and also like her husband received her elementary education attending the Bliss School, and later completed a business training course by graduating from Heald's College at Oakland, California. She is one of a family of four children having two brothers and one sister. Mrs. Ernest Sartori is the possessor of an extremely fine disposition and is never without a smile and warm greeting for her friends.

From the marriage of Ernest and Irene Sartori two sons were raised, their names being Mervyn and Donald. Mervyn the eldest son attends the Petaluma High School while Donald attends the Junior High at Petaluma. Both sons take a keen interest in their father's business assisting him in the operating of the dairy before and after school hours and during vacation months. Besides helping run their father's dairy they also actively participate in 4-H and Future Farmer Club work taking great interest in the showing of their prize cattle at which they have been exceptionally successful in the wining of awards.

The Ernest Sartori Dairy consists of 618 acres of land and is equiped with a tail to tail barn holding 36 animals, while the feed barn accommodates 85 head. The Sartori herd is considered as a mixed milking herd consisting of Guernsey, Brown Swiss, and Holsteins. The total number of stock is 230 head of which 150 are milk cows and the balance of 80 head are young stock of various ages. Besides operating the dairy Ernest Sartori and his sons also do some dirt farming raising on an average each year around 360 tons of oat hay and between 1400 and 1500 sacks of oats. In 1945 Ernest Sartori bought by mutual agreement his brother Victor's share in the business and by so doing acquired full ownership of the large dairy business. The Marin-Dell Company has been receiving the milk produced on the Sartori Home Dairy ever since they

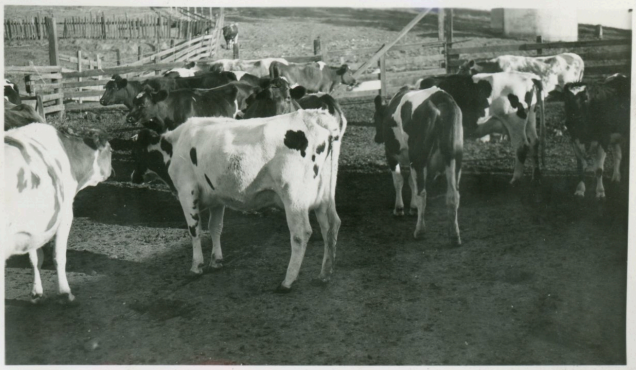
built their Grade A unit which was in 1942 and over that period of time the relationship existing between Mr. Sartori and the Company has been of a highly satisfactory nature and it is needless to say Marin-Dell appreciates the loyalty and integrity of Ernest Sartori. The peak production of the Ernest Sartori Dairy has reached 57 cans per day.

In concluding the history of the Ernest Sartori Dairy it can be truthfully written that both the father and mother of the Sartori children were and are very remarkable people. The elder Mrs. Sartori has survived her husband since his death in 1940 and is now at the age of 78 years a woman of keen intellect and memory. She can look with pride and satisfaction back through the years to the time when she became the bride of Archangelo Sartori at 21 years of age and from that sacred union the raising of her twelve fine children who are all living, they being successful in their own rights and well married. Mrs. Sartori now in the late years of her life divides her time with her children and derives great enjoyment from her grandchildren and great grandchildren. May she continue to retain her good health for many years to come.

Archangelo Sartori the husband and father of the Sartori family came to America at the age of 16 years. By reason of his willingness to work he soon acquired the confidence of his fellowman and in a short time was in business for himself. Mr. Sartori in his climb to success and wealth had no get-rich-quick schemes, his was the steady progressive and consistent policy of looking ahead and investing his money wisely and by so doing becoming owner of some 1500 acres of valuable land in the form of dairy ranches prior to his death. His character was never questioned and his advice was sought by many and upon his death the tribute given him by his acquaintances well exemplified the goodness that was his among the people in which he moved.

Ernest Sartori in many respects is much the same as his father before him, he is the possessor of good judgment and foresight as well as being exceptionally adept at dairy management. During World War II, unable to obtain competent help and with little or no consideration of his own health and welfare he worked untiringly to maintain his dairy at full production, feeling it his duty to provide the vitally important product from his ranch be kept flowing into the proper channels and thereby doing his part in aiding the war effort. He is never without a kindly word and ever ready to assist a worthy cause. May both he and his wife retain their health and not too far in the future turn the responsibilities of operating their dairy business over to their two capable sons and themselves enjoy a well deserved rest, and may the success and welfare of their family continue for many generations to come.

Ezio Tarca Dairy,
Lakeville Highway,
Petaluma, Calif.



Producer Number 60
Ezio Tarca.

The Ezio Tarca Dairy is located near the Lakeville Highway, five miles distant from the city of Petaluma. To reach the dairy it is necessary to drive east from that city on the above named highway toward the community of Lakeville, and at that distance by turning left you enter the properties of the Tarca Dairy. The ranch improvements are situated about one-fourth of a mile from the highway and are reached over a well maintained private road. The buildings on the ranch which consist of large hay storage barns, feeding shelters and machinery and equipment sheds along with the Grade A unit are, "while not entirely new, having been erected for quite sometime", kept in perfect shape by Mr. Tarca, well denoting the pride and desire on the owner's part to maintain a clean and orderly place. The ranch being quite large stretches out on the south side of the highway to the Petaluma River while on the north side of the highway it consists of level hay fields and rolling pasture land.

Ezio Tarca was born in northern Italy in the year 1906 in the village of Mello situated in the province of Sondrio. He was one of a family of five sons, having four brothers, one of whom is at the time of this writing owner and operator of a large dairy business in Australia. Ezio's parents were of modest means in their homeland and his father was employed by the Government to handle the mail in the village. It was in the village of his birth that Ezio spent his childhood days and received his education. As he grew to manhood he heard of the wonderful opportunities in America to make money and so with what savings he had he booked passage for the new world.

Upon arriving in America at the age of 18 in the year 1924, he located at the city of Haven, Connecticut, where he became employed and remained for fifteen months working in a powder factory making fuses. At the end of that time he then left the east coast for California where he had friends in the town of Shiverly located in Humboldt County. After staying two months with his friends he then took employment in a lumber camp at Garberville, California, where he worked for four months. While Ezio did not dislike the lumber business, his main objective was to obtain employment on a dairy ranch, and upon hearing of an opening at Ferndale, California, he foresook the lumber business to become employed in the dairy business.

After remaining on the Ferndale Dairy for one season he then left the northern county and came to Cloverdale, Sonoma County, where he stayed for a short time working at the harvesting of grapes. While working in the grapes was merely a stopover, Ezio soon arrived at Petaluma and upon leaving the train he arrived on, and walking across the street to a tavern, he immediately secured employment on the Cincera Dairy, the same dairy that he owns and operates at the present time.

It was September 17, 1926 that Ezio Tarca stepped off the train at Petaluma and was hired by Mr. Cincera and it was on the Cincera Ranch that he remained, faithfully and conscientiously performing his duties as a ranch worker and milker until 1932. In that year Mr. Cincera's health failed and despite every effort to save his life, death claimed the young rancher. After the death of his employer, Ezio Tarca managed the dairy for a time and then was offered the opportunity to purchase the business.

Since purchasing the dairy business of the late Mr. Cincera, Ezio Tarca has operated the ranch as his own for the past 18 years with complete success. The tarca ranch consists of 500 acres of land and is not only excellent land for the running of cattle, but also has several hay fields from which the owner raises yearly from 250 to 300 tons of early oat hay for his stock. The milking barn is the tail to tail type holding 20 animals and the feed barn accommodates 60 head. While the Tarca herd predominates

in the Holstein breed of animals, it is nevertheless a mixed herd. The total number of stock is 176 head of which 134 are milking cows and 42 head are young stock of various ages. Mr. Tarca's peak production has reached 40 cans per day and he has been shipping to the Marin-Dell Company since 1942, with the association between him and the company being of a very highly satisfactory nature.

In concluding the history of Ezio Tarca it can be truthfully said Mr. Tarca's career in the dairy business is but one more concrete proof of the possibilities afforded anyone willing to grasp the opportunities presented in our American way of life. Having come to America during the present generation with a willingness to work, his success has been outstanding. During the 18 years he has been in the dairy business, Mr. Tarca through good management has become financially independent. In the fall of 1949 he returned to his homeland for his first visit since coming to America and while on the visit married. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tarca are wished every success and happiness during their married life, and it is to be trusted that Ezio Tarca may enjoy many years of contentment so well deserved from the fruits of his toil.

James Delmorini Dairy,
Washington Street Road,
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 61.
James Ielmorini

The James Ielmorini Dairy is located three miles from the city of Petaluma on what is known as the East Washington Street Extension Road. To reach the ranch it is necessary to drive due east from Petaluma on the Washington Street Highway for the entire distance of that thoroughfare and where at its end it converges onto the Old Adobe Road. At that point by crossing the Old Adobe Road you enter the properties of the James Ielmorini Ranch, the entrance being a direct continuation of the Washington Street Road.

From the entrance of the property to the ranch buildings and home it is necessary to drive over a well-maintained private roadway for a distance of about one half mile. The visitor upon traveling to the Ielmorini Ranch for the first time is afforded unusual and beautiful scenery by reason of the winding roadway being bordered by natural growths of Oak and Pepperwood trees as well as wild shrubbery and vines with deep green foliage casting a vision of granduer which becomes more beautiful at every bend in the road. Upon leaving the wooded section of the roadway it is then necessary to traverse rolling terrain for about one-fourth of a mile before arriving at the ranch improvements.

The ranch buildings are situated in the foothills of the Sonoma Mountains and consist of large hay storage barns, Grade A unit, calf sheds and shelters, and numerous other buildings for storing of farming tools and equipment. The family home is a large spacious structure of the type of farm home that was built about the turn of the century, the interior of which has been modernized to present day standards affording a maximum of comfort and practibility combined. The entire group of improvements of the Ielmorini Ranch are maintained in excellent shape denoting the pride and interest taken by Mr. Ielmorini in their upkeep. Due to the location of the buildings the owners also have a commanding view of the country side to the west and during certain times of the year while the valley below may be enshrouded in fog it is seldom that the ranch buildings are without sunshine. The ranch property is made up of rolling hills for the most part with a portion situated somewhat in the form of a plateau which is utilized for the growing of crops. While the most of the property is of an open nature affording excellent pasture there is a portion covered by trees which affords the stock protection in both warm and inclement weather.

The late Thomas Ielmorini Senior, father of James Ielmorini for whom this history is being written, was born in Switzerland in the village of Intragna, located in the Canton Ticino. Mr. Ielmorini's parents were humble people of modest means who raised a family of five children, there being four sons and one daughter. He was born in the year 1874 and it was in the village of his birth that he received his education and spent the early years of his life. In the year 1888 Mr. Ielmorini then a youth of fourteen years of age left his homeland for America, having already had two of his elder brothers precede him to the new world. Upon landing at New York, young Mr. Ielmorini came direct to San Francisco, and from there to the Peter Maggetti Ranch located in Salmon Creek near the town of Marshall, Marin County. His reason for coming to the Maggetti Ranch was due to the fact that his two brothers were employed there and arrangements had been made by them through Mr. Maggetti for his coming to America and where he was assured employment upon his arrival. Young Mr. Ielmorini was very happy by being afforded the opportunity to join his brothers in California and he remained in the employment of Mr. Maggetti for several years and although the prevailing wage for dairy workers was not large, he managed from the beginning by being frugal to set aside a portion of his wages, trusting that some day he too might be a land owner and dairy ranch operator as was his employer.

After being employed for several years on the Maggetti Ranch reluctant as his employer was to lose his services, Mr. Ielmorini next took employment on the George Woodley Senior's Ranch also located near Marshall in the Salmon Creek District. One of the reasons young Mr. Ielmorini left the Maggetti Ranch and obtained employment from Mr. Woodley was that he desired to acquire a knowledge of the English language and he fully realized that by staying on the Maggetti Ranch where his associates were people of his own nationality and conversation being carried on in their native tongue his possibility of acquainting himself with the language was greatly handicapped and although difficult as it was to learn a strange language, he nevertheless was a man of determination and as such grasped the opportunity to work where the English language was spoken with the knowledge that to be a success in business in America it was necessary to be able to converse in English.

Mr. Ielmorini spent several years working on the Woodley Ranch and in that time not only continued to increase his savings but also gained his objective in that upon leaving the employment of Mr. Woodley he was able to converse fluently in English as well as his own language. After leaving the Woodley Ranch he then became employed by Mr. Henry Dado whose ranch was located adjacent to the Bloom Ranch in Chileno Valley and in recent years operated after Mr. Dado by Mr. Jerry Garazoli, also a prominent dairyman of the community. Upon taking employment on the Dado Ranch young Mr. Ielmorini worked in the capacity of buttermaker having become very proficient in the art of handling cream and churning at the proper temperatures to produce a highly desirable and properly salted butter.

After working for a period of time for Mr. Dado, Thomas Ielmorini, although happy in his work, advised Mr. Dado he was leaving and upon terminating his employment with Mr. Dado it was never again necessary for the young man who had been in America a little over a score of years to ever work for wages again. It might be also stated that in that period of years he worked for wages it was only necessary for Mr. Ielmorini to be employed on three ranches, well signifying his steadiness, trustworthiness and willingness to work and as a mark of comparison with the present day dairy worker whose restlessness necessitates him to be constantly changing places of employment well typifies the unstability of the present day worker as compared with the men of Mr. Ielmorini's time who were intent on improving their station in life and accomplishing their climb to success in a contented frame of mind.

As previously stated when Thomas Ielmorini first arrived in America and took employment on the Peter Maggetti Ranch at Marshall his one ambition was to be successful and some day own a dairy business of his own, and with that thought ever uppermost in his mind he worked and saved with anticipation for the time to come and so it was upon resigning as buttermaker on the Dado Ranch, Mr. Ielmorini had accomplished his long desire, financial ly he was able to go into business for himself.

Thomas Ielmorini returned to the Salmon Creek district to go into business, leasing a ranch from Peter Maggetti, the man he first worked for as a young boy of fourteen years of age. The ranch which Mr. Ielmorini leased is still at the present time owned by decendents of Mr. Maggetti and at present is being operated by Mr. Peter Bordessa. After a few years of successfully operating his dairy in Salmon Creek, Mr. Ielmorini's thoughts returned to his homeland and it was then that he decided to return for a short visit with his family whom he had not seen since he was a young boy, and so in 1907 he returned to Switzerland for a four month visit.

Having left his business in competent hands while on his trip, upon his return Mr. Ielmorini again resumed the managing of his business with continued success. Six years after the return from his visit to Switzer-

land in the year 1913, Thomas Ielmorini married taking for his bride the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gambonini whose ranch was located near the Ielmorini ranch. Mrs. Ielmorini, Thomas Senior's wife, was born in the Bodega District at the time her parents operated what is known as the Le Baron Ranch located at Irish Hill. Mrs. Ielmorini was one of a family of seven children, having two brothers and four sisters. When she was twelve years of age her parents moved from Bodega to their Salmon Creek Ranch and as a result Mrs. Ielmorini received part of her education at the Bodega District School and completed her schooling in Salmon Creek, the school house in that district being located a very far distance from her parents ranch on the top of one of the highest hills in that area and requiring children to travel over roads slightly better than trails and necessitating the opening and closing of over one dozen gates by reason of traveling through several ranches before arriving at the school.

Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini were married at their parish church in the city of Petaluma, the year being 1913, and from their marriage four children were born, they being three sons and one daughter, however sorrow entered the Ielmorini home in the death of their only daughter when she was three and one-half years old. The eldest of the three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini whose name is also Thomas being named after his father was born during the time they were operating their Salmon Creek Ranch.

In 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini with their infant son moved from the Maggetti Ranch to Hicks Valley and by so doing Thomas Ielmorini Senior culminated a ten year period of dairy ranch operating in Salmon Creek. Upon leaving Salmon Creek the Ielmorini family located on the ranch in Hicks Valley which is at the present time being operated by a nephew of Mr. Ielmorini and is known as the Henry Ielmorini Ranch having been originally owned in later years by a brother of Thomas Ielmorini Senior and who passed away several years previous to the writing of this history. It was during the time that Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini operated this ranch that their two other sons were born, James the second eldest and Frances the youngest.

After locating on the Hicks Valley Ranch, Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini operated that ranch successfully for five years, Mr. Ielmorini managing and operating his dairy business while Mrs. Ielmorini took care of the home and raised her three young sons. At the end of five years of dairying in Hicks Valley, Thomas Ielmorini was then in a position to further realize his early ambitions in life in not only becoming the owner of a dairy business but also a dairy ranch owner by reason of him and Mrs. Ielmorini having purchased the Sonoma Mountain Ranch, and on which ranch their second eldest son James is at the present time operating his large dairy business. Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini moved onto their newly purchased ranch in 1918. For the next four years Mr. Ielmorini worked long hours, continuing to operate his business in a successful manner as well as improve his newly acquired property. From 1918 to 1922 Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini had prospered to the extent that they were able to still further expand their dairy operations and after care ful deliberation and fully realizing in a few years their sons would be at an age to assist them in their business, they again for a second time in a period of four years acquired land holdings by reason of their buying the large dairy ranch located in Chileno Valley and which is at the present time being operated by their eldest son Thomas Junior and known as the Thomas Ielmorini Ranch.

It was then in 1922 that after four years of operating and improving their Sonoma Mountain Ranch that the Thomas Ielmorini family again moved, this time to their second newly acquired ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini after purchasing the Chileno Valley dairy then decided to rent their Sonoma Mountain Ranch and as a result of their decision that ranch was operated by a tenant for the next ten years until 1932.

The Ielmorini family moved from the Sonoma Mountains to Chileno Valley in 1922 and it was in that community that their sons received their education attending the local district school. For the ensuing ten years from 1922 to 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini, their sons attending school and assisting in the running of the business operated their Chileno Valley Ranch. At the end of that time it was decided by Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini that their three sons having completed their education and grown into manhood, and being competent dairy operators in their own rights, should be established individually in the dairy business and it was then that Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini leased still another dairy a short distance from their Chileno Valley Dairy and which was known as the Frazier Ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini then having three ranches, one under lease and owning two, proceeded to establish their sons in business, the youngest son Frances operating the leased Frazier Ranch, the eldest Thomas Junior remaining on the Chileno Valley Ranch, and the second son James taking over the operation of the Sonoma Mountain Ranch, that ranch having been rented out and the lease having expired.

After having their three sons well established in business Mr. and Mrs. Ielmorini then divided their time advising and assisting in the operating of the dairies, however at the time when the husband and father of the Ielmorini family had everything to live for, his sons established in business, success and security for him and his wife, illness overtook the energetic man and due to his years of toil his battle to regain his health was a losing one and in the space of thirty days from the time he became sick death claimed Thomas Ielmorini Senior.

James Ielmorini second eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ielmorini Senior was born at the time his parents operated a dairy in Hicks Valley, Marin County. He received his education at the elementary district school in Chileno Valley, his parents having purchased a ranch and moved to that location when he was of school age. After graduating from the Chileno Valley School, James then attended St. Vincents Academy at Petaluma for one year of high school training. While James was still very young his parents having decided to put their sons in the dairy business, established James on their Sonoma Mountain Ranch, and it was on this ranch that he operated his dairy business in a successful manner from 1932 to 1942, a period of ten years. However by 1942 the United States being in the process of waging a two ocean war was inducting the youth of the land into armed service and as a result of this James, anxious and willing, took time out from his dairy business to fight for his country by joining the U. S. Navy. In all James spent three years and one month in the service of his country and during that time not only put in considerable time in the States but also participated in the African Campaign and at the termination of hostilities was discharged with honor for the services he rendered his country.

Upon receiving his discharge James again returned to the Sonoma Mountain Ranch and again re-established himself in the dairy business and at the time of this writing which is four years after the return of James Ielmorini to the dairy business, it can be truthfully said the herd he has developed in that short period of time is one of the best in the country and his production has steadily increased yearly since returning from his hitch in the navy.

Soon after James' discharge from the Navy and his return to the dairy business on the Sonoma Mountain Ranch in 1945, he married and from the marriage one child was born, a daughter, and it is needless to say she is idolized by her parents. Mrs. Ielmorini, James' wife, was born and raised in Petaluma, she being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Masciorini, her grandparents having been pioneers in the dairy business in the Lakeville District near Petaluma. She received her education in the district and Petaluma schools, and grew into womanhood in the city of her birth. Mrs. Ielmorini is possessed of a very pleasing personality and her foremost thought is for the

comfort and welfare of her husband and daughter. Both she and her husband enjoy a great number of friends and due to their popularity are greatly missed whenever they are unable to attend the social functions within their circle of acquaintanceship.

The James Ielmorini Ranch consists of 420 acres of land, and which for the most part is utilized for the pasturing of the owners animals. The milking barn is of the tail to tail type accommodating 36 animals while the feed barn holds 72 head. The Ielmorini herd is comprised largely of animals of the Holstein breed and in the near future will be 100 percent Holstein. The total number of stock is 205 head of which 153 are milk cows and the balance of 52 head are youngstock of various ages. Approximately 150 tons of oat hay is raised yearly all of which is utilized on the ranch for the maintaining of the herd during the winter months. James Ielmorini's peak production has reached 54 cans per day and the herd is regulated for top production during the late summer and fall months. James has been selling the milk produced on his ranch since 1941 to the Marin-Dell Company with the exception of the period of time he spent in the service of his country, however upon resuming business after his discharge from the navy he immediate ly secured a contract from the Company and in the years that he and Marin-Dell Company have enjoyed business association the relationship existing has been of a very satisfactory nature and no doubt will continue for many years to come.

In concluding the James Ielmorini dairy history one cannot help but reflect back to the year 1888 when his father then a boy of fourteen years of age arrived in America as a youngster with nothing more than a will to work and an ambition to succeed. How in succeeding years he worked and saved and eventually realized his first ambition by becoming owner of a dairy business and after nine years of operating his own business and having acquired a certain amount of security in that period of time married. After the marriage the continued progress and success of him and Mrs. Ielmorini and the raising of their family and the fulfilling of his ambition and desire as a young man to be a property owner. Upon the purchasing by him and his wife of their first ranch located in the foothills of the Sonoma Mountains near Petaluma and four years later still further reflecting his success by the purchasing of a second large ranch in Chileno Valley, and eventually leasing a third ranch so that his three sons might enjoy equal opportunity be being in business for themselves. May all these achievements well reflect the aggressiveness and stability of both Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ielmorini in the courage and confidence they displayed both in themselves and their country during the years that were required to achieve the success that eventually was theirs by reason of their acquiring ownerships of two fine ranches aggragating a total of 1200 acres of dairy land. It is regrettable that Mr. Ielmorini should not have been spared more years to enjoy the fruits of his toil his having passed away at the age of 62. His widow and the mother of his children will soon have survived her husband fourteen years, may her health remain for many years to come, and may she be proud of the success of her sons in the dairy business, and may she well be honored in that her second and youngest son served their country with honor in World War II. Mrs. Ielmorini divides her time between the homes of her sons who give her every care and attention and in return she derives great joy and happiness in the company of her grandchildren.

In respect to the success and ability of James Ielmorini as a dairy operator and manager, like his late father his career may well bear watching. He has recently leased a large ranch to be utilized for young and dry stock and if his ability to expand his business continues in the future as it has since his discharge from the navy it is reasonable to believe his production of milk will be on the increase.

FRANK MOREDA DAIRY,
WESTERN AVENUE HIGHWAY,
PETALUMA, CALIF.

Producer Number 64
Frank Moreda

Frank Moreda's Dairy is located one mile west of the city of Petaluma on what is known as the Western Avenue extension. Turning off the main highway and swinging around the base of a rolling hillside for a distance of one eighth of a mile you come upon the ranch buildings. From the contour of the land it would appear the buildings are situated in a large amphi-theatre with the front opening to the west. The ranch while not considered large is made up of gradual sloping hills affording excellent drainage and being clear of all brush makes utilization of the entire acreage for pasture available. The ranch due to the close proximity of Petaluma yet secluded as it is also makes it very desireable as well as valuable.

Frank Moreda's father was born in the Azores on the Island of Santa Maria, coming to California at the age of twenty-five with but one deliberate thought in his mind, namely to succeed in the new land. It was with this thought that Mr. Moreda went to work on dairies in the vicinity of Novato, working long hours at small wages, but small as the wages were always managing to put a little aside for the day when he would be able to have a dairy of his own. Mrs. Moreda, Frank's mother also was born in the Azores on the Island of St. George coming to America as a young woman. It was in the town of Novato that Mr. and Mrs. Moreda were married and from this marriage a family of seven children were raised, five sons and two daughters. Mr. Moreda with his family operated a dairy in the Nicasio district for several years later disposing of this business and moving to Chileno Valley where he rented and operated a dairy on the well known Murphy Ranch. It was on this ranch that Mr. and Mrs. Moreda having watched their family grow to maturity and take their places in the fast changing world, spent their declining years, and it was on this ranch that sorrows came to the sons and daughters of elder Mr. and Mrs. Moreda in the passing on of their mother and father in 1938 a short time apart of each other.

Frank Moreda was born at Nicasio and when he was old enough to work assisted his father in the operation of his dairy business both at Nicasio and the Chileno Valley ranch. He also worked for one of his older brothers for two years. Frank being the youngest of the Moreda family and having spent the greater part of his life at ranch work, felt at this time he would like to try his hand at some other work. Eventually he associated himself with a local Petaluma Milling Company in the capacity of a feed salesman. However the urge for dairying never left Frank Moreda and in a short time he entered into a partnership, renting the small Burdell Ranch and while still retaining his position with the Milling Company assisted in operating the dairy during his spare time. This partnership was successfully carried on for three years and in 1943 the business was disposed of by holding an auction. Frank Moreda fter disposing of his interest in the Burdell Dairy continued in the employment of the milling company until October 1944 at which time he purchased the dairy business he is now operating. In all Frank worked for his brother and in the employment of the milling company for eight years prior to his purchasing and operating a dairy business personally.

Mrs. Moreda, Frank's wife also was the daughter of a dairy family, her father having operated the Big Rock Ranch at Lucas Valley, San Rafael, and it was on this ranch that Mrs. Moreda was born.

Mr. and Mrs. Moreda like Frank's father and mother were married at Novato and from this marriage have two daughters. The Moreda's are a very devoted little family.

The ranch Mr. Moreda rents consists of 130 acres and has a 20 cow tail to tail milking unit. The feed barn holds 34 cows and Mr. Moreda is partial to Holstein and Guernsey animals. The total number of stock run is 100 head consisting of 60 head of milk cows and 40 head of young stock. The peak production has reached 30 cans per day. Mr. Moreda buys all his feed as he considers his land more profitable for pasturing. During the time Frank Moreda operated as a partnership and individually which has been seven and one half years all of the milk has been sold to Marin-Dell. Frank Moreda has a top grade market milk herd well regulated for even production.

Joe Beretta Dairy,
Old Adobe Road,
Petaluma, Calif.

Producer Number 68
Joe Beretta

The Joe Beretta Dairy is located six miles east of the city of Petaluma on what is known as the Old Adobe Road, which is the direct route to the Sonoma Valley. While the buildings are situated a short distance from the highway between sloping hills, part of the ranch lying to the west affords a commanding view of the City of Petaluma as well as a vista of the vast area stretching from Northern Marin, including the winding Petaluma River and marsh land, while to the North the densely populated area of poultry ranches. While the ranch is not large as dairy ranches go it is well drained free from brush and produces good pasture.

Joe Beretta's father was born in Switzerland in the village of Bleno, and like many other young Swiss men of his time had heard of the great land of opportunity across the ocean. While still very young he began to dream that some day he would be able to go to that far away land. It came to pass the day arrived when young Joseph Beretta's dreams began to take form, in that arrangements could be made through friends to have him come to America. When Joseph was informed there was a place for him to come to in California there was both joy and sorrow in his mind, joy that he could leave for America, and sorrow in the thought of leaving his home and family. Although young Joseph Beretta's mind was made up and his passage booked for California, he he arrived at the Charles Martin Dairy Ranch in Chileno Valley at fourteen years of age. Young Joseph Beretta was a good boy and well liked by the people he worked for and anxious to learn, ans so when he asked Mr. Martin if he could attend school his request was granted. Between milkings Joseph attended the little school in upper Chileno Valley acquiring an elementary education in a short while. For ten years, Joseph worked on the Martin Ranch saving his money, although wages were very small at the time. In the ten years Joseph Beretta worked on the Martin Ranch he established a reputation for himself as an ambitious, energetic and reliable man, so with what savings he had accumulated, he received encouragement and assistance to go into business for himself. Young Mr. Beretta with a partner rented the Soldate Ranch near Petaluma and for two years successfully operated the business.

Mrs. Beretta, Joe's mother, was born and raised in Petaluma, grow- into womanhood in the city of her birth. She and Joseph Beretta were married in San Francisco and from this marriage two children were born, a son and daughter. After Mr. Beretta married he disposed of his interest in the dairy on the Soldate Ranch and went into business for himself, renting the Charles Hall Ranch at Two Rock. It was on this ranch Joseph Beretta's children were born and he went about his work with joy in his heart singing the songs of his native land, for Joseph Beretta's dreams were now a reality and his happiness he shared with his little family. Joseph Beretta worked hard putting in long hours, for his one thought was security for his family and to achieve that security meant to own a ranch of his own. It was then that Joseph Beretta's health began to fail and in a short time death took Joseph from this world leaving a bewildered grieving young mother with two infant children, children that were not old enough to even remember their father.

In time Mrs. Beretta remarried and the son who was two years old when he lost his father, and whose name also was Joseph, grew into manhood going to school and working on his stepfather's ranch, starting to milk cows at nine years of age. Joe Beretta Junior's love for his mother was to him of far greater importance than his own welfare and consequently he remained on his stepfather's ranch so that he might be with his mother until he was 25 years of age, even though he was sacrificing the oppor-

tunity of earning high wages had he gone on his own. Although Joe Beretta forfeited monetary gain in those years, the close association with his mother and her guiding influence developed in her son a man of strong character, sincerity and fairness.

In 1934 Joe Beretta went to work on the Ielmorini Ranch in Chileno Valley and after three years, working for wages went into business with a partner on the ranch he now operates at the present time. Joe started in business for himself with 33 head of cows and after five years of successful operation purchased his partner's interest in the business.

Mrs. Beretta, Joe Junior's wife, was born in Texas coming to California at the age of one and has spent her entire life in the city of her adoption. Mr. and Mrs. Beretta were married at Petaluma in 1941 and from this marriage have three sons. While both Mr. and Mrs. Beretta have always made Petaluma their home it will be but a short time until they will be leaving. The reason for their going is not because of any dislike of Petaluma, but due to the fact Joe Beretta like his father before him was looking to the future and planning. In 1947 Joe Beretta purchased a 450 acre ranch situated on the Llano Road three miles east of Sebastopol. The new Beretta ranch is dotted with Oak trees and is practically level and at present is being utilized by Joe for raising hay and pasturing young stock. Before purchasing the property Joe spent considerable time making tests of the soil and has been approached several times since owning the property for oil leases, as geoligists are confident the possibilities for finding oil are very good. When the proper time comes Joe Beretta will negotiate with a reputable company for the development of a test well.

However for the present Joe is not building castles as regards to oil but making preparations for the construction of a model grade A dairy. Building has already started on a twelve stanchion walk thru pipe line milking unit and dairy house, eventually all buildings on the property will be new including a new and modern home. The Beretta family contemplate moving to their Santa Rosa ranch in the fall of 1949 and at the present time have tentative plans of continuing to operate the ranch they are on, in conjunction with their Santa Rosa holdings. With the assistance of Mrs. Beretta, Joe Beretta has gone a long ways in the dairy business in a short period of years and with the keen interest their young sons are already showing in their father's business Joe and Mrs. Beretta have high hopes for the boys carrying on in their father's footsteps.

The Beretta ranch on the Old Adobe Road consists of 272 acres, between the two ranches he raises 300 tons of oat and vetch hay a year. The milking barn is the head to head type holding 16 animals. The feed barn holds 52 head but is only used in winter months, during the other seasons of the year all hay feeding is done in racks. Joe Beretta has a mixed herd of 250 head, of these 120 are milking cows, the balance of 130 head are young stock of various ages. The most production on the Beretta ranch in any one day has been 39 cans. The herd is well regulated for even production and Joe Beretta has been selling all the milk to Marin-Dell since 1942.

Virgil Williams Dairy,
Occidental Road,
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Producer Number 67
Virgil Williams and Sons.

The Virgil Williams Dairy is located three miles northeast of Sebastopol on the Occidental Road. To reach the ranch you drive directly north thru the Main Street of Sebastopol until you reach the Occidental Road, where at this point turning right and traveling for one mile east, you arrive at the Williams Dairy. The home and ranch buildings are situated a short distance from the highway and the motorista traveling past the ranch cannot help but be favorable impressed with the orderly manner in which Mr. Williams maintains the premises.

For several generations back one finds Virgil Williams forbears taking an active part in the settlement of our great country. Alonzo Williams, Virgil's grandfather, was born and raised in South Carolina, and at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted with the Southern forces fighting for what he considered was right in that bitter struggle. Eventually Alonzo Williams was made a prisoner of war, being captured by the Army of the North and held as a rebel captive at a military prison camp in the State of Iowa until the cessation of hostilities.

Upon the release and pardon of all Southern prisoners of war by President Lincoln, Alonzo Williams returned to his native state of South Carolina to reunite himself with his relatives. Upon reaching Carolina he found the ravages of war had wrought a devestating effect upon the State of his birth, and try as he did he was unable to find any of his relatives. Realizing the chaotic condition the South was left in, Alonzo Williams retraced his steps and returned to Iowa where in time the bitterness and sears of war left him.

Grandfather Williams married a northern girl and from the marriage fourteen children were born, eleven daughters and three sons, and today after three generations of the Williams Family following Grandfather Williams, there exists a devoted admiration and patriotic pride toward Alonzo Williams for having erased from his mind the hatred toward the North, and yet at the time having fought for what he thought was right.

Andrew Williams was the eldest son of Alonzo Williams and the father of Virgil. He was born in the State of Iowa and as a young man left that state and moved to Minnesota. It was while living in Minnesota that Andrew Williams married and from the marriage twelve children were born, eight daughters and four sons. It is expecially interesting in writing the history of Virgil Williams to observe that his father and grandfather raised large families, a practice which was largely followed by our forefather pioneers in the conquering and development of the west. The combined number of offspring of those two intrepid men were nineteen daughters and seven sons.

After spending several years in Minnesota, Andrew Williams with his family then moved to the Dakotas and from there to the Pacific Northwest. Upon reaching the west coast, Mr. Williams with his family located near Eugene, Oregon, where he went into the business of farming, and it was there that he raised his family.

Virgil Williams was born in the town of Virgus, Minnesota, and while still very young moved with his parents from Minnesota by was of the Dakotas to Eugene, Oregon. It was in this city that he received his education and grew into manhood.

Mrs. Williams, Virgil's wife, was born in the town of Enumclaw, Washington, the name of her birthplace being a derivation of Indian origin.

At an early age she likewise moved with her parents to Eugene where she completed her education and grew into womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Williams were married in Eugene and from this marriage two children were born, a son and a daughter.

Virgil Williams, upon completing his schooling, found employment in the lumber industry at Eugene, and after his marriage continued on in this line of endeavor and undoubtedly would have made it his life's work had it not been for circumstances beyond his control. With the sudden economic collapse in 1929, the Pacific Northwest and its lumber industry suffered a paralyzing blow, lumber began to accumulate and one by one saw mills closed down, and Virgil Williams was without employment. Virgil will tell you today the future at that particular time looked very dark.

As long as Virgil Williams stayed in the lumber country he seemed to have imbedded in his mind the thought that the only way to make a livelihood was by being actively engaged in that industry, and consequently, after considerable discussion with his wife, they decided to come to California. Virgil Williams at the age of twenty-three, accompanied by his young wife, did come to California arriving in the summer of 1930 and locating in Sonoma County. In a short time after locating in Sonoma County, Virgil obtained employment on the Stump Dairy at Bloomfield where he stayed for one season. While working on a dairy was all new to young Virgil Williams, he soon became interested in the animals and gradually acquired a fondness for the work. His next employment was on the Bob Kee Ranch at Bodega where he stayed three years, and from there moved to the Ernest Baxman Ranch at Jenner. Upon being employed by Mr. Baxman, Virgil in the agreement was allowed to raise calves, thus creating a still greater interest in the dairy business for himself. After four years on the Baxman ranch, Virgil next became employed on the Laughlin Dairy at Guerneville as foreman where he worked for four years. In the years Virgil Williams worked on dairies, he formed acquaintances with people interested in the dairy business and he soon became recognized for his managing ability. So after four years as foreman of the Laughlin Dairy, he submitted his resignation which was very much regretted by his employer.

Virgil Williams and his family next moved to Forestville at the inducement of Mr. Nolan, a man of high standing in the community and a long time breeder of purebred Jersey stock. Mr. Nolan, having other interests to occupy his time, formed a partnership with Virgil Williams which continued for two years, after which time Mr. Nolan was eligible for retirement from the public service he was employed at, and returned to manage his ranch personally.

Prior to the termination of the very harmonious business association between Mr. Nolan and Virgil Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, having by this time raised a number of animals of their own decided to go into business for themselves and eventually located on the ranch which they are operating at the present time. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams are very active in their local Farm Bureau Association as well as being leaders in the promotion of 4H Club projects. Not only do they encourage their own children in their club work, but are always ready and willing to assist neighborhood children with their projects.

Realizing the keen interest which his son and also his nephew, who makes his home with the Williams family, take in the dairy business, Mr. Williams has formed a co-partnership with them, allowing them a small interest in the business with the result that the efforts put forth are to the mutual benefit of all.

While both Virgil Williams and his wife may have experienced some discouraging days in their early married life with the collapse of the

lumber industry in the Northwest, which prompted them to come to California, nevertheless their locating in Sonoma County definitely has been an asset to the community, and their genial nature makes them endeared by all who know them.

The Williams ranch consists of 180 acres of clear land of which 25 acres is seeded to permanent pasture, the water being obtained for the irrigating from the Sebastopol Lagoon. The milk barn is the straight string type holding 16 animals while the feed barn close by holds 60 head. The total number of animals owned is 117 head of which 80 head are milk cows, the balance young stock of various ages. Along with the permanent pasture, Mr. Williams also raises around 125 tons of oat and vetch hay each season. All the milk produced on the Williams ranch for the past three years has been sold to Marin-Dell Company, and it is reasonable to believe Mr. William's production will increase as time goes on, having only been in the Grade A production for three years. The peak production at present is 22 cans per day. In 18 years time, starting without capital, Virgil Williams has been very successful.

Emil J. Poncia Dairy,
Stoney Point Road,
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Producer Number 63
Emil Poncia

The Emil Poncia Dairy is located three miles northwest of Cotati on the Stoney Point Road in southern Sonoma County. To reach the Poncia dairy you drive west from Cotati on the Gravenstein Highway two miles turning to the right and driving north one mile on the Stoney Point Road at which point again turning right you enter the long private driveway leading to the ranch. The buildings are located on a knoll providing excellent drainage and are new and modern. The family home is of the Spanish type of architecture with many built in modern conveniences. From the location of the home the Poncia family are afforded a commanding view of their entire holdings. The grade A unit is situated at a convenient distance from the home and is one of the finest in that part of Sonoma County having been built in 1945. The entire acreage of the Poncia ranch is utilized for pasturing and farming, being free from brush and practically level.

John B. Poncia, Emil Poncia's father, was born in the town of Garzeno in the Lombardi district of Italy. It was there he spent his boyhood days receiving his education and assisting his parents on their small farm. However, young John Poncia had heard about America from friends returning for a visit from that great land, and it was then he began formulating definite plans, should the opportunity arise to seek his fortune in the new world. That opportunity did present itself and at 19 years of age young John Poncia arrived in California.

John Poncia soon after arriving obtained employment on the Bloom Ranch at Petaluma and in a short time proved himself to be a valuable man. After working several seasons on the Bloom Ranch, John Poncia then obtained employment on the Andrew Matteri ranch at Tomales. Mr. Matteri was at that time leasing and operating what is known as the Soldati ranch located on Tomales Bay. After working several years for Mr. Matteri, John Poncia still a young man purchased the dairy business from his employer, Andrew Matteri, and for the next 16 years John Poncia operated his own business.

Mrs. Poncia, Emil's mother, was born in Italy, and with her parents came to California locating at Tomales at the age of seven. Mrs. Poncia received her education and grew into womanhood in that community. Soon after John Poncia purchased the dairy business from Mr. Matteri, he and Mrs. Poncia were married at Tomales and from that marriage eight children were born, four sons and four daughters. Mr. and Mrs. John Poncia worked hard, putting in long hours operating their dairy and raising their large family.

John Poncia upon leaving the Soldati ranch next purchased the Snake Road ranch at Tomales, and is still operating this ranch at the present time with the assistance of his two youngest sons. His two other sons are successfully operating ranches of their own.

Emil Poncia, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Poncia, was born on the Soldati ranch at Tomales, receiving his education there and assisting his father in the operation of his ranch until he was twenty years old. Emil Poncia at twenty years of age was a steady, trustworthy, dependable young man with a thorough knowledge of the dairy business and his parents realizing this, purchased a dairy ranch between Bloomfield, and Sebastopol on the Burnside Road and it was at this location that Emil first went into business for himself.

While Emil Poncia received financial assistance from his father to start in business, it was only a matter of a few years until all his indebtness was paid back. From that time on Emil Poncia prospered and soon was negotiating for a ranch of his own. Emil then purchased the ranch on the Stoney Point Road which he and his wife now operate, thus moving from the Burnside Road Ranch and by doing so making it possible for his brother John to move onto the ranch he vacated.

Mrs. Poncia, Emil's wife, was born in San Francisco and at the age of eleven years moved to Petaluma with her parents who also operate a dairy located in the foothills of the Sonoma Mountains. During the time Emil was operating the dairy on the Burnside Road, he and Mrs. Poncia were married in the little parish church at Bodega, and from this marriage three children were born, one daughter and two sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Poncia with their daughter who was born on the Burnside Road ranch moved onto their ranch located on the Stoney Point Road in 1940 and it was after moving onto their present location that their two young sons were born.

Emil Poncia and his wife Madeline are very proud of their children and they have every reason to be, they are not only well reared, being polite, courteous and respectful, they are also accomplished musicians, playing accordians and are always willing to entertain their parents friends by playing duets. Upon visiting the Poncia family one cannot help but appreciate the stable, sound homey atmosphere that exists, well reflecting the congeniality in which they live. Emil Poncia and his wife are kept very busy operating their dairy, doing all the work themselves with the exception of harvest season when they employ help to work in the hay. Mrs. Poncia as well as taking care of her home and family also assists her husband when necessary in the running of the ranch.

While Emil Poncia has little time for leisure, he will invariably favor a neighbor who is in some difficulty, and because of his kind and sympathetic nature is admired and respected by all who know him. In all Emil Poncia has been operating dairies for twenty-three years and without a doubt will continue for many years to come and when the proper time arrives will establish his two young sons in business as his father did with him.

The Poncia ranch consists of 193 acres with a new 24 cow tail to tail milk barn. The feed barn adjacent to the milking unit holds 40 head. The Total number of animals is 103 head of Holstein and Guernsey of which 80 head are milk cows and the balance of 23 head are yearling heifers. Mr. Poncia as well as operating his dairy also farms a considerable acreage producing over 200 ton of Oat and Vetch hay a year. The peak production has reached 28 cans a day and the herd is gradually being regulated so as to maintain an even flow of milk throughout the year. Since converting from manufacturing to Grade A production all the milk has been sold to Marin-Dell which has been for a period of three years time.

Producer Number 49
Henry L. Pierre

The Henry Pierre Dairy is located three miles from the Court House in Santa Rosa in a southwest direction from that city in what is known as the Bellevue District. To reach the dairy it is necessary to drive south from Santa Rosa on U. S. Highway 101 to Bellevue Avenue and at that point by turning right and driving west to South Dutten Avenue and again turning right and traveling north on South Dutton for a short distance you arrive at the Pierre holdings, it being the only dairy in that immediate locality.

Upon arriving at the Pierre Dairy which is located adjacent to the highway the visitors, should they be strangers, in all probability would be somewhat amazed to find such a well kept dairy in that locality by reason of the fact that all the farms in the locality of the Pierre dairy are of small acreage and Mr. Pierre's dairy ranch is no exception to the rule in respect to size it being also small as dairys go with regard to acreage, however there are many exceptional and unusual characteristics about the Pierre Dairy, the first one being that Mr. and Mrs. Pierre and their little family are exceptionally fine people, and secondly they have an exceptionally fine dairy and are doing an exceptionally fine job in the producing of quality Grade A milk.

Upon entering the Pierre property from the highway which is only a short distance to the home and dairy buildings, you travel over a driveway and into a court yard surrounded by the home and buildings which is covered and constantly maintained with a heavy thickness of birds eye washed gravel which makes it possible to walk around the premises in the middle of winter in slippers with scarcely a trace of dampness and absolutely without the presence of wet ground.

The Pierre home is the type of farm home commonly constructed after the turn of the century on the better farms and especially where there were large families. Although the home has been built for a number of years it is in a perfect state of preservation and presents a far better appearance than many of the recently constructed dwellings in that respective locality. The Pierre home besides being well kept is also made more attractive by reason of a large lawn enhancing the beauty of the surroundings well denoting the pride the owners take in their home and grounds.

A short distance to the rear of the family home the dairy buildings are located, consisting of a new walk through Grade A unit complete, as well as numerous concrete runways for the cattle. To the north of the dairy and connected by a covered runway is the new hay storage and feeding barn which also is utilized as a storm shed with feeding facilities and concrete corrals for the protection of the stock during inclement weather. On a whole the Pierre dairy buildings are very well planned and constructed to furnish a maximum of efficiency in the operation of the dairy as well as affording comfort and protection for the animals. Besides these buildings there are numerous other structures utilized for the raising of young stock and the storing of equipment and all are maintained in perfect shape being well painted and presenting an appearance of meticulous care and harmonizing with the well kept home and grounds.

Henry Pierre's father was born in Alsace Lorraine in the year 1874, that principality then being under the domination of Germany having been ceded by France to Germany in 1871, "and may it be included for historical significance" returned to France by Germany in the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. At the age of 12 years he came to America and located in Oakland, California, in the year 1886. It was in that city that he grew into manhood and married.

Henry's mother was born in France a short distance from Paris, receiving her education and growing into womanhood in the village of her birth. At the age of 20 in the year 1889 she left her homeland for America, also locating in Oakland, and it was in that their adopted city the elder Mr. and Mrs. Pierre met and married, and from that marriage six children were raised, they being five sons and one daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Senior lived in Oakland for several years after their marriage, they being in business in that city. In 1908 they moved from Oakland to Santa Rosa locating and purchasing the ranch on which their son resides at the present time and for whom this history is being written. Undoubtedly one of the reasons that prompted the elder Mr. Pierre to forsake city life and locate in the country was because of the fact that his parents in Alsace Lorraine owned and operated a 12 cow dairy and the desire to live in a rural atmosphere may have been strongly imbeded in his mind as a boy in his native land. Mr. and Mrs. Pierre resided and operated their ranch at Santa Rosa from the time of their leaving Oakland in 1908 until 1939 at which time they then went into retirement and the ranch was taken over by their son. After his retirement Mr. Pierre lived eight years passing on in 1947 at the age of 73.

Henry Pierre was born in Oakland in 1904 and at four years of age accompanied his parents to Santa Rosa. It was there that he with his brothers and sister spent his childhood days and received his education at the Santa Rosa schools. After completing his education his first employment was in the furniture business where he worked as a collector in the Santa Rosa area for two years. After two years in the furniture business Henry then took employment at a Santa Rosa hatchery handling baby chicks for one year and after that assisted his father in the operating of their ranch for another year.

In 1929 Henry left Santa Rosa going to San Francisco where he became employed by the Market Street Railway Company in the capacity of inspector and overseer in the maintaining and servicing of the street cars at the car barns. In 1932 during the time he was working for the railway company, Henry married.

Mrs. Pierre, Henry's wife was born in San Francisco in 1914 and it was in the city of her birth that she spent her childhood days receiving her elementary and academic educations in the San Francisco schools and growing into womanhood. She was one of three children, her parents having raised two daughters and one son. Mrs. Pierre's father was a prominent contractor in the bay area and any number of buildings stand at the present time in that community as the result of his ability and workmanship. In later years Mrs. Pierre's parents moved to Los Angeles where her father and only brother also followed the building occupation successfully until 1948 when death took her father suddenly by reason of an accident. Her mother at the present time resides in the southern city with her son. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pierre three children have been raised, they being two sons and one daughter. The eldest son while still attending school takes a keen interest in his parent's dairy business, assisting with the work before and after his classes. The younger children are too small to be of much help as yet in the operating of the dairy.

After marrying in 1932 Henry remained in the employment of the Market Street Railway Company until 1939 for a total of ten years and at the end of that time submitted his resignation. Upon leaving the employment of the railway company he then, accompanied by his wife and child, returned to Santa Rosa and took over the operating of his parents' ranch, they having retired in that year.

The improvements on the Pierre ranch at the time Henry took it over upon his parents' retirement were built for the operating of a poultry busi-

ness and as a result Henry followed that line of business from 1939 until 1946 that being the last year he raised any poultry. From the time Mr. and Mrs. Pierre moved onto the Santa Rosa ranch in 1939 their enthusiasm for poultry was never at any time too great, and as a result of this feeling in 1941 they started in a very small way the foundation for a dairy herd and continued to slowly expand selling manufacturing milk. By 1946 they had increased their dairy business to the extent that they no longer were required to have poultry, disposing of their stock and tearing down the buildings. In 1947 they constructed a new 8 stanchion walk through Grade A unit and at the present time operate the ranch entirely as a dairy, there not being the slightest vestige of anything pertaining to the poultry business remaining. During the years that Henry was building up his dairy herd he was very busy due to the fact that he had a contract with the Grace Bros. Brewery located in Santa Rosa for the handling of their brewery malt and his earnings in the handling of the malt not only paid him well but also provided him with cheap feed and as a consequence his profits were much greater than they would have been had he been required to supply his stock with feed from some other source.

The Pierre Ranch only consists of fifteen and one-half acres of land, however, Henry feels if they can operate dairies in southern California on small acreage, it can also be accomplished in northern California and his theory to date has been proven one hundred percent correct by reason of the fact that in a few years he has not only acquired a good herd but also has constructed all new buildings and is financially solid. The total stock on the Pierre ranch consists of 65 head of animals of which 42 are milk cows and the balance of 23 head are young stock. The production from the Pierre Dairy remains very steady averaging approximately 12 cans per day and the herd is of the Holstein and Guernsey breed of animals.

In concluding the Pierre history it is reasonable to believe that they will continue to expand and not too far in the offing will be producing as much again as they are at the present time. They have passed over the rough spots in developing their business and now have a foundation on which to build a lucrative business in a short period of time. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pierre are possessors of fine character and their integrity and loyality is of the highest order. They have been selling the milk produced on their dairy to Marin-Dell Company since the spring of 1947 and the conscientious manner in which they co-operate in the producing of quality milk not only makes them a desirable producer but also a valued one. May success health and happiness be theirs for many years to come.

A. J. Gambonini Dairy,
Bennett Valley Road,
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Producer Number 33
A. J. Gambonini

The A. J. Gambonini Dairy is located in Bennett Valley nine miles east of the city of Santa Rosa. To reach the dairy from Santa Rosa it is necessary to drive east on Bennett Avenue past the Sonoma County Fair Grounds and into the valley proper for the above distance. Bennett Valley is a long narrow valley stretching from the city limits of Santa Rosa on the west to the Sonoma Valley on the east, a distance of some twenty miles. While the western half of the valley is quite densely settled the eastern part still retains its natural beauty in the form of rock formations and wooded hillsides, and in the early spring when the new green growth is present it can truthfully be termed a vista of grandeur when viewed from a point of vantage.

The improvements on the Gambonini Dairy are situated on the left hand side of the highway when traveling east and are located a short distance from the public road. The property is known as the Nellie Doyle Ranch and has been owned by the well known Doyle family of Santa Rosa for many generations, however in 1948 Miss Doyle disposed of the property and it is now in the hands of new owners. The portion lying on the north side of the highway, aside from one large field which is used for the growing of hay, is of a hilly nature and due to tis steepness is mostly utilized for the pasturing of young and dry stock. The acreage situated on the south side of the highway is of the more desirable type being on the order of meadow land and very suitable for grazing by the milking herd.

While the ranch consists of a large acreage being in the neighborhood of 800, prior to the time it was leased by Al Gambonini it was never operated as a large scale dairy, the buildings including the hay storage barn being rather small and with only a twelve stanchion straight string milking shed. However Mr. Gambonini by reason of good management and hard work operated the ranch for ten years under certain disadvantages with complete success and by so doing deserves full credit for his tenacity and aggressiveness.

Due to the fact as previously stated, that the property having been disposed of by the original owner and the inability on Mr. Gambonini's part to reach an agreement with the new owner, in respect to certain requirements stipulated by the board of health, finds at the time of this writing that Mr. gambonini is vacating the property as of September 30, 1949.

After several attempts on the part of Al Gambonini to induce the new owner to comply with certain stipulations requested by the health department all to no avail, he then decided to purchase a ranch of his own and by that decision acquired ownership of a small but fine ranch located on the Old Petaluma Hill Road about six miles from Santa Rosa.

The new Gambonini ranch consists of 75 acres of fine bottom land with a new 16 cow tail to tail milking unit. The home is a modern well built cottage type structure surrounded by a fine garden and lawn. From the standpoint of improvements it can be said without exaggeration that Mr. Gambonini's ranch has been well maintained by the former owner and while it is not of large acreage it nevertheless can easily accommodate a medium size herd.

James Gambonini, Alphonso's father, was born in the Village of Vorgorno which is located in the Canton Ticino, Switzerland. He was one of a family of six children, having four brothers and one sister. James spent his childhood days and received his education in the village of his birth and at the age of sixteen left his homeland for America. Upon landing at New York he came direct to San Francisco and from there went to the State of Nevada where he obtained employment on a sheep ranch. After working for two years on the Nevada sheep ranch he then returned to Switzerland for a short visit. Upon completing his visit he again returned to America and located in Sonoma County

James and two of his brothers leased what was known as the Lebaron Ranch located at Irish Hill north of Bodega Bay, and operated it as a dairy. After operating the Lebaron Dairy in partnership with his two brothers for four years, James for a second time returned to his homeland. During his second visit to Switzerland he married, his bride also having been raised in the village of Vorgorno.

Mrs. Gambonini, James' wife, accompanied her husband to America as a bride of 25 years and upon their return James again resumed active participation in the operating and managing of their dairy at Irish Hill. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. James Gambonini seven children were born, they being five daughters and two sons. After returning to America and Sonoma County from his second trip to Switzerland, Mr. Gambonini with his brothers operated the dairy on Irish Hill for 13 years and at the end of that time accompanied by his wife and family then moved to Salmon Creek, Marin County, and located in that district.

Mr. and Mrs. Gambonini with their family operated their Salmon Creek ranch for a period of twenty years and it was in that community that the children grew to maturity and received their education. At the end of that time, their family having been raised and educated and both Mr. and Mrs. Gambonini well along in years, they then went into retirement and located in the city of Petaluma. After several years of retirement both Mr. and Mrs. Gambonini's health failed, and death claimed the wife and mother in the year 1922, and two years later in 1924 Mr. Gambonini passed on from this world.

Alphonso Gambonini for whom this history is being written was born at the time his parents and uncles operated the Lebaron Ranch at Irish Hill. He was five years of age when the family moved from the Bodega district and located at Salmon Creek near Marshall, Marin County; and it was in that locality that he grew up and received his education. Al, as he is known to his friends, assisted his parents in the operating of their large dairy at Salmon Creek until the time of their retirement, and it was then that he purchased the business and proceeded to operate it as his own.

In 1920 Alphonso Gambonini claimed as his bride the former Miss La Franchi whose parents also operated a dairy in the Salmon Creek district, and by their marriage two prominent and successful dairy families were united Mrs. Gambonini, Al's wife, upon completing her elementary and academic education then trained as a professional nurse receiving her diploma as a registered nurse, and at which profession she followed for a number of years and at one time owned her own sanitarium located in Petaluma. From the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gambonini one child was raised, a daughter and needless to say, being the only child, she is idolized by her parents and her affection for her mother and father is just short of devotion. She has been employed in the office of the director of Social Welfare for the County of Sonoma located in the Court House at Santa Rosa as assistant director for some time, and is highly valued for her efficiency and adeptness in the administering and fulfillment of the duties of her office. She recently married and she and her husband reside in Santa Rosa where she still remains employed and it is with all sincerity that the Marin-Dell organization wishes to the young couple a life time of happiness.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonso Gambonini operated the Salmon Creek Ranch for a period of ten years and in 1939 then moved with their daughter to their Bennett Valley Ranch where they also operated for ten years, and as this history is being written, are again about to move to their recently purchased ranch on the Old Hill Road located about midway between Petaluma and Santa Rosa. Al Gambonini at the present time on his Bennett Valley ranch runs 150 head of Guernsey animals as well as some white face beef stock. Of the 150 head of dairy cattle 110 are milk cows and the balance young stock of various ages. he is partial to the Guernsey breed and has developed a high producing herd

in the past ten years, however upon moving onto his new ranch, Mr. Gambonini will replace some of the Guernsey animals with Holstein in order to have a more suitable test and in line with the distributors requirements. The peak production on the Gambonini Dairy in Bennett Valley has reached 40 cans per day and all the milk has been sold by Mr. Gambonini to the Marin-Dell Company since 1944 and the relationship existing between the Company and Mr. Gambonini has been of a very satisfactory and pleasing nature. Besides the producing of milk, Al Gambonini also raised around 300 tons of oat hay a year, all of which was used for the feeding of his fine herd of Guernsey cattle.

In concluding the history of the Alphonso Gambonini family may it be said, both Mr. and Mrs. Gambonini have worked hard and with complete success in the dairy business. During the years they operated their dairy in Salmon Creek the economic condition of the country being as it was, their climb to success and security was difficult, however upon emerging from the depression of the nineteen thirties and locating at Santa Rosa their success and expansion has been outstanding. During the war years Al Gambonini worked long hours, being unable to obtain help and desiring to maintain his production at peak capacity. Mrs. Gambonini in those same years also worked hard, maintaining their home and assisting her husband where ever possible. She also was a leader in her community in Red Cross work as well as heading bond drives. Besides assisting the war effort in every way possible she also being a registered nurse gave of her time willingly and without remuneration to the sick in her community at a time when nurses were not available. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gambonini being leaders in their community will be greatly missed by the people of Bennett Valley upon their leaving, however it is gratifying to know that they will not be too far distant to prevent them from returning occasionally and renewing friendship. May their success and prosperity continue upon moving onto their new ranch and may health and happiness be theirs for many years to come.

Henry Neles Dairy,
Llano Road,
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Producer Number 32 and 56.
Henry Neles.

The History of Henry Neles' achievement in the dairy business is well worth the time required in reading it. Worth the time because of the remarkable success of a young man and his wife going into the dairy business with little more than undefeatable courage in their hearts, determination to succeed and in the face of early reverses, having the ability to overcome discouragement. Worth the time because of the significance of their success. Significant because of the fact that with our free way of life, a will to succeed, youth unshackeled by any class distinction or customs, may climb to the heights of success in any chosen occupation as did Henry and Inez Neles.

Henry Neles' Grandfather left Ireland the land of his birth, arriving in California and locating in the little settlement of Bodega. Having learned the blacksmith trade as a boy on the Emerald Isle, it was only reasonable that this Son of Erin establish himself at the same occupation. Bodega, a thriving little coast community in those days, drew business from a large area and particularly to the north as far as Russian River. Farmers and woodsmen depended entirely on horses and oxen, and the Neles' Blacksmith Shop was always busy. Grandfather Neles married in Bodega and from this marriage four sons were raised, all of whom received their education at Bodega. One of the sons whose name was John assisted his father in the Blacksmith Shop, and upon the death of Grandfather Neles continued on with the business. So it was there that the staccato of the Neles' anvil clearly sounded in that little community for two generations.

John Neles, Henry's father, was married at Bodega and from the marriage two children were born, a son and a daughter. The son, whose name was Henry, as a child grew up in and about his father's shop, playing with other children when small, and upon becoming older assisted with the work.

Henry's mother was born and raised in Napa County and after marrying bestowed every care upon her little family, her two children growing up and receiving their elementary education at Bodega. Henry's father was well thought of by his townspeople, a good man, ever willing to extend a helping hand, and at times imposed upon as a result of his good nature and leniency when it came to extending credit. However, the Neles family was a happy one and all was well until the day came when Henry's father's health failed, and soon John Neles passed on from this world.

At the time of the death of Henry Neles' father, he was then attending the Tomales High School, having been going to that school for a year and a half and taking a keen interest in the agricultural course. Circumstances then necessitated Henry to discontinue his schooling and find employment. This, however, did not discourage him, as he was young and strong and anxious to be of help to his mother and sister.

During school vacations and before and after school hours, Henry Neles had been working on a dairy at Bodega and upon discontinuing his education he then became steadily employed on dairies in that community, later obtaining employment with the Bodega Co-operative Creamery. In all, Henry worked for wages after leaving school for six years.

In the years that Henry worked for wages, life never became so serious for him that he could not have a good time. He was a good boy, did his work well, was kind and considerate of his mother, but like most boys of that age showed no marked ability or definite destination

as to where he was headed for in life. However, suddenly Henry Neles began to change, while working for the Bodega Creamery he managed to acquire five head of cows and with those cows raised ten calves. Then something happened, Henry was in love, in love with a school girl sweetheart of the days when he attended the Tomales High School. In a short time Henry Neles was married and faced with realities and responsibilities, and immediately Henry Neles began proving to himself and his acquaintances that he was very capable of assuming those responsibilities.

Mrs. Neles was the former Inez Marino whose father and mother operated dairies at Tomales and Occidental, and from her marriage to Henry Neles she has bore him four fine children, three sons and a daughter. Mrs. Neles was born at Tomales, the daughter of Mrs. and the late Chas. Marino. She is also the sister of Alfred, Leo, and Frank Marino who all were in the service during World War II, and who are at present associated with Mr. Neles in the operation of his dairies, and will be discussed later in this history. Mrs. Marino, Mrs. Neles' mother, makes her home with her daughter and son-in-law.

Henry Neles, like his father, was well-liked in the community in which he lived, always having a cheerful greeting for his friends, a certain amount of Irish wit and, although young as he was, an already established reputation of being sincere, reliable, and trustworthy. It was because of this reputation that Henry Neles was given an opportunity to engage in the dairy business, and after careful consideration Henry accepted the offer.

About three miles west of the town of Bodega on the Bodega Bay Highway there is a dairy ranch known as the Cheney Ranch. This ranch until a few years ago was owned by the late Edward Cheney. Mr. Cheney, though well along in years, operated the ranch as a dairy and had the reputation of having a very fine herd. Mr. Cheney, while operating the dairy, was suddenly taken ill and died, leaving his ranch and stock to a relative. This relative unable to operate the business personally heard about Henry Neles and made an offer to Henry whereby he could operate it on a share basis. Due to Mr. Cheney's advanced age the ranch was quite run down, and coupled with the fact that butterfat was selling for around 21 cents at the time no doubt most people would have turned the offer down, not so with Henry Neles.

Henry Neles and his bride moved on to the ranch, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. The herd consisted of about 50 head of very good Jersey cows which was the only encouraging factor in the partnership. Fencing on the entire ranch was badly in need of repair and Henry with his wife working by his side cout eucalyptus trees, made posts and rebuilt the fences, buildings were straightened and the Neles were putting in full days with small remuneration for their efforts after buying feed and hay and dividing the profits.

The Neles economized wherever possible even to the point where supplies in their cupboard at times ran very low, the local storekeeper offered them credit and they refused, the Neles were paying their way as they went. After trying months of laborious toil their spirits rose, they were able to set aside a little money and they visioned the day when they could have enough to buy some second hand farming tools and raise their own feed and lessen their operating expense. At the end of the season they had accumulated enough to buy those much wanted tools, but luck was against those two young people struggling so desperately to get ahead. Mrs. Neles became ill and after consulting a doctor was advised she would have to undergo a major operation. Reluctant as she

was to spend the money, Henry immediately arranged for the operation which was successful and Mrs. Neles' health was soon regained.

While Henry was naturally dissappointed in having to spend their savings for doctor and hospital bills, to his wife he laughed the matter off, he was happy and grateful for her recovery. To the present time, when something goes wrong, Henry thinks of his first set-back, gives a hearty laugh and says, "Well, that's the life of business", a phrase of his own courage. Henry Neles' nature is not to become despondent when matters run afoul of his plans.

The Neles, after a year of hard work and self-denial, were just about where they started, so they sat down and studied the matter over very much the same as they do at the present time on any major problem, and as reluctant as they felt, decided to buy the second hand farming tool on credit. The hardware company readily extended them credit knowing any couple with the will to succeed as had the Neles, was no credit risk. However, Henry Neles will tell you that at that time he thought he would never get the tools paid for.

After obtaining the necessary farming tools the Neles proceeded to plant all the land they could into root crops, pumpkins and hay. They worked the soil well, hoed and cultivated and in return for their efforts were rewarded with an abundant crop, thus eliminating the necessity of buying feed and their bank account began to swell; the Neles were on their way.

At the end of the second year they had prospered to the extent that they rented the ranch outright and purchased the herd of cows from the person that had formed a partnership with them in the operating of the dairy. For three years Mr. and Mrs. Neles operated the Cheney ranch on a rental basis working long hours and prospering. However, in the fall of 1939, their lease having expired, they were advised the ranch was to be sold, they would have to look for another place.

Having prospered to the extent of being free of any indebtedness and owning their own herd, Henry Neles was faced with the problem of locating a vacant ranch to move his stock onto. After days of tireless inquiry and search, locally and in nearby communities, no suitable ranch could be found. However, the Neles had confidence in themselves, if their problem could not be solved one way they would try another. They made further inquiries in regards to purchasing a going business and soon were approached by the Mantau Bros. who were operating their own ranch a few miles east of the Cheney Ranch. The Mantau ranch was much larger than the Neles had contemplated renting, the milking barn very large holding many animals and the price asked for the business, while fair, was greater than Henry Neles had planned on paying. The Neles again sat down and discussed their problem. The price of butterfat had begun to strengthen, war clouds were gathering over Europe and Henry Neles made his decision, he would buy the business.

After completing the details in the purchase of the Mantau Dairy business, Henry then arranged for the holding of an auction of the equipment and stock on the Cheney Ranch. Conditions in the dairy business were improving, the Neles herd was in perfect shape and the auction was very much of a success from the Neles' financial standpoint. Henry Neles came out of that auction with practically enough money to buy out the much larger Mantau business.

Mr. and Mrs. Neles moved on the Mantau Ranch in the fall of 1939 and continue to make their home there and operate it at the present time. While they have other ranches they feel that this one is home

to them, their four children were born while operating this ranch, and their real prosperity started from there.

The first year of operating the Mantau Ranch Henry Neles formulated a program, raised calves, produced all the hay he could, and each year continued to increase his production over the past year. From 1940 to 1944 the Neles' herd continued to increase in size, he needed more land and rented the Robertson Ranch adjoining the Mantau Ranch to the east, increasing his acreage both in pasture and hay land.

The World was at war and in 1944 Neles then the largest manufacturing milk producer in his community was approached to produce water cooled war emergency milk. Mr. Neles readily consented, remodeling his milking barn and dairy house to meet requirements at his own expense and in the spring of that year was producing 50 cans a day.

In 1945 Neles again was confronted with the problem of room, his herd continuing to increase in size. The problem was soon overcome however by the renting of the Wilson Ranch one and one half miles west of his home ranch. Also in 1945 the war came to an end and Henry Neles realized it would be but a matter of time until the market for emergency Grade A milk would cease to exist. He therefore began studying and figuring what his next move would be, possibly he would build a unit on the Mantau Ranch at his own expense. About the time Henry was deliberating about the building of a new unit, his brother-in-law, Alfred Marino, received his discharge from the navy, the war being over. It was then Henry, having utmost confidence in his brother-in-law's dependability, discussed the possibility of their forming a partnership in the operation of a Grade A Dairy along the lines of the partnership he and Mrs. Neles first had while operating the Cheney Ranch Dairy the first two years they were in business. Mr. Marino was very receptive to the idea and confident of his capability as he had worked on coast dairies for years prior to his entering the armed service.

Henry Neles' next problem was to locate a Grade A Dairy large enough to make it profitable to operate on a partnership basis. Having heard of a large dairy in the Santa Rosa district which would probably be on the rental market, Henry contacted the owner and after considerable discussion and investigation of Henry Neles' character as a renter, the owners of the property agreed to build a new Grade A unit, and Neles then acquired another ranch for himself. Starting with the beginning of 1946 Neles stocked the ranch, and his brother-in-law, Alfred Marino, took over the operating and management. The partnership has been very satisfactory and profitable.

Neles through 1946 still operating his Bodega Dairy at full capacity producing and selling emergency milk, however in that year the Dept. of Agriculture issued notification that unless producers had started bona fide construction on Grade A units their emergency permits would not be reissued after December 31, 1946. Again Henry Neles was reluctant to return to the selling of milk at manufacturing price and began pondering over the feasibility of building a unit on the Mantau Ranch.

About that time Neles was advised the Rocco Ghisletta Ranch on the Stage Gulch Road at Petaluma could possibly be rented and Henry contacted the executors of the late Rocco Ghisletta. In a short time negotiations were entered into, an agreement reached and the Ghisletta Estate was building Henry Neles one of the finest Grade A units in Sonoma County.

In the spring of 1947 Neles transferred his entire milking herd from Bodega to Petaluma, forming a co-partnership with his two other

brothers-in-law, Leo and Frank Marino, on the same basis as the partnership on the Santa Rosa Ranch. This co-partnership is also operating very satisfactorily.

As Henry Neles expanded and prospered acquiring one ranch after another in quick succession, people who knew him around Bodega as a boy were amazed, some critized and predicted his failure, others praised and encouraged him, but all agreed here was a man young in life that possessed amazing foresight, exceptional managing ability and courage. Bankers sought his business, merchants his patronage, and through it all Henry Neles remains about the same personally as he was when he first started in business.

A magnificent characteristic of Henry Neles is that he has a great sinse of righteousness. Merchants who trusted Henry Neles during his early years in the dairy business have retained his patronage even at times when their prices were higher than competitors. However, any individual or firm making false promises, misrepresenting or using unethical methods in business transactions with him immediately suffer the loss of his patronage, and no amount of explaining or adjustment will regain his confidence.

Henry Neles is very fond of his children, taking a keen interest in their problems, generous to his family, being very solicitous as to their comfort and welfare. He and Mrs. Neles are active in 4-H Club work, and the furtherance of Future Farmer activity. He is especially interested in his eldest son's club project work, advising and encouraging him and also impressing upon him the value of money, fairness, and honesty.

The combined dairies and ranches under lease by Henry Neles make him the largest milk producer in Sonoma County and surely one of the most outstanding. His entire acreage utilized for dairying and farming consists of 2300 acres of brush-free land, there being no waste land on any of his ranches. He produces between eleven and twelve hundred tons of hay each year and an average of 500 sacks of seed oats. He also has 40 acres of permanent pasture under irrigation being seeded with Ladino Clover, Sudan and Rye Grass. Henry Neles has a very large monetary investment in dairying and farming equipment, his three dairy ranches each being well equipped with modern appliances for efficient operation to and including hay bailing and loading machinery. The Neles herd consists of 800 head of stock of which 600 head are milk cows and 200 yearling heifers. He still sontinues to raise calves and his ultimate goal is 1,000 head of stock.

Mrs. Neles as well as caring for her family has the responsibility of keeping the books as well as the handling of the records and correspondence entailed in the entire operations of the ranches. Mr. and Mrs. Neles realizing they have gone through a period of years permitting them to operate their dairies on very highly profitable basis and uncertain as to what the future may bring, have put their business on a solvent basis and are hedging against any financial disaster as took place a score of years ago and is still fresh in the minds of people who were in business at that time.

Henry Neles is now at last making tenative plans to build the Grade A unit on the Mantau Ranch at Bodega, and by doing so will bring all his dairies into market milk production. The Neles production with what young stock are in the process fo being raised by 1950 will reach 200 cans per day.

Since Henry and Inez Neles took their marriage vows in the little parish church at Tomales a few years back, they have risen to the heights

of success in the occupation of their choosing. Starting in business in 1935 with 5 cows and 10 claves, without the benefit of investment capital, operating a small dairy on a share basis, in fourteen years time they have achieved success almost beyond imagination.

In concluding the dairy history of these two young people, may it be an example to anyone of a doubtful nature as to the American way of life, where in any land under any form of government could a man with nothing more than sheer determination and rugged individualism acquire such phenominal success in as short a period of time in the dairy business as did Mr. and Mrs. Henry Neles -- starting with nothing more than a will to succeed in fourteen years time to become one of the largest dairy operators north of San Francisco including a huge investment in machinery with 800 head of stock and free of financial obligation to anyone.

The number one Neles Grade A Dairy is located three and a half miles southeast of Sebastopol and is known as the Llano Road Ranch. The ranch consists of 618 acres of land level as a table top of which 40 acres is in permanent pasture. The milk barn is the tail to tail type holding 40 head. The feed barn holds 80 head of animals. The stock consists entirely of milk cows running 250 head at all times. The young stock and dry stock being kept at Bodega. The herd is composed of mixed breeds of which Jersey, Guernsey, and Holstein predominate.

This ranch is operated on a partnership basis by Mr. Neles with his brother-in-law, Alfred Marino. Alfred Marino was born at Tomales, Marin County, and lived with his parents until he was sixteen years of age. He assisted his parents in the operation of cairies at Stoney Point for five years and at Occidental for five years, both ranches being located in Sonoma County. At the age of sixteen Al Marino, as he is known to his friends, obtained employment on a dairy near Tomales, Marin County, and helped support his widowed mother. Al Marino worked on dairies in the vicinity of Tomales for seven years and was also employed for a short time in a defense plant prior to his enlistment in the U. S. Navy. He served his country for twenty-eight months in that branch of the service.

Mrs. Alfred Marino was born in Paris, Arkansas, and moved to San Francisco when still a young girl. Mrs. Marino in later years moved to Petaluma and it was in that city that she and Al Marino were married. Both Al Marino and his wife possess extremely fine dispositions making them very popular among their friends and acquaintances. They are the proud parents of a baby daughter to whom they are exceptionally devoted.

Soon after Al Marino received his discharge from the Navy, he associated himself with his brother-in-law in the dairy business, assuming full responsibility of operating and management. The years Al Marino worked for wages on dairies as a young man made him well qualified to assume responsibility on a large ranch and in the production of Grade A milk he has established a fine record for quality.

The number two Henry Neles Grade A Dairy is located six miles east of Petaluma on what is known as the Stage Gulch Road. This ranch consists of 650 acres of rolling land and is considered one of the finest grazing ranches in Sonoma County. The milking unit is of the tail to tail type holding 48 head with a hospital barn to accommodate 50 head of animals. The feed barn is exceptionally large holding 160 head of stock with storage capacity for 1000 ton of hay. The milking herd consists of 250 head at all times, the young stock being kept on the Bodega Ranches.

This ranch is also operated on a partnership basis by Mr. Neles with two brothers-in-law, Leo and Frank Marino. Leo Marino is a twin brother of Alfred Marion who operates the Neles Llano Road Ranch at Santa Rosa. He was born at Tomales and spent his boyhood days in that community where he received his education. As a young man he assisted his parents in the operating of dairies at Stoney Point and Occidental. Although very young at the time of the death of his father, he like his twin brother Alfred, obtained work on dairies and helped in the supporting of his mother. He is the proud father of a young son and is never happier than when he is doing a favor for a friend and as a result of his kind attitude toward his fellowman occasionally is imposed upon. Aside from his work in operating their large dairy, his greatest pleasure is competing at clay pigeon shoots. Leo Marino is well-qualified in the operating and managing of a large dairy having worked at the business as a very young man and prior to his entering the Navy during World War II he worked for Henry Neles on his Bodega Ranch. During the time he served his country in World War II he spent two years in the Panama Canal Zone.

Frank Marino, the youngest of the Marino Bros. is also associated with Henry Neles in the operating of the Stage Gulch Dairy, he and his elder brother Leo operating on a partnership basis with Mr. Neles. Although younger than his twin brothers he is nevertheless very well-qualified in the operating and managing of their large dairy. Frankie, as he is known to his friends, is of a rather serious nature and as such assumes his responsibilities in a very conscientious manner. He is married and is the proud father of a two year old son. During World War II Frank Marino served his country in the armed forces spending three years in Alaska.

Mrs. Marino, Frank Marino's wife, is also the daughter of a dairyman, her parents having operated large dairies in western Sonoma County, and who at present reside at Sebastopol. Mrs. Frank Marino as well as caring for their young son also maintains the home for her husband and brother-in-law, and deserves full credit for her ability.

It can be truthfully said the three Marino Bros. who manage and operate the two large Grade A dairies on a partnership basis for their brother-in-law are doing an excellent job and deserve full credit for their ability. They are all hard conscientious workers, men of fine character who appreciate the opportunity afforded them by Mr. and Mrs. Neles in placing them in their positions of trust, and as such in return assume their full responsibilities to the end that all parties concerned may enjoy a dignigied, profitable and harmonious relationship.

Gus Luers Dairy
Guerneville Road
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Producer Number 12
Gus Luers

The Gus Luers Dairy is located six miles distance from the city of Santa Rosa on the Guerneville Highway. To reach the dairy from Santa Rosa, which city is the shopping center for Mr. and Mrs. Luers, it is necessary to drive due west on the above named highway. The Luer's ranch improvements are situated a short distance from the highway and upon approaching affords the traveling public an impressive view of what a modern well maintained dairy ranch is like. Besides being a well kept dairy it is the largest in the community and for that reason is referred to by the progressive people of Santa Rosa as an example of the suitability of their community as a desirable location for people wishing to go into the dairy business.

To approach the dairy from the highway it is necessary to drive over a private roadway for a short distance bringing the visitor directly to the Luer's residence and gardens. The house is a one story ranch type structure well maintained and modernized for the comfort and convenience of the owners. The garden surrounding the home is outstanding with its various kinds of shrubs, hedges and trees as well as the large well kept lawn, all of which creates an atmosphere of beauty, and well typifies the pride Mr. and Mrs. Luers have in their home.

The Luers ranch which consists of about 400 acres can truthfully be considered very valuable property by reason of the fact that over one half of it is rich bottom land suitable for irrigation, it being identical as the land close by which is used for the growing of hops. Besides the fertile low land there is also ample acreage of a rolling nature and well drained for winter pasturing as well as a large field paralleling the highway and utilized for the growing of oat and vetch hay.

The improvements on the ranch as well as the fencing are kept in perfect shape and consist of hay storage barns, silos, tool sheds and numerous other buildings required in the operating of the large business denoting constant vigilance on the part of the owner to maintain his ranch in perfect shape.

Mr. Luers who is known to his many friends as Gus was born in the village of Elmendorf, Province of Oldenburg, Germany, in the year 1903. He was one of a family of five children, having two sisters and two brothers. Gus' s parents followed agricultural pursuits in their native land besides being the proud owners of 20 head of purebred Holstein Fresian cows which they entered in stock shows and were often recipients of awards by reason of their fine breeding and showing. Gus grew up in the village of his birth receiving his elementary education and upon its completion attended agricultural college for two years, and that coupled with the practical experience he gained by assisting in the care of his parents' purebred stock was of great benefit to him in later years when he started in the dairy business for himself.

When Gus reached 20 years of age he became restless in the village where he spent his childhood days, and by reason of the fact that he had a distant relative in America who was located at Santa Rosa, California, he decided he too would come to California. Upon making the necessary arrangements Gus sailed from his homeland and landed in New York in the year 1924 where he immediately boarded a train for California. After five days of riding on the train across the continent he arrived at his destination which was Santa Rosa.

Gus's first employment after locating in the City of Roses was on a fruit ranch, where he remained for five months, however the fruit business was not entirely to his liking and when he heard of an opening on a dairy ranch, Gus immediately applied for the job and was hired. The ranch on which he received employment as a dairy worker was located on the Stoney Point Road south of the Todd School and was operated as a partnership by Azevado and Silva. After working for a period of time for Mr. Azevado and Mr. Silva, Gus

then took employment in the Healdsburg area and for a second time went to work for a Mr. Azevado, his first name being Joe. Joe Azevado's ranch was known as the Taylor Mountain Ranch and it was on this ranch that Gus worked long hours for several years until 1930 when he purchased the business from Azevado and by so doing became owner and operator. While it is not unusual for one man to buy another man out and by so doing acquire a dairy business, in the case of Gus Luers it was very unusual by reason of the fact that in six years time after arriving in Santa Rosa from his homeland, he had by his frugality and hard work acquired a business of his own.

After operating the Taylor Mountain Ranch for two years, Gus then moved to the ranch he is operating at the present time in the year 1932 and also operated this ranch for two years under lease. At the expiration of his two year lease he again took out a new lease for three years with an option to purchase the property. At the time of the signing of his second lease which was in 1934 one can readily understand the reason for his signing short leases, the economic depression being in full force practically from the time Gus first went into business on the Taylor Mountain Ranch, and success or failure in any business depended largely on the ability of management.

After signing his new lease in 1934, Gus married. Mrs. Luers, his wife, was born in the small town of Elinor, located in Humboldt County, California, her parents being operators of an agricultural ranch in that locality. She was one of a family of nine children. Mrs. Luers' father was born in Sweden and upon coming to America as a young man, for many years followed the occupation of a construction contractor specializing in heavy construction work in and about Humboldt County. Her mother was born in Humboldt County and it was in that County that she married and lived until after the death of her husband. Mrs. Luers received her elementary education in the district school at Elinor and upon graduation then attended high school at Arcata. In 1933 Mrs. Luers and her mother moved from Humboldt County to Santa Rosa, her father having passed on and their ranch business in the northern county having been disposed of.

After Mr. and Mrs. Luers were married they proceeded to operate the ranch under the new lease until 1937 at which time they exercised their option of purchase of the property and by so doing acquired ownership of the ranch. During the years from 1934 until 1939 both Gus and Mrs. Luers put in long hours on their ranch, repairing the property, and building up their herd of cattle. By the latter year 1939, having things well organized and running smoothely, Gus's thoughts turned toward the land of his birth and it was then that they decided to take a trip to Europe to visit his homeland and tour the surrounding countries of Germany while on their visit. While both Mr. and Mrs. Luers greatly enjoyed their visit and tour in the old world nevertheless to Mr. Luers there was a shadow of sorrow attached to his return to the village of his birth for the reason that prior to his returning both of his parents had passed away and after a short visit he well realized that the urge and desire that prompted him to return to Elmendorf no longer existed because of his parents' death and that his entire interest in life was solely in his ranch, his business and the health and happiness of his wife.

After their return from Europe Mr. and Mrs. Luers continued to operate their ranch improving their herd and expanding the business. During the war years from 1942 to 1945 they worked long and tireless hours due to their inability to obtain competent help, without complaint, desiring to do their part in the war effort by maintaining peak production from their ranch. Mrs. Luers during those years although fully occupied assisting her husband with his business and caring for her home, gave willingly a great amount of her time toward Red Cross work and bond drives. After termination of the war and help became more available both Mr. and Mrs. Luers have been able to occasionally get away from their business for a few days at a time and enjoy a trip, however it is seldom that they are not busily occupied in the operating and caring of their ranch and business.

In 1945 the increased their holdings by reason of purchasing 100 acres of hay land in the Llano district situated between Sebastopol and Santa Rosa and in so doing have greatly increased their hay tonnage grown for the feeding of their stock. The Luers dairy holdings now consist of 500 acres of fine land, all of which is used for the pasturing of animals or the growing of crops. Their total herd is made up of 200 head of which 130 are milk cows and the balance young stock of various ages. The milking barn on the Luers Dairy is of the tail to tail type holding 50 animals while the feed barn accommodates 100 head. The peak production has reached 43 cans per day and the average number of cans shipped throughout the year would be slightly lower than that figure.

In concluding the history of the Luer's Dairy it is in no way exaggerating to say that Gus Luers may well be claimed upon taking everything into consideration as one of the most successful dairymen of the present generation in northern California. He arrived in America in 1924 with little else in the way of wordly goods other than a great amount of self-confidence and a willingness to work, and that characteristic he still possesses. After a short period of employment on a fruit ranch he associated himself in the dairy business as a ranch worker and in six short years working for wages purchased the business from the man who employed him. Upon going into business for himself he fought for survival through one of the worst economic colapses in the histroy of our nation, its scope being world wide and with it all Gus came through with colors flying. However his struggle to remain solvent during that time was much more difficult than the phrases of this chapter would imply. In 1932 when Mr. Luers went into business as a tenant on the ranch which he now owns he was without a suitable market for his milk, and none seeminly were available. After an exhaustive search on his part to dispose of his product locally without success he approached the management and some of the members of the board of directors of the Marin-Dell Company, and they, although the Company was over-burdened with milk at the time, realized the gravity of his predicament and consented to buy his milk provided he would haul it from his Santa Rosa ranch to the intersection of Black Point Highway and 101 Highway, in Marin County, that being the fartherest point north the Company trucks reached out to at that time. This Mr. Luers agreed to do and for several years he made the trip twice daily delivering the milk to that distant point. As time went on and the Marin-Dell Company expanded their trucks started picking up milk as far north as Petaluma, and it was then that Gues Luer's product was hauled from his ranch by contract haulers who transferred it to Marin-Dell trucks at Petaluma. At the present time Marin-Dell's own truck picks up the milk from the Luers ranch at his dairy house door and in the very near future a fine new Marin-Dell highway tanker will be pumping milk from a stainless steel holding tank soon to bo installed in a new and modern milk house on the Luer's ranch. Such is the story of the hauling and picking up of the milk from the Luer's dairy and the expansion of Marin-Dell Company, but the fact remains that at the time Gus Luer's needed help, Marin-Dell Company found a market for his milk and in appreciation of that consideration he has for 18 years sold his product to the Company and the integrity and loyality of Mr. and Mrs. Luers toward Marin-Dell makes them as much a part of the organization as the oldest stockholders or a member of the board of directors. In the Santa Rosa area the names Gus Luers and Marin-Dell are almost synonymous and it is reasonable to believe the fine association that has existed in the past will continue in the future as long as Mr. and Mrs. Luers are in the dairy business. At the present time Marin-Dell Company has many producers in Sonoma County, some large, others not so large, for the policy of the Company is to serve the small producer as well as the large one, as they did Gus Luers at a time when he needed help the most. Gus is the first and oldest shipper of milk to Marin-Dell in Sonoma County and the Company is proud over the years to have had the opportunity to serve a man of the sterling quality and character of Gus Luers. May both he and Mrs. Luers enjoy health and prosperity and a full life for many years to come.

Joseph Pimentel and Sons Dairy.
Shellville,
Sonoma Co. Calif.

Producer Number 52
Joseph Pimentel and Sons

The Joseph Pimentel and Sons Dairy is located at Shellville in the south eastern part of Sonoma County. To reach the holdings of Mr. Pimentel and sons it is necessary to travel on the Sonoma-Napa Highway to the district known as Shellville. The dairy is situated about one-fourth of a mile east of the railroad depot on the north or left hand side of the highway when traveling east toward the city of Napa.

While Mr. Pimentel has other ranches in this locality the dairy which he and his sons personally operate at the present time is known as the Shell Ranch, being formerly owned by Mr. Shell and after whom the community is named. The Pimentel Dairy while it is not as large in acreage as some dairies it is nevertheless a very valuable piece of property in that it is practically level and brush free making it highly suitable for pasturing and the growing of permanent pasture, there being an abundance of water in that particular locality.

The improvements on the ranch are for the most part new, Mr. Pimentel having recently constructed a modern Grade A unit complete. The ranch home which is large and occupied by two of the sons of Joseph Pimentel and their families was the original home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Shell, and while it has been built for a number of years it has nevertheless been kept in excellent repair and at the time of its construction undoubtedly was considered one of the finest homes in that area. The other buildings such as hay storage barns and tool sheds like the home have been maintained in perfect shape over the years and under the ownership of Mr. Pimentel have been newly painted. Due to the fact the Pimentel dairy is located near the highway and easily visible to the traveling public the owners deserve commendation for the manner in which they maintain their property, it being a credit to the milk producing industry as well as denoting the pride the owners have in their property and business.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pimentel is not located on the ranch property but is situated on the Black Point Highway about three miles distance from the dairy. It is a fine new stucco finish, tile roof building of Spanish type architecture and was purchased by the Pimentels in 1945.

Joseph Pimentel was born in the Azores on the Island of St. Miguel on Christmas Day in the year 1898. He was one of a family of five sons and his parents derived a livelihood in their native land by following agricultural pursuits in the growing of various crops. Joe spent his childhood days on the Island of his birth and upon completing his education assisted his parents and brothers with the work until he was eighteen years old. When he reached that age he left his homeland for America, he already having brothers in the new world that preceeded him by a few years.

Joe upon arriving in America landed at Boston and from there came direct to San Francisco and then to Petaluma. His first employment after arriving at Petaluma was in what is known as the Lakeville District for a man by the name of Armida Pedroza who at that time operated a dairy in that locality. It was in the year of 1916 that Joe earned his first wages in the new world and after working on the Pedroza dairy for three months he next secured employment on the well known Burdell Ranch which was being operated at the time by John Mattos. Joe remained in the employment of Mr. Mattos for five months and then moved to San Francisco where he obtained work on the Guadalupe Dairy and where he remained for one year.

After working for a year on the Guadalupe Dairy he then came to Marin County and went to work on the Freitas Home Dairy where he also stayed a year. Upon terminating his services on the Home Dairy Joe then forsook the dairy business for a period of time by going east to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he remained for three years. During the time he was in the east Joe married.

Mrs. Pimentel's parents were, like her husband, born in the Azores on the Island of St. Miguel. However, soon after their marriage they left their homeland and immigrated to South America locating in the city of Sao Paula, Brazil. It was in Sao Paula that Mrs. Pimentel, Joe's wife, was born and when nine years of age her parents left South America coming to New Bedford. She received her education in the American schools of New Bedford and grew to maturity in that city of her adoption, and it was when Joe Pimentel went to New Bedford that they met and married, and from that marriage six children were born, they being four sons and two daughters, all of whom are living.

During the three years that Joe Pimentel lived in the east he worked in a factory, however Joe's heart was in the dairy business and after that period of time he accompanied by his wife and two children returned to California and Marin County. Upon locating in Marin County for a second time, Joe then went into partnership with his elder brother Manuel who was at that time operating the Cheda Ranch located at Ignacio. After staying in business with his brother on their dairy at Ignacio for two years, Joe then sold his interest in the business and once again went to work for wages.

Upon dissolution of their partnership he then spent one and one half years working as a milker, first for the Marin Land and Cattle Company located at Sausalito and from there for a second time during his career to the Freitas Home Dairy at San Rafael. After leaving the Home Dairy Joe again went into business for himself this time on the San Quentin Dairy located between San Rafael and Pt. San Quentin in Marin County, however the length of time he operated that dairy was short by reason of his disposing of the business in about three months time after having acquired it.

Soon after selling his business on the San Quentin Dairy, Joe then associated himself with five other men on a co-partnership basis and proceeded to lease and operate the McNear Dairy at Bayside Acres. He and his partners operated that ranch for five and one-half years and at the end of that time Joe disposed of his interest. After selling out his interest in the McNear Dairy he then went into business at Lucas Valley establishing himself on what was then known as the Dias Ranch, which ranch at the present time is owned and operated by Joe Luiz and Sons. Joe Pimentel started in a small way on the Dias Ranch and he recalls at the present time of producing two cans of milk a day at the beginning, on that ranch, however that was not for long and as time went on his business expanded and it was then that a lease was secured on the neighboring Santa Marguerita Ranch now owned by Thomas Nunes, and the combined production on the two ranches eventually reached to a peak production of 130 cans per day. After operating those two dairies for a period of 15 years, Joe then disposed of the business and located on the Butcher Ranch also in Lucas Valley. He remained on that ranch until 1941 when at that time he sold out the business to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pacheco, Mrs. Pacheco being his niece.

After disposing of his business in Lucas Valley, Joe then moved to Shellville, he already having property in that locality having bought what is known as the M.K.K. Dairy Ranch in 1938. In 1945 he purchased the Shell Ranch which he and his sons operate at the present time. The M.K.K. Ranch he rents out. He also in 1945 made further property purchases by acquiring ownership of 100 acres of land situated across the highway on the Black Point Road from where his home is located. It was also in that year of 1945 as already stated that he purchased the fine home in which he resides at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pimentel as previously stated raised a family of six children. Manuel, the eldest son was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and as a small child came to California with his parents. He received his elementary education at the Lucas Valley district school and then attended San Rafael high school. In 1942 he was inducted into the U. S. Army where he served his country for over three years, having participated in the invasion of Europe be-

ing with the first contingents to land on Omahah Beach. While Manuel served his country with distinction he did however pay a price for his bravery and courage in that he was wounded by an exploding bomb while participating in the cleaning out of German snipers in a French village. Manuel is associated with his father and brothers in the operating of their Shellville dairy and is well qualified in the operating and managing of a dairy business. He is married and at the present time resides in the city of Novato where he owns a fine newly built home. He and his wife are the proud parents of four children, they being one son and three daughters.

Alfred, the second eldest son and Joseph, the third son were born at the time their parents operated the dairy business in partnership with their uncle on the Cheda Ranch at Ignacio. They received their education by attending the Lucas Valley district school and the San Rafael High School. Alfred is married and he and his wife are the parents of one child, a daughter. Joseph is still single and also received part of his education by attending Sonoma High School.

Anthony
~~Thomas~~, the youngest of the sons was born at the time his parents operated the dairy at McNears point, he also like his brothers attended Lucas Valley Grammar School and later attended Sonoma High School.

Isabel, the eldest daughter was born in New Bedford, coming to California with her parents. She received her education in Lucas Valley and San Rafael schools, while the youngest daughter of the family was born in Lucas Valley and received her education in the Sonoma Grammar School and is at the present time attending Sonoma High School.

The Joseph Pimentel and Sons ranch consists of 175 acres of alnd, all of which is utilized for the pasturing of their stock. The Grade A unit is of the head to head type accommodating 48 head of animals. The total number of animals is 220 head of which 140 are milk cows and the balance young stock of various ages. The peak production on the ranch is around 45 cans per day and due to Mr. Pimentels long experience in the producing of Grade A milk, the fluctuation in production is very slight throughout the year. Mr. Pimentel has been shipping milk to the Marin-Dell Company for 12 years and during that period of time the association between him and the Company has been of the highest character.

In concluding the history of Joseph Pimentel and Sons may it be said, Mr. Pimentel having left his homeland at the age of 18 came to America in the year 1916. Due to his willingness to work and save during the first few years after his arrival he soon was in a position financially to go into the dairy business, and it was then that he began to prosper. At the present time, after living in this country 33 years, he is the owner of 575 acres of fine land in the form of three ranches. He and Mrs. Pimentel are the proud parents of a fine family of six children and they can be doubly proud of the sacrifice and record of their eldest son who fought with courage and bravery in behalf of his parent's adopted country in world war II. While Joe Pimentel prospered and accumulated modest wealth in America he has also been an asset to the community in which he lives. His home is one of the finest in the lower Sonoma Valley and he maintains and takes great pride in his ranches. Joe is the possessor of a fine character being sincere and conscientious and is never without a pleasant word to his many friends and acquaintances and his code of life is that of the golden rule. He is grateful for the opportunities afforded him in America and does not hesitate to proclaim this his adopted country the greatest and finest in the world. Like all good fathers his one concern is for the welfare of his family and he is ever willing to assist and encourage his sons in their problems. May both he and Mrs. Pimentel enjoy full health and happiness in the years to come and may their children continue on in the footsteps of their parents, who by hard work, application and determination achieved success in their life's work, the dairy business.

Wm Montini and Son Dairy.
Sonoma,
Sonoma Co, Calif.

Producer Number 57
William Montini and Son

The Montini Dairy is located one mile northwest of the City of Sonoma with 89 acres of the ranch being situated within the city limits of this historic community. The ranch buildings are will located, being protected by Oak covered hills to the north and east, while from these hills flows an abundance of clear cold water the year around, made possible by the augmentation of several springs. Some of the ranch eventually will be utilized no doubt for home sites due to its desirable location and abundance of water. Part of the Montini ranch was at one time owned by General M. G. Vallejo who was prominently connected with early California history. The original General Vallejo home now maintained by the California Native Sons adjoins the Montini property and is open to the public for its historic value having been erected in 1851.

Bill, as Mr. Montini is known by his many friends in and around Sonoma, was born in the village of Colico in Northern Italy. Bill as a boy in his native land had heard of the land of opportunity, had listened to people that returned from America and the more he thought, the stronger became the desire to come to California. Bill sought permission from his parents and soon found his father very definitely objected to such an adventure, but young Bill Montini did not give up and finally his mother, realizing what it meant to her young son, agreed to finance his trip from her own savings, and it was at this time his father consented to arrange for his boy to come to America. However, soon after Bill had been given permission to leave for California, reports were received in their village of a great disaster to San Francisco where Bill was coming to, for this was in the spring of 1906, but Bill's mind was made up and in the fall of 1906 Bill Montini, at the age of 16 stepped off a ferry boat in the company of a friend to see a great city laid waste by earthquake and fire. Bill still remembers that eventful day in his life, his friend having hired a driver of a horse and wagon to transport them and their luggage to a hotel. Upon reaching the hotel an argument ensued over the price of the fare, between his friend and the driver, and Bill listened with some apprehension as to what was going on. Shortly after Bill Montini had arrived in San Francisco he was offered work cleaning brick at four dollars per day, but he had other plans and soon Bill Montini was working on the Wickersham Dairy Ranch in the Sonoma Valley, then being operated by Mr. N. Tomasi. Bill Montini was a hard working young man, being steady and reliable, anxious to learn and in the eight years he worked for wages, he only held two jobs. During the time Bill worked on dairies for wages the salary received by ranch workers was very small, but Bill was looking ahead and saving, and in 1914 had accumulated enough money to go into business for himself, renting the old General Vallejo Ranch, which is part of the ranch he owns and operates at the present time. Bill Montini started in business with 30 head of milk cows and dairied at Sonoma for four years. He then moved to Pt. Reyes taking a five year lease on the Blue Jay Gulch located near Tomales Bay. At the expiration of his lease at Pt. Reyes, Bill returned to Sonoma and again leased the Vallejo Ranch as well as the ranch adjoining, and continued renting until 1927 at which time Bill Montini had prospered to the extent that he purchased both ranches and in that transaction acquired property once owned by the man who took a prominent part in the making of early California history, General M. G. Vallejo.

Mrs. Montini was born in the little town of Isleton which is located on the Sacramento River, her father being manager for the firm of Brown and Brandon who at that time were large operators in dairy and

beef cattle ranches in northern California. When Mrs. Montini was two years of age her parents moved to Napa Valley where they operated a dairy, later moving to the Sonoma Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Montini were married at San Rafael and from this marriage two children were born, a son and a daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Montini can well be proud of their two children, their son having served his country in World War II as a paratrooper in the Thirteenth Air Born Division serving two years over seas, participating in the invasion of Germany. Their daughter heeded the call of her country by enlisting in the Women's Auxiliary Corp. of the Army known as the Wac's.

After Mr. Montini's son, whose name is also William, received his discharge and returned to his home at Sonoma, he and his father formed a partnership in the dairy business and built a new modern Grade A unit and both Bill Sr, and Bill Jr. are very proud of their new operation.

The Montini ranch consists of 250 acres of fine land, their new milking barn is of the tail to tail type holding 16 head. The feed barn holds 42 animals. The Montini's own 100 head of stock of which 60 head are milk cows and 40 head of young stock of various ages. Their ultimate plan is to milk 100 head of cows besides raising young stock. Their animals are of the Jersey breed. They raise 50 ton of Oat hay a year and eight ton of red Oats, however their biggest asset is the abundance of water, besides the running springs from the hillsides there are two artesian wells which supply ample water to irrigate 40 acres of Ladino Clover. The irrigating is done by the flooding system, rotating the fields and regulating the grazing so that the animals are never without green feed during the summer and fall months.

The Montini's do all their own work and during irrigating time are kept very busy, however Bill Sr. who is a great favorite among his towns people always finds time and enjoyment in spinning a yarn or telling of some experience.

Bill Montini has done well for himself and family since coming to California from his native land and while new in market milk production is steadily increasing his herd and regulating for even production. Their volume has reached 20 cans per day and since going in for Grade A production which has been about two years their milk has been all sold to Marin-Dell.

A. Gilardoni Dairy,
Fulton,
Sonoma Co, Calif.

Producer Number 42.
Al. Gilardoni.

The Al. Gilardoni Dairy is located one and one half miles northwest of the town of Fulton in Sonoma County. To reach the ranch it is necessary to drive north on U. S. Highway 101 from Santa Rosa for a distance of four miles, where at that location by turning left you enter the Fulton Road and by continuing due west through the little village by the same name you converge onto the Laughlin Road at which point by turning right and again driving north you arrive at the Gilardoni dairy ranch. The ranch improvements are situated about one-eighth of a mile from the paved highway and are maintained in an orderly and well-kept manner, denoting the pride and interest the owners have in their business. While the Gilardoni Ranch is not as large as some dairies it is nevertheless a valuable piece of property in that it is entirely free of brush and for the most part level or slightly rolling. Its value is further enhanced by the fact that a year round flowing stream borders the property and for that reason a limited amount of permanent pasture is maintained by the owners at a nominal expense.

Mr. Gilardoni, Al Gilardoni's father, came to America from his native country of Italy when he was twenty-four years of age and soon after arriving obtained employment on a dairy ranch at Bloomfield in southern Sonoma County. After two years working for wages in the Bloomfield community Mr. Gilardoni decided to return to his native land his home being located near Milano and at which location his wife and children resided, he having married and his wife having bore him children previous to his embarking for America. After returning to his native Italy and staying one year he again decided to return to America and so for a second time the elder Mr. Gilardoni again took up where he had left off a year previous, prior to his returning to his homeland, by resuming his occupation as a dairy worker in the Bloomfield area.

After working for a period of time on dairies Mr. Gilardoni then decided to go into business for himself and by so doing proceeded to obtain a lease on a dairy located a short distance north of the town of Bloomfield. Having established himself in business, Mr. Gilardoni then sent for his wife and five children, the family consisting of three daughters and two sons, and soon the family were again re-united this time in America. Mr. and Mrs. Gilardoni with their family of five children operated the Bloomfield ranch that they had under lease for five years and at the expiration of the lease then moved to Bennett Valley near Santa Rosa where the elder Gilardonis purchased a small Dairy and have proceeded to operate it for 28 years and where the younger of their family grew up and took their rightful places in the business and social life of that community.

Al Gilardoni for whom this history is being written was born in Italy and with his mother and brother and sisters came to America after his father became established in business. He was eight years old at the time he left the land of his birth and in the ensuing chapters of this his history full credit shall be given him, for his life from early childhood was one of continuous hard work to place himself in the position of security and influence he holds today while still as measured by years a comparatively young man.

When Al Gilardoni arrived in America he was but eight years of age and as soon as he became settled on the ranch his father was operating at Bloomfield he began immediately to assist in the dairy work. By the time he reached his tenth birthday he was already doing a days work and it was at this age he started to work out for wages. While most boys at the age of ten are absorbed in childhood games, it was not the case with Al Gilardoni, he was up early and doing a man's job as a dairy worker. Al worked

on dairy ranches in the vicinity of Bloomfield for several years and then desirous of locating in some other community obtained employment at Lucas Valley on the Grady Ranch in Marin County. He worked for Mr. Grady for a period of time and then decided to return to Sonoma County where he obtained employment on the Gus Luers Ranch located on the Guerneville Highway six miles west of Santa Rosa. Al remained employed on the Luers Ranch for two years and at the end of that time terminated his services with Mr. Luers to go into business for himself.

Al Gilardoni started into business for himself in 1934 leasing a small dairy ranch near Santa Rosa and started operating his dairy with a total of sixteen cows. It was not very long however until he commenced increasing the size of his herd and raising young stock with the result that at the end of six years on the Santa Rosa dairy he was forced to procure a larger ranch to accommodate his growing business.

During the time Mr. Gilardoni was operating and expanding his business Mrs. Gilardoni, Al's wife, was born and raised at Santa Rosa and it was in the city of her birth that she received her education and grew into womanhood. Mrs. Gilardoni is the possessor of a very pleasing disposition and is very well-qualified by reason of her knowledge of records and back ground of various breeds to discuss their merits and is especially conversant regarding the Jersey breed, that being the breed the gilardoni herd is made up of.

As previously stated Mr. and Mrs. Gilardoni at the end of six years on their Santa Rosa dairy were required to find a larger ranch and it was then that they purchased the ranch property on which they are located at the present time. The Gilardonis moved onto their new ranch in 1940 and from that time to the present have continuously modernized and improved their property.

The Gilardoni dairy ranch consists of 135 acres of land of which 40 acres is utilized as permanent pasture and also a portion for the growing of hay while the balance of the acreage is used for pasturing purposes. The milk barn is the tail to tail type accommodating 24 head of animals while the feed barn which is located adjacent to the milking barn holds 60 animals. Mr. and Mrs. Gilardoni have specialized on the Jersey breed of animals having a 50 cow herd of high producing animals and 35 head of young stock of various ages. They produce for use on their own ranch around 100 ton of oat hay a year and their production flucuates very little throughout the year holding at 18 cans per day. They have sold all the milk produced on their ranch for the past three years to the Marin-Dell Company and the business relationship has been of a very satisfactory nature.

In concluding the history of Al Gilardoni it can be truthfully stated Mr. Gilardoni deserves great credit for the success he has made of his business, while he is nct a large dairy operator as some dairies go he nevertheless is a self made man. Starting out in life at ranch work as young as he was he fought his way to success and security by hard work and still being in middle age no doubt will continue to expand his business. His herd is one of the highest if not the highest producing herd in Sonoma County and he is a firm believer that a medium size herd of high producing animals is economically more profitable than a large herd of less productive animals and in following that policy has numerous production records of both individual animals and entire herd production. Mr. and Mrs. Gilardoni have built their high producing herd from their own foundation stock over a period of years and it can be truthfully stated they are very proud of the records their animals have made and show great enthusiasm when discussing those records. May Mr. and Mrs. Gilardoni enjoy good health for many years to come and may their success continue in the breeding of high producing animals.

Alfred Buhler Dairy,
Sebastopol—Santa Rosa Highway,
Sebastopol, Calif.

Producer Number 65
Alfred Buhler

The Alfred Buhler Dairy is located one mile east of the City of Sebastopol on the Sebastopol Santa Rosa Highway. The home and ranch buildings located about one fourth of a mile from the highway are situated among towering Oak and present to the motorist traveling between the two cities a very favorable impression as to what a modern well kept dairy appears like. The entire ranch is practically level with ample shade from Oak trees dotting the acreage and being situated far enough apart to afford a very pleasing pastoral view.

Mr. Buhler was born in the village of San Gellan, Switzerland where he received his education and as it is the law of his native country upon reaching a certain age spent the necessary time in the Swiss army. Upon completion of his military training young Mr. Buhler's thoughts turned to America and the dairy business, his father and uncles having small dairies in their homeland.

At the age of twenty-five Al Buhler as he is known to his friends arrived in Seattle and immediately found employment on a dairy. Al was a willing worker, keen observer and readily adapted himself to American methods. After working on the Seattle dairy for fifteen months, Al quit dairy work and went to New Jersey where he obtained employment in the butcher business. However after a short time the desire to return to the west coast was in Al's mind and he left for San Francisco. Upon arriving, it was but a short time until Al Buhler was working for the Milbrae Dairy in San Mateo County. Al enjoyed his work at Milbrae and in a few years his employers observing the interest he took in their business promoted him to foreman. In all Al Buhler worked at Milbrae for ten years before going into business for himself.

Mrs. Buhler was born in Zurich, Switzerland, and at the age of twenty came to America locating in San Francisco. It was in this city that Mr. and Mrs. Buhler were married and from the marriage two daughters were born. Mrs. Buhler, like her husband, came from a family interested in dairying, her parents having operated a small dairy in Switzerland.

While Al Buhler enjoyed his association with the Milbrae Dairy his aim in life was more than being a foreman on a large dairy. He and Mrs. Buhler made definite plans for the future early in their married life, while the Buhler family lived well, by careful management of the monthly budget Mrs. Buhler was able to lay aside a part of her husband's salary toward the day when the Buhler's would be operating their own dairy. As their savings grew Al Buhler began looking around for a small dairy business and after investigating several dairies decided to locate at Bodega in Sonoma County. One of the factors influencing their decision was the desirable climatic conditions for a long pasture season enjoyed by dairymen in that area due to the coastal fogs. Mr. and Mrs. Buhler while living at Milbrae were accustomed to conveniences of modern day living, however upon leasing the dairy at Bodega they were forced to give up certain conveniences, one of which was electricity. Another hardship was the maintaining of two miles of private road, however the Buhlers had fortitude as well as foresight and signed a six year lease. They moved to Bodega in 1940 starting in business with 85 cows producing manufacturing milk. During the time Al Buhler operated his dairy at Bodega due to World War II the farm labor problem was very difficult and Al Buhler worked long hours not only attending to his dairy but also doing all his own crop farming which included the raising of the hay for his stock. Mrs. Buhler

assisted her husband in every way possible during those years as well as caring for her family. The six years the Buhlers operated the dairy business at Bodega however were years well spent and at the expiration of their lease the Buhler family were in a very favorabel financial position. It was then Al Buhler again began looking around for what he wanted and shortly had an option on the Moorhead Dairy business at Sebastopol. Mr. Buhler then put his Bodega Dairy business up for sale and in a short time sold out, moving onto the Moorhead ranch in the fall of 1946 and acquiring ownership of one of the top herds of Sonoma County. Al Buhler, with a smile, now refers to the time he spent at Bodega as the year of exile. Mr. and Mrs. Buhler idolize their two daughters and are providing for an extensive academic and musical education for them.

The Buhler ranch consists of 500 acres of land which is utilized for farming as well as pasture, raising 300 ton of Oat and Vetch, and 50 ton of Rye grass hay a year. At present there is 170 head of stock of which 118 head are milk cows, the balance of 52 young stock of various ages. The milk barn is the head to head type holding 40 animals while the feed barn accommodates 90 head. Mr. Buhler is partial to the Holstein breed and is carefully improving his herd by testing for production. The peak production reached is 48 cans per day and since going into the Grade A market all of the milk has been shipped to Marin-Dell. The Buhler herd is well regulated reaching high production during late summer and fall months.

Joseph Ghisletta and Sons Dairy
Sonoma – Napa Highway
Napa, Calif.

Producer Number 31
Joseph Ghisletta and Sons.

The Joseph Ghisletta Dairy Ranch is located on the Napa-Sonoma Highway exactly two and one half miles distance from the sire of the Napa County Court House in the city of Napa. Driving west on that highway toward Sonoma from Napa one encounters no difficulty in locating the Ghisletta Dairy, by reason of its close proximity to the highway and the imposing view that meets the eye of the traveler due to the many large well kept buildings which comprise the dairy improvements. Also a short distance from the ranch buildings stand the Ghisletta dwellings both of which are the California Spanish type style of architecture with the finest of tile roofs and while being on this subject, it might be stated the largest of the dwellings which is the family home, when built required thirty-one tons of tile to complete the roofing structure, the second home is located adjacent to the family home and is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ghisletta and their family. The Ghisletta Ranch consists of 330 acres of brush free land which can be utilized in its entirety for pasturing and the growing of crops, and due to its closeness to the city of Napa and the excellent type of land it has it can truthfully be considered a very valuable ranch. The ranch is divided, it might be said, into two parts, by reason of the California State Highway running through it. The portion lying to the west of the highway and on which the major part of the improvements are located is of a rolling type of terrain entirely used for pasturage and affording excellent drainage. That lying to the east of the highway and bordered by the Napa River is practically level some of which is utilized for summer pasture supporting late growth as well as large hay fields and a considerable acreage given over to permanent pasture, water being supplied from artesian wells and being in abundance.

Joseph Ghisletta was born in the village of Camorino, Canton Ticino, Switzerland, in the year 1869. He was one of a family of ten children, having three brothers and six sisters. Young Joseph grew up in the village of Camorino, receiving his education there and as he grew into manhood assisted his parents in the operating of their small dairy. Joe, however although still very young was not entirely content with his lot in life, and often after his days work was done he would listen attentively to discussions by older men of the village regarding life in America, some of whom had relatives in that far away land. The more he listened the more he became interested and he and a close friend of his would spend long hours discussing between themselves the feasibility of making the trip to America. Finally after listening to others planning to leave their homeland, the desire to accompany them became so great that after three days of ardent thought he arrived at a decision, and with little time for preparation, left his homeland for America.

Joseph Ghisletta landed in New York in the year 1887 at eighteen years of age and from there came directly to San Francisco. To most young men of that age such an adventure undoubtedly would be startling, however to young Joe Ghisletta it was quite the opposite, he had given the whole affair careful thought and as young as he was and all through his life Joe Ghisletta was able to think for himself, and so upon arriving in San Francisco, although being unable to speak the English language, he was greatly enthused and confident he had decided wisely in coming to America. After staying in San Francisco for a week and contacting people of his own nationality during that time, Joseph learned of an opportunity for employment at Pt. Arena situated on the Mendocino County Coast, and he immediately secured passage on a coastal ship bound for that small city. A short time after sailing out the Golden Gate and north along the California coast, Joseph Ghisletta arrived at Pt. Arena, and it was there that he obtained his first work after coming to America.

The ranch that Joseph obtained employment on was known as the Light House Ranch then being operated by Costantino Barboni, father of Chas. and the late Joseph Barboni, and it was here that young Joseph Ghisletta put in his first season as a milker. Young Mr. Ghisletta soon became known to acquaintances as Joe, and although he was not a large man he was a willing and energetic worker and as such soon became recognized as a valuable dairy man, especially for his ability and patience in handling cows, a characteristic that Joe Ghisletta retained all through the years of his dairying career, and which has paid him big dividends. After being employed by Mr. Barboni on the Light House Ranch for one season he then took employment on another dairy in the same community for another season. Upon completion of the second seasons work young Joe Ghisletta then moved to the Caul Ranch located down the coast from Pt. Arena and near the vicinity of Ft. Ross. The Caul Ranch at that time was one of the largest dairies along the coast milking one hundred and eighty head of stock in the spring months and it was here that Joe put in long days for which the owner appreciated by paying him better than the going wage for his willingness to work.

From the time Joe Ghisletta arrived in Pt. Arena and took employment as a dairy worker he had but one thought in mind and that was for the day to arrive when he would be able to go into business for himself. With that thought uppermost in his mind, although the prevailing wage for dairy workers was small, Joe Ghisletta saved his money and after putting in two seasons on the Caul Ranch never again in his life had to work for anyone except Joe Ghisletta.

After completing the two seasons as a dairy worker on the Caul Ranch and four years after his arrival in America, Joe by his willingness to work and by reason of his being thrifty had accummulated enough money to go into business for himself. It was then that he rented a ranch at Salt Point which is located between Fort Ross and Stewards Point, and proceeded to stock it with cows. In the due course of time Joe was milking seventy head of cows on his ranch putting in long hours making butter, which he shipped to San Francisco by boat and raising pigs with the skim milk. Joe operated the Salt Point Ranch from 1891 to 1900 and in that particular period experienced some very trying years, in that butter dropped to seven cents per pound in San Francisco during the Grover Cleveland administration. However, as Joe states at the present time, he never became discouraged in those days feeling the country was a young nation and conditions would readjust themselves in due time and in which he was absolutely correct. Joe worked hard during the years he operated the ranch at Salt Point and he likes to tell about his experience in gathering lumber from the sandy beach at that location, his ranch being very close to the ocean. During heavy storms at sea quite frequently lumber schooners plying down the coast from the saw mills would have some of their cargo wash overboard and at certain points along the coast the currents and high seas would cause the lumber to be deposited on the beaches and Salt Point was one of these locations. Joe and neighboring ranchers would collect this lumber excercising their marine right of possession. He would amaze his neighbors in his ability to haul large loads of lumber on his freight wagon through the deep sand, Joe's secret being to start his team evenly and rest his horses at frequent intervals.

In the days Joe Ghisletta operated his dairy at Salt Point roads were poor and transportation slow and expecially along the edge of the ocean. Joe hauled his butter along a road scarcely wide enough for his vehicle around high bluffs where the slightest mishap would mean death for three miles from his ranch to a point called Fish Mill where the coastal steamers loaded and unloaded and where he would purchase supplies. To those who have never seen or heard how boats were loaded and unloaded along the north Sonoma and Mendocino coast in those days it might be interesting to

explain that there were no docks or wharves, loading places were chosen for their deep water and perpendicular rock formation where the boats would creep in at snails pace close enough to be thrown a line from the top of a rock to hold the boat fast. From the top of the rock bluff a crane would swing out over the ship with a block and tackle thus loading and unloading the ship of its cargo, an operation that could only be practiced in a calm sea.

After operating the ranch at Salt Point for nine years Joe then secured a lease on the Quinlan Ranch located at Bodega Bay and by so doing again moved further down the coast from his original location at Pt. Arena where he first became employed. For anyone never having traveled from Salt Point to Bodega Bay it would be hard to visualize the herculean task it required of Joe Ghisletta to move from one location to the other. Taking his equipment and driving his entire herd before him Joe slowly but steadily made his tedious way from Salt Point past Fort Ross to Russian Gulch where he followed the snake like wagon road to the bottom of the Gulch, up its southern slopes to Jenner, from this point along the Russian River to a point near Duncans Mills where it was possible to forge the river and from there again down the doast to Bodega Bay. To move an entire dairy herd and ranch equipment in those days over such country as Joe Ghisletta traversed took courage as well as patience and that is exactly what Joe had plenty of.

Mr. Ghisletta proceeded to operate the Quinlan Ranch for three years until his lease expired at which time he then disposed of his business and moved to St. Helena in Napa County, terminating a period of sixteen years residing along the coast of Mendocino and northern Sonoma Counties, of which four years were spent in the capacity of a dairy ranch worker and twelve years in business for himself.

After disposing of his business at Bodega Bay and moving to St. Helena Joe spent a short time in that community and then desiring to visit his homeland from which he had left when still a very young man, he proceeded to make the trip back to the land of his birth. In discussing his return to Switzerland, at the time of this writing of his life history, it is with a little reluctance that Joe can give a plausabile reason for making the trip, however with a twinkle in his eye the grand man that he is, he still contends it was for the purpose of a family reunion and renewing childhood acquaintainship. However this explanation is to be questioned as Joe did not prolong his visit to his homeland. After spending three months in his homeland, Joe again returned to America, but he was not alone, he was accommpanied by his young bride who in later years bore him three fine children and has been since the day of their marriage his constant companion, and their marital union has been that of comfort and deep consideration and affection toward each other these many years.

Mrs. Ghisletta was born in Switzerland in the village of Manno, Canton Ticino. Her parents like many of the Swiss families of that Canton operated a small dairy. She received her education and grew into womanhood in the village of her birth. Mrs. Ghisletta was one of a family of nine children, having six brothers and two sisters.

Upon Joe Ghislettas return to America with his bride he again located in Napa County taking a lease on a ranch near Yountville. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ghisletta were very busy on their Yountville ranch, he operating and managing his seventy-five cow dairy, and Mrs. Ghisletta taking care of her home and raising their family, their three children having been born during the time they were ranching at Yountville. In all the years that Joe Ghisletta operated dairy ranches at the coast locality and while he was at Yountville, he took a great pride in his butter making and was never without a market, the San Francisco produce houses always being desirous

of handling his product. After eleven years of operating their dairy at Yountville, Mr. and Mrs. Ghisletta then purchased the ranch on which they are now residing and operating with the assistance of their two sons at the present time. After purchasing the property they disposed of their business at Yountville and moved to their present location in the month of May 1915. After taking possession of their new ranch, Mr. Ghisletta immediately began the huge task of constructing all new buildings and at the present time thirty-five years later the huge barns, dairy buildings, and numerous other buildings required in the operating of their large dairy as well as the fine homes, stand as a monument to the agressiveness and success of Joe Ghisletta.

As previously stated Mr. and Mrs. Ghisletta's three children were born at the time they operated their dairy at Yountville, they being two sons and a daughter. Joseph Junior, the eldest of the children, received his elementary and academic education in the Napa grammar and high schools and upon graduating from high school then completed a course in business college. He is married, his wife being the daughter of a prominent Napa Valley family. She was born in Napa County and received her education and grew into womanhood in that community. After graduating from high school, she continued to further her education by taking up professional nursing, and during World War II worked long and exhaustive hours at her profession. Mrs. Joseph Ghisletta Junior is the possessor of a very pleasing personality and as such is very popular among her wide circle of friends. Upon completing his education and up to the present time Joseph Junior has assisted his father in the operating of their dairy business of which more will be said of that long association.

Stephen, the second son of the Ghisletta family also born at Yountville, like his brother Joseph received his education in the city of Napa and upon graduating from grammar and high school associated himself with his father and brother in the operating of their dairy business. He is married and he and his wife are the proud parents of two young children, a daughter and son. Mrs. Ghisletta, Stephen's wife, was born at Petaluma where she received her education and grew into womanhood in the city of her birth. Stephen with his wife and children reside in a new modern home located adjacent to the family home.

Mary, the third child and only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ghisletta Senior, like her brothers was born at Yountville and with her family moved to their present ranch at an early age. She received her education in the city schools of Napa, graduating from high school and growing into womanhood while residing on the ranch of her parents, and assisting her mother in the care of their home and gardens. Mary, during the time she was attending the Napa High School and growing to maturity was very popular among the young people of the community, her sincerity, wholesomeness, and quiet disposition combined with a pleasing personality made her a great favorite, and as such she enjoyed a wide acquaintanceship. She is now married and resides in San Francisco, her husband being Michael Majjorie, a prominent business man of that city, who is associated with his father in the Majjorie Creamery, the firm being one of the old and reliable as well as successful handlers of dairy products in San Francisco.

While writing the history of the Joseph Ghisletta and Sons dairy it would be a grevious omission if some mention was not made of their family life. In the operating and managing of their dairy throughout the years, they have been very successful and can well be proud of their achievement, however in this respect there are dairy operators that have been equally as successful throughout the country and in this respect they cannot be claimed as unusual. However, the manner in which this family work together can definitely be considered as unusual, it can be truthfully claimed as remarkable, the harmony, respect and consideration they show toward

one another is nothing short of a family devotion. The two sons manage and operate the dairy business while their father assists in an advisory capacity when the occasion arises. The sons' wives work harmoniously with their husbands' mother in the maintaining of the family home in an atmosphere of congeniality and the uppermost thought in the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ghisletta Junior and Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ghisletta is the welfare and comfort of their aged parents. In the operating of the business the two Ghisletta Brothers work side by side each doing his just share of the work and at all times maintaining an attitude of solicitious consideration toward each other. It can be truthfully stated the atmosphere which prevails in the Ghisletta homes is that of deep consideration by all toward one another and arguments or criticism not only do not occur but are wholly unthought of.

As stated in the introductory chapters of this history, the Ghisletta ranch consists of 330 acres, however beside this they also own two other ranches which are utilized for pasturing purpose, the largest being 300 acres and the smallest ranch consisting of 80 acres, making a total in all their ranches of 710 acres of land. Their milking barn consists of four strings of the head to head type, holding twenty-four cows each for a total of 96 head. They are partial to the Holstein breed of animals, however their herd can be classified as of mixed breeds consisting of 205 head of stock of which 158 are milking cows and the balance of 47 head are young stock of various ages. The Ghisletta herd without exaggeration is one of the most outstanding Grade A milk producing herds in Napa County and this statement can be substantiated by their production record which had a herd average of 412 pounds of milk fat for the year 1948. Besides the producing of milk the Ghisletta family also raise an average of 300 ton of oat and vetch hay each year and approximately 2000 sacks of grain which is mostly oats and barley. They also have 37 acres planted to Sudan Grass and 15 acres in permanent pasture. Aside from their dairy business they also own and operate a fruit ranch in Napa County and a vineyard comprising 60 acres of land. Joseph Ghisletta and Sons have been producing Grade A milk for 33 years on their Napa Ranch and of this time they have been selling all their milk to Marin-Dell for 17 years, starting with the Company shortly after it was organized. The business association between the Ghisletta family and Marin-Dell over that long period of time has been one of mutual satisfaction. Having been in the market milk business for so long a period of time they can be classified as top bracket producers both in quality and the amount of milk they produce, their peak reaching 58 cans per day and fluctuating very slightly throughout the year.

In concluding the history of the Joseph Ghisletta and Sons Dairy may it be stated again that they are a truly remarkable family. Their ability at Dairy management is outstanding and undoubtedly their success can be attributed to the consistent policies of Joseph Ghisletta Senior, in that like the days when he hauled lumber off the beach of his Salt Point Ranch and amazed his neighbors by the sixe of the loads he moved, his secret being to have his team of horses start evenly and steady, so it has been in his business, the Joe Ghisletta family pulled together and by so doing moved steadily onward to success. As for the father of the family, Mr. Ghisletta has been an outstanding man in many ways. Coming to America as a young man in a strange land his frugality and willingness to work enabled him to establish himself in business in four short years. After marrying and locating in Napa County he and his wife raised a family they can well be proud of and their marriage has been one of devotion and affection down through the years. His code of ethics has never been questioned and his word is his bond, in trying times his loyality to his adopted country, the land of his childrens birth has never faltered, he has always assisted a worthy cause and been humanitarian and best of all he has been a good neighbor not alone in words but in deeds, and action by helping people he felt were deserving during the economic depression of

the thirtys, assisting them financially to save their ranches when they were unable to procure assistance elsewhere, and by so doing earned their undying gratitude. To all this and much more too numerous to mention, Joe Ghisletta stands today at the age of four score years a quiet unassuming man who has resided in the Napa Valley for over 46 years without a known enemy, while on the opposite side of the ledger his friends and admirers are countless. May he and his wife enjoy good health for many more years to come and may they in their twilight years be an inspiration to all who know them in that theirs was a full life of goodness and accomplishment.

RAY PITRINI DAIRY – WINDSOR

Producer Number 78
Ray Pitrini.

The Ray Pitrini Dairy is located south of the town of Windsor, that community being situated half way between the cities of Santa Rosa and Healdsburg on the U. S. Highway 101. To reach the dairy it is necessary to drive south from Windsor on the Windsor Road for a distance of two miles when at that point the improvements of the Pitrini dairy are located.

The fine modern stucco home is situated adjacent to the highway thereby eliminating the necessity of keeping up a private roadway. The ranch while not as large as most dairies, is nevertheless a very valuable piece of property in that a large portion of it is made up of bottom land which is in a manner sub-irrigated thus providing green succulent natural pasture far into the summer. The balance of the ranch is of a slightly rolling nature affording excellent drainage for winter pasture.

Theodore Pitrini, Ray's father, was born and raised in north central Italy in the District of Lucca where he received his education and while still a young man left his homeland and came to America. He remained in the east for one years time after arriving in the United States in 1901. After staying for a year on the Atlantic Coast he then came to San Francisco and from that city to the town of Sonoma. Upon his arrival at Sonoma Mr. Pitrini worked for a period of years in the gardening business in and about Sonoma and from there then moved to the village of Hilton located on the Russian River.

After moving to Hilton Mr. Pitrini then acquired a tract of bottom land and during the summer months supplied the community for miles around with fresh vegetables from his truck garden. Upon becoming established in his truck garden business, Mr. Pitrini then sent for his wife who also came from the same community in Italy, that being the Lucca District. Mrs. Pitrini arrived in America and the Russian River in the year 1906 and soon after her arrival was assisting her husband in his new but fast growing business.

Ray Pitrini was born in the community of Hilton during the time his parents were operating their truck garden business in that resort area in the year 1907. He spent his childhood days at the Russian River district receiving his education at the Ridhenhour District School and growing into manhood in the community of his birth.

After Ray became old enough to work out he occupied his time doing various jobs in the resort area along with assisting his parents in their business and eventually became employed by a utility company in the building of power lines in and about the Russian River area. Upon completing his services with the utility company, Ray then purchased a small fruit ranch in the vicinity of what is known as Hacienda also located on the Russian River and for a number of years was in the business of growing fruit.

It was during the years that he was operating his fruit ranch that Ray Pitrini married, his wife being a widow and the mother of one child, a daughter. Mrs. Pitrini, Ray's wife, was like his parents also born in Italy coming from the province of Como, situated in the district of Milan. Mrs. Pitrini received her education in the land of her birth and arrived in America in the year 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitrini started operating their Grade A dairy located at Windsor in the summer of 1946 and with the assistance of their daughter who is very capable in the managing and handling of stock have steadily

increased their small dairy business to the point that after three years of regulating and selecting good animals they are well on their way in the establishing of a small and profitable dairy business.

The Pitrini Ranch consists of 100 acres of land all of which is used for pasture with the exception of a small portion which is planted in grapes. The milking barn is of the straight string type holding 12 animals while the feed barn accommodates 30 head. The herd consists of the Holstein and Jersey breeds with the Jersey predominating and the peak production has reached ten cans per day. The Pitrini family have been selling all their milk to Marin-Dell Company since going into business in 1946.