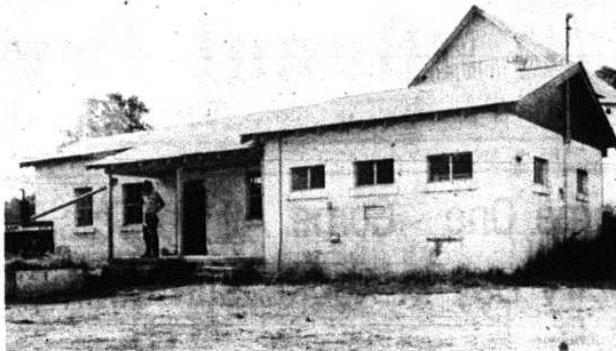




3 Generations of the Blanton, his son, Jack, and Jack's son, Family operate their 273 acre Frank farm. They are, from left: Carter,



The Blantons have a 3-in-line gallon holding tank and vacuum Surge milking parlor (above). lines. The parlor is equipped with a 600

3 Generations of the Blanton Family Are in Dairying

Three generations of the Carter Blanton Family cooperate in running a 273 acre dairy farm located near the center of Rockcastle County. Carter, his son, Jack, and Jack's son, Frank, along with Jack's wife milk 62 head of cattle

twice a day. They also have 42 heifers.

The Blantons have smaller farms located in the same area as their large one with 130 acres in corn and silage and 48,000 lbs. of tobacco.

The Blantons have been in the dairy business since 1955 and their herd grows yearly.

Frank, the youngest member of the Blanton Family is a sophomore at Rockcastle County High School and expects to become a partner in the farm after he graduates.

go together, hire young men as "cowkeepers," and pasture the cattle on common grazing lands. At that time croplands were fenced in to keep the cattle out.

The cowkeepers trained the cows to obey the sound of a horn and to follow them to and from the grazing grounds each morning and night. A young cowkeep received 10 pounds for herding 100 cows for summer. However, for each time he failed to bring in all the cows at night for milking, he had to forfeit threepence from his salary.

These cows were not the prolific milk producers found on most farms today. Milk yields

were extremely low. As colonial farmer and writer, Israel Acrelius, once reported, "where the pasture is fair, a cow does not give less than two quarts of milk at a time that is, twice a day." Cows today commonly produce at least 25 quarts a day and it is not unusual for a cow to produce twice that amount. Some exceptional animals have produced 75 or more quarts of milk in a single day.

There was not much improvement in Colonial cows until after 1790, when farmers began to produce forage crops in more abundance. As the

(Cont. to 3)

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Dairy Industry in America is More Than 350 Years Old

By Nevyle Shackelford
UK College of Agriculture

Along with being the month of roses and brides, June is also the month of the dairy cow, and for more than 350 years this gentle farm animal has contributed tremendously to the agricultural economy of North America.

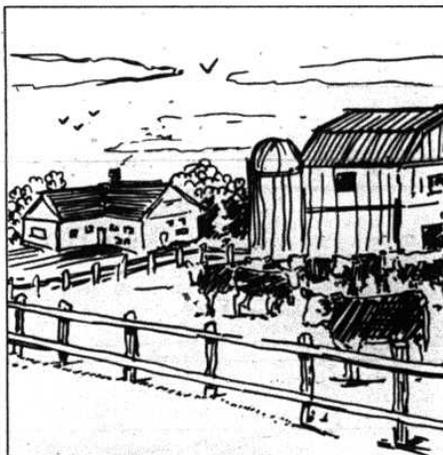
Historians say that the dairy industry had its beginnings in this country one cold blustery day in March 1624. This was when the good ship, "Charity," late of Devon, England sailed into the harbor of Plymouth Colony with a bull and three heifers on board the first of such animals to arrive in the Colonies.

These animals were imported by Edward Winslow, who later became governor of the Plymouth Colony. The existing governor, William Bradford, in taking note of the arrival of these animals, described them as "the first beginning of any cattle of that kind in the land."

With each arriving ship the cattle numbers grew and at the time were valued more for their hides and their worth as draft animals, than for their milk and butter. As the story continues, in a few years the Massachusetts Colony had its first oversupply of cattle.

By 1623, as an early history states, there was in New England not only a domestic, but also an export demand from the West Indies. This led to dairy breeding for sale, but the market was soon overstocked. The price of cattle went down from 20 to 5 pounds per animal and milk was peddled for four cents a gallon.

Cowkeeping in those early days of settlement was a far cry from dairy practices today. In this effort whole towns would



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