

VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

Cheese Factory Facts and Lore

By Jon Urness

Fourteen cheese plants in the Town of Vermont! It's hard to imagine today, but in the early to middle part of the 20th century there were at least 14 cheese factories in Vermont putting out Swiss, American, Brick and even Limburger.



Picture By Earl Brandt

Prior to that invention, milk was strained into 80-pound galvanized milk cans and cooled in springs or cement water tanks. The morning milk went directly to the factory nearly as warm as it came from the cow. It was a daily chore to hoist the cans into pickup trucks or small trailers and travel to the nearest cheese factory. The daily trip was also a social outlet for all the farmers and the day's news was dispensed while waiting to place the heavy cans on a roller track that led into the cheese vat. The bulk milk cooler changed all that. Five hundred gallon tanks could store up to two day's milk and cool it to 38-degrees without any drudgery. And a huge milk truck would come right to the farm and pump it out.

So where were all those cheese factories? More than half of them are now residences. Back in 1976, Nels Goderstad, a long-time cheese maker himself, did exhaustive research on Vermont's cheese factories and his article was published in the Vermont Township Bi-Centennial Book.

Editor's note: Photos of all the existing cheese factories and a fascinating history of each are posted on our website www.vermonttown.org under the Agriculture tab.

What really caused their demise? Certainly fewer dairy farms contributed to the factory closings. But even before that, these small cheese factories with not more than a dozen or so patrons were closing their doors. From just after World War II to the last closing in the mid-1960s, every small cheese factory in Vermont shut down. New environmental regulations regarding effluent and disposal of by-products made it tough for small factories to stay in business. There was a time when the whey was gladly picked up by patrons and fed to hogs. But then there became fewer hogs to feed. The final blow to small, rural cheese factories came with the invention of the bulk milk cooler.



Names of the Vermont Cheese Factories

Anderson	Elvers	Oak Hill
Mickelson	Greenwaldt.	Beath
Spring Valley	Ryan	Pleasant Valley
Gulson	Vermont	Diamond
Tom Denny	Losenegger	

VERMONT'S VOICE

The Lost Horse Chronicles

By Jane Hanson

Saturday

- 7:15 a.m. I'm sitting in the living room, hair full of Clairol, trying yet another color. The phone rings and a voice I don't recognize asks, "You the guys who have the horses?" Yes, I answer, we are. "They're running down Highway F and some are on Ryan Rd." So much for hair color.
- 7:20 a.m. Bill roars up the driveway on his 4-wheeler as I'm starting mine. "The horses are out!" I know this. He jumps off the 4-wheeler, forgetting to set the parking brake. The 4-wheeler obligingly rolls back down the sidewalk, smashing into the side of the Suburban. This is not an auspicious beginning to the day.
- 7:45 a.m. We tear down the highway—Bill heads to Ryan Rd., I head toward the flashing patrol car lights down Highway F. The deputy points to five unremorseful looking horses in the valley. "Don't know what happened to the rest of them—I'll head down Moyer and check out Ryan some more." Thank you, thank you.
- 8:00 a.m. Bill returns and we head down the valley—round up time. After an hour of dodging and darting, we get five horses back to the where it's apparent that something chased them through the fence. Three less adventurous souls are still grazing peacefully in the pasture. Great. That means that there are still 10 at large.
- 9:00 a.m. We rendezvous with the deputy. No joy. Plenty of signs, but no horses. We all head back to Ryan Rd.
- 9:30 a.m. The trail ends by the no-name town road. The deputy and the CWD truck join us. The ladies in the truck saw the horses head up the town road, and cut right on a tractor road. Thanks all around—we'll do some more tracking. We lose the trail at the top of the hill.
- 9:50 a.m. We stop by Mike and Ann Albert's. No, they haven't seen the horses, but will look around on the ridges and see if they can find anyone. We are frozen—let's go home.
- 1:00 p.m. I have mowed the lawn and weeded a couple of gardens. And checked the phones for messages. Zip. Bill says let's go look.
- 1:30 p.m. I have made fliers. We leave one at the end of the town road—Vern Drape's place, inside the door of the rented house. We head down to Mounds Park Rd. Another flier with the lady on the corner of K and Mounds Park. Down to Zwettler—a flier at County Line farm. On to Bardwell's where Bill chats with Liz and her granddaughter. Another flier. We head home.
- 2:30 p.m. Harriet Irwin calls. She has seen 3 horses flying past the house. Liz Bardwell calls. Lots of sign up at her place—come on up and she will show us the places they have been. We are treated to a tour of the Bardwell farm, as well as the Lewis's farm (her sister) on Highway K. Whoda thunk there was that much vacant land?
- 5:00 p.m. We head home to a neighbor's birthday party and then early to bed. No phone messages.



Sunday

- 7:30 a.m. I call Don Parrell to ask for assistance with the altar flowers – can't make it to church today—have to saddle up and search. Bill and I drive the circuit again and stop for breakfast. I post a flier at the restaurant. We head home.
- 8:30 Catch Heidi the Haflinger—my cart pony—not my first choice. I'd rather have Cody Jake, but he eludes my attempts to snare him. Heidi does not look thrilled. I groom her and tack her up. Mari and Abbi Denman Come down and catch their horses. We load everyone in the trailer and off we go. We unload and tack up by Cress Springs Farm. They have graciously allowed us to ride the trails in search of the 10 Most Wanted.

VERMONT'S VOICE

9:00 a.m. Heidi is not having fun. She has tried the backing-up technique. Then, she pulls the 'scrape the rider off on a tree' tactic. (Obviously she was a kid's pony.) Heading up the road, she sulks in the ditch. We head up to Albert's. Ann tells us to head up to the ridges to get a decent look. We do. Heidi tells me that this is not in her contract. Gorgeous country. No horses. Everyone is getting tired; Heidi puts her head down to eat, then lies down. I'm very disturbed and call her unattractive names. In the process of bailing out, I lose my \$100 watch. Why not? I call Bill on the cell phone—come pick us up at Albert's. On the way down, Heidi 'hail Marys' with the trot and eat technique—sorry, been there, done that. Bill is waiting at the house.

5:00 p.m. Depressed. Tired. Fern Frame calls – any luck? Nope.

Monday All day. I go to work. Bill goes to work. He drives around. Nada.

Tuesday

5:00 p.m. I call home from work. Bill is taking out a search party – Chris and Jamie (our grown sons,) Abbi Denman, and Katrina Jacobs. The effort sounds disorganized – I leave work early.

5:45 p.m. I'm home – I change—I receive a phone call from Jamie. They have found all 10 horses. What now? I tell them to tie three together and lead them as one. OK.

5:50 p.m. I call Bill. He yells—bring the car and some saddles and bridles. We're at Cress Spring. OK.

6:10 p.m. I pull in—here they come! We load four. I'll be back.

6:30 p.m. Drop the first four and head back.

6:45 p.m. Driving down Ryan Rd. with truck and trailer—meet six horses and three people: Katrina, her mother Elizabeth, and Bill are coming toward me. Three unaltered horses need to follow the haltered horses home.

7:00 p.m. Slow going. Neighbors coming home on Ryan, Hwy. F, and Hwy J, are patient and fabulous. Thank you.

7:45 p.m. Circus parade is home. Horses most eager for a) salt lick and b) water. Time for dinner. My hair didn't turn out all that badly after all. Thank you, thank you.

(Our most heartfelt thanks for the safe return of our horses to: Mike and Ann Albert, Liz Bardwell, Harriet Irwin and the kind folks at Cress Spring Farm, Vern Drape, the Lewis', my right-hand woman, Abbi Denman, my dependable girl, Katrina Jacobs, her mom, Elizabeth, and my remarkable sons, Chris and Jamie.)

Neighbor News

By Earl Brandt

The last time we updated you was the summer of 2001. A lot has happened since! The following is based on permits issued by our Building Inspector, Jim Ludolph. The names are those listed on the permits and are not in chronological order. Let us know if we missed someone so we can include them next time.

New neighbors in new homes:

William Eberhardt, 3420 Pluto Rd.

Broak Urooman, 3428 Pluto Rd.

Mike Eichorst, 3245 Andrew Ln.

Randy Langman, 4062 Bakken Stenli

Aaron Perkins, 6239 J

New neighbors remodeling existing homes:

Jason Kopra, 3361 North Rd.

Dr Neal Katz, 4033 JJ

Dave Owens, 4607 Old Indian Tr.

Chris Eby, Forshaug Rd.

New rentals

Dan and Mark Wittie, 4268 Hwy. 78

New neighbors in existing homes

Hank Campbell & Brittany LaCosta, 4752 Old Indian Tr.

Sheryl Larson and Harry Kinzie, and Christopher and

Virginia Allen, 4558 Hwy. 78

Old neighbors in new homes

John Coffin, 3297 North Rd.

Don McKay, 3511 Bohn Rd.

Ruth Hankel, 9518 Howery Rd.

James Thuesen, 4140 Ryan Rd.

Gerry Poe, 4511 Blue Mounds Tr.

Robert Johnson, 3523 JG

Old neighbors purchasing existing homes

Tom Boos, 4440 Pleasant Valley Rd.

VERMONT'S VOICE

How to reach us:

Editor: Lisa Orman, 9504 Union Valley Road; 767-1102, office; 767-4930, home; 767-1103, fax; lisa@kidstuffpr.com, e-mail
Committee: Doug Meier: 4496 Hwy. 78; 767-8860; dougmeier@yahoo.com
Earl Brandt: 4670 Cedar Hill Lane; 767-3030; esranch@merr.com
Ann Albert, 3963 Ryan Road, 767-3135; malbert@merr.com
Jon Urness, 4360 County JJ; 767-2471; jurness@vitaplus.com

Mission Statement: It is the mission of Vermont's Voice to provide information about our town and articles of interest to the residents of our town in order to promote a sense of community, encourage participation in and understanding of town government, and improve communication among residents. Vermont's Voice is a volunteer, citizen-run publication that encourages and depends on citizen participation in providing information, articles, or suggestions for articles, photos, criticism, and help with mailings. The cost of printing and postage is included in the town budget. Vermont's Voice is not the official voice or viewpoint of the town government.

Look for this issue of the Vermont Voice on the Vermont Web Page! Check it out at www.vermonttown.org.

Town Officials

Chair Steve Frame 767-3393
Supervisor #1 Bill Hanson 767-5050
Supervisor #2 Dave Dybdahl 767-3674
Supervisor #3 Mark Sherven 437-3732
Supervisor #4 Doug Meier 767-8860
Town Clerk Marian Swoboda 767-2457
Town Treasurer Sarah Danz 767-6017

Town Patrolman Dave Haugen 767-3313
Building Inspector Jim Ludolph 767-2272

Marc Robertson 437-3762
Don McKay 437-4071
Barb Grenlie 437-5856

Plan Commission Members

Chair Steve Frame 767-3393
Vice-chair Bill Hanson 767-5050
Secretary Marian Swoboda 767-2457
Jim Elleson 767-3553

Fire Wardens
Frank Hinze 767-3827
Fern Frame 767-3915
Mary Brings 767-3457

Summer 2003

VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE GOVERNMENT NATURAL BEAUTY

4670 Cedar Hill Lane
Black Earth, WI 53515

PRESORTED
STANDARD
Permit #5
Black Earth
WI 53515

Address Service
Requested

Designed and edited by

KidStuff
PUBLIC RELATIONS