



## June 2025 - Dairy Month

### Milking Memories

Sometime between 1964 and 1969, age 9-14, I decided to hang out with Dad in the barn. We did not have a lot of milk cows - maybe 15 or so. While other memories of growing up have faded with time, the memories of milking cows remain.

Dad would get up about 5:30 in the morning to head to the barn. He was often surrounded by our barn cats, as they loved dad - more on that later. The cows seemed to be able to tell time as they would be waiting by the door in the morning, and in the evening for the second milking. The first stall belonged to a "blue roan" cow, followed by a very white and black holstein, and third was a very black and white holstein. The rest of the milking parlor filled at random. Each cow was locked into their stanchion, and got some grain for their treat.

We had a grade B dairy - milk meant for cheese, etc. This meant we carried milkers from the milkhouse into the cows. They were first "hobbled" with hobble hocks, or kickers, (also called hock hobbles) to stop them from kicking as we milked. There were times the cow's tail was slipped into the hobble also, as getting swished in the face with a usually dirty tail was not fun! This was followed by a Surcingle strap across their back to hold the milker off the floor. An air hose was attached to an air line, the line was opened, the air went thru the pulsator, and the cups attached to the cows teats. The milker chugged away. When done, the cups made a huge sucking sound, which meant they needed to be taken off the cow.

The full milker was then carried to the milk house, and the milk dumped into a large metal strainer, which held a fabric type strainer that the milk went thru, into a large can. When the can was full, it was lifted into the cooler - a large, water filled tank that kept the milk cool until the milkman came to pick up. Now - the part where the cats loved dad - the fabric milk strainer was tossed on the cat dishes, where they eagerly licked up the still warm leftovers of milk. In the summer, the cooler was ideal for storing a large

watermelon to keep cool!

We took a small pail of fresh milk to the house almost daily. This would go right in to the pasturizer - a machine that heated the milk for a set period of time to kill any bacteria that may be lurking. The milk also provided cream - which was ideal for homemade ice cream in the winter (dad would get ice out of the creek). And every now and then we would get ambitious and churn butter. Both of these treats - ice cream and butter - required almost a half hour of constant churning.

The milkman came every so often - a couple of times a week - and took the full cans and left empty ones. This normally worked out very well, except for one very wet spring. The roads were too muddy and the milkman could not get thru. Dad agreed to take the milk to the hard top road a mile and half away - besides, he had to take some of his children to school. (At that time, we were in a parochial school which did not have buses.) So, off we went - a couple of little girls riding in the back of the old pickup with the milk. The road, however, had other ideas as the ruts were deep and the truck bounced - and a can of milk spilled. There we were - screaming like crazy for dad to stop the truck and rescue the milk can and trying to keep our good shoes out of the flow.

## 25th Anniversary

The Community Room Addition gave us room for a dance floor. The room is often rented for all sorts of functions - parties, training sessions, meetings, and special events!



**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**HEARTLAND MUSEUM**

Open May 28!

**SUMMER HOURS**  
WED-SAT: 10AM-4PM  
Last Admission 2PM

**119 SW 9th St  
Clarion, IA  
515-602-6000**


Open By Appointment  
Mon-Tue & the rest of year

**WWW.HEARTLANDMUSEUM.ORG**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday  
June 21  
5pm-7pm**

**Free admission  
Food  
Music**



## Letters to Home

1915 -

My dear sister Emma:

The last few years have been kind to us; with a lot of hard work Thomas has made our farm a showcase! Even though Ma has passed, I am sure Pa was waiting for her, and they are smiling down at all of us.

Thomas surprised me with a trip to Eagle Grove recently. We took the train so that we could return home at night. It was quite the pretty trip! We followed the Boone River for awhile, and it seems everything was blooming. We heard stories that the area used to be where Indians lived, and boys like to hunt for arrowheads. There is still plenty of wildlife that we saw - deer, wild turkeys, rabbits were continually running ahead of us, it seems. Again, we were told stories of buffalo and elk, even wolves living in the area!

Would you believe Eagle Grove has one of those new automobiles? We understand they held a dance, and people bought tickets. Some lucky gentleman won! We stopped at W.W. Frakes Hardware store, and looked at some new cream separators. We decided ours works just fine. But when we stopped at R.A. Baker's store, I found lovely handkerchiefs for two cents and bought one for myself and each of the girls. I had saved some of my egg money for this delightful spurge!

Eagle Grove has more than 4,000 people now. As we walked along downtown, I saw the theatre was offering a Mary Pickford show! I did plenty of "window shopping" before we decided to have lunch at the Princess Cafe. We had a nice meal, but Thomas told me that my cooking was much better.

Your loving sister,  
Sarah

Additional family histories that we have, courtesy of Ann Hines:

Crabtree, Veeder, Seymour, Bentley, Rightman, Littlefield, Fullen, Baldwan, Doane, Lock, Beckwith, Bute, Wolf, Dick, Beckwith, Chappell, Heampstead, Mattle, Way, Walenhouse. More to come next month!



New addition - Maytag racer! Built between 1934-1941 for promotional purposes, these are hard to find. Records are that 498 were built, with about 25 still in existence. Several different motors and powers were used over the years, and racing these small cars was great entertainment.



LEGACY \$1,000 plus  
CHAMPION \$500 plus  
ADVOCATE \$250 plus  
PATRON \$100 plus  
FRIENDS other

We can't do it without you!

We accept donations all year long, and appreciate everything you do to keep our farm to town heritage and culture alive. Heartland Museum is a 501C3 organization.

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memory of Jean Buell  
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Do you have embroidery, cross  
stitch, hardanger, crochet or  
quilting projects you would like  
to show off? Bring them in on  
these dates:

June 21, 23 - embroidery and  
cross stitch

July 12,14 - Hardanger and  
crochet

August 23,25 - Quilting

Items will be displayed in our  
community room for one week  
and can be picked up after the  
Handwerk make & take for that  
week.



#### JUNE EVENTS

June 21- Open House  
5 pm - 7 pm  
Free Admission  
Food  
Music

Summer Series!  
Handwerk  
(German for handwork)

June 28 - embroidery and cross  
stitch

July 19 Hardanger and crochet  
August 30 - Quilting

Open from 1-3, come on in and  
learn a few basics! Recommend  
ages 8 and up. Make & Take!  
View examples of handwork.

Another blast from the past, this was in 2004

# **Arts Council hosts Christmas Soiree at Heartland Museum**

**On Monday, December 6, the Clarion Arts Council will once again be hosting a Christmas Soiree at the Heartland Museum in Clarion. The evening will begin with caroling at the Healthcare Center. Anyone wishing to join in should meet at the lobby of USA Healthcare at 6 p.m.**

**The festivities will continue about 7 p.m. at the museum with Christmas goodies, music, storytelling and more singing. The Opera House area of the museum is decorated for the season and everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the sights, sounds, and scents of the season.**

**This year, those in attendance are asked to share a favorite holiday treat and a holiday memory or story.**

**Anyone is welcome to attend and there is no charge for attending the Soiree.**



Heartland Museum Foundation | 119 SW 9th St. PO Box 652 | Clarion, IA 50525 US

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