

History of Hurry Guernsey herd is list of champions

By NEIL MATHESON
Provincial and Farm Editor

One of the best producing Guernsey herds in this country is stabled at West Royalty in the barn of J. Eric Hurry, a man who has produced many champions and has never purchased a single female for his herd since he started back in 1927 with Golden Roda of Oakhurst, a heifer that Walter R. Shaw, now premier of the province as elected in Wisconsin, U.S.A. along with James and John B. Roper from the Charlottetown Royalty.

Mr. Shaw then superintendent of livestock for the province, recalls the group of pure bred heifers he and the Ropers selected on that occasion. Eric Hurry, then a youngster of 4-H Club age — it was known as Boys and Girls Club at the time — drew Roda from a hat and has never been sorry.

Mr. Hurry's story is one of the most unusual in the development of a high producing herd of pure bred cattle. Known across Canada for the many producers he has bred and developed, Mr. Hurry was national president of the Guernsey Association last year when the annual meeting was held in Charlottetown as a part of the Island's version of the Confederation Centennial celebrations.

Roda was bred by H.J. Wilson, Rush Lake, Wisconsin. Mr. Hurry did buy two females later but he didn't keep them, so they had no part in building up the Patosie herd.

If he didn't bring any females into the herd, I suggested, he must have had some good sires. And that is correct.

His first sire purchase was Colchester's Prince that a Great Village, Nova Scotia man, Albert N. Faulkner, sold him in 1931. The bull had good breeding for he traced his paternal ancestry back to Guernsey Island, and Prince's dam, Daisy of Hillcrest, had been the highest producing 4-year-old in Canada that year.

COST \$133

Then a young man, Eric could not afford to pay the high price Colchester's Prince bull would have been expected to bring, but an ROP inspector who knew both men told Mr. Faulkner — he was reputed to be a wealthy businessman — about Eric, "who was just a youngster starting a herd of his own" and the bull cost him only \$133, landed at his farm.

The young sire produced some excellent stock. A daughter, Patosie Silverlocks, produced 10,777 pounds milk, 524 pounds butterfat to miss by one pound being the highest Canadian butter

fat producing two-year old Guernsey of 1938.

Unfortunately Eric lost Silverlocks when she died of "hard-ware disease" at the early age of four years. The term is common among livestock men and it means the animal died from swallowing nails, or some other metal objects. In Silverlock's case it was a nail that had punctured her stomach wall and led her to her early death.

But there were many top producing cows tracing their ancestry to Colchester Prince. In 1947, for example, Eric had seven cows that were Canadian class leaders (for the month) out of the nine that qualified in record of performance tests from his herd, and every one of them was a daughter or a grand-daughter of Prince.

Even more important to a young man trying to build up a pure bred herd of cattle, out of 27 calves sired by Prince, 25 were females.

The most famous cow ever bred on the Hurry farm, Patosie Patricia, was a daughter of Colchester Prince. Patricia showed second for many years on the honor roll for Canadian all-time producers of butterfat in the 305-day division.

Patricia's top production was the 19,342 pounds milk, 928 pounds butterfat she produced as a 10-year old cow. That's the one that got her the honor roll spot. She had a record of more than 18,000 pounds milk, 571 pounds butterfat, and another of 16,000 pounds milk and slightly more than 80 pounds fat when she was younger.

Strangely enough Patricia was never a top show cow. I do not recall her in the flesh, but several pictures Eric has of his most brilliant production queen do not indicate showing quality, though she had everything a great producer needs to fill the pail with high testing milk. And she did just that.

A granddaughter of Patricia, Patosie Miss Briggs, now in the Hurry herd, is one of the most attractive Guernsey cows I've seen in many years — visiting farm herds and covering some of the top shows in the country. The 4-year old cow is as pretty as a delicious rosette, and if she has a weakness I could not find it.

ONE POINT SHORT

Classifier Allison MacArthur, Howick, Quebec, was in the barn the day before I arrived and I shared in Eric's disappointment that the Ontario man had stopped one measly point short of making her an "Excellent" cow. The official classifier awarded Miss Briggs 89 points. A score of 90 would have given her the coveted top classification. I wondered as I talked with Mr. Hurry if classifiers' long stand-

ing failure to award any Island-bred Guernsey the top grade of Excellent — it hasn't happened yet, so far as I am aware — was mainly responsible.

I've always felt that there is a lot of weakness in the udders of Maritime Guernseys — I haven't seen enough of other Canadian Guernseys to pass an opinion — I've often discussed this udder weakness with judges and top cattlemen at Maritime and Atlantic Winter fairs, but there's nothing wrong with the udder on this heifer.

Miss Briggs is a daughter of Patricia 2nd and her sire is the internationally known Maplewood Royalist Brigadier, known to cattlemen in Canada and the United States as "the Brigadier Bull". Sold originally for \$4,100 to a syndicate as an 11-month animal, Brigadier was later sold for \$10,000.

Semen from this animal cost \$30 per vial at one time, but it's much cheaper now as the bull is in an artificial breeding unit. The Patricia blood crossed up again a few days ago when Leigh Semple's Waterlily Diane's Glenda produced 14,685 pounds milk, 670 pounds fat and come the highest producing Guernsey cow reported in the Maritime Provinces this year in the first quarter of the year. Her production was in 305 days on twice-a-day milking for bred class averages of 179 in milk, 163 in butterfat.

Glenda who is owned by Mr. Semple, a Charlottetown pharmacist, is another granddaughter of Patricia. Glenda's dam was Patosie Diane.

Patricia 2nd never reached the peak of fame that her dam achieved in single lactations but she was a most useful Guernsey, with production of 118,261 pounds milk, 5,550 pounds butterfat in 10 lactations.

Patricia 2nd was sired by Rosewald Honoris Monitor, a bull brought here by Guy Rodd who dispersed his well known Brackley herd almost 10 years ago. The animal was used as a club bull by the Island Guernsey Breeders for several years. He came from Rosewald Farms in New Hampshire, U.S.A.

FORTUNATE CHOICE

Mr. Hurry was fortunate in the choice he made of sires and the availability of others. One of the most useful sires he purchased, for example, Sherwood's Pride came from the Roper herd in the Royalty, and he cost Eric just \$5,500.

One of his good daughters was Patosie Rosie who produced 126,425 pounds milk, 6,671 pound butterfat in 12 lactations. That's an average test of 5.25 percent butterfat. Incidentally Rosie's butterfat production is the second highest in Maritime Guernsey history.

The Monitor bull also sired Patosie Dorraine's Lassie and this grand old cow — she was 18 a few months ago — was due to freshen again a few weeks after I visited the Patosie Farm home and discussed with Eric and Margaret Hurry — Mrs. Hurry is the former Margaret Murray, Brackley Point — some of the reasons for their outstanding success.

It's only a few months ago that Lassie completed a "lifetime" production of 140,612 pounds milk, 6,473 pounds butterfat which established her as the leading Maritime Guernsey cow of all time in production of milk, and she still has at least one lactation more to go. Lassie looked so good to Classifier MacArthur when he visited the herd in mid-March this year that he awarded her 88 points for conformation, only two from Excellent, a really magnificent showing for a cow of 18 years.

Another cow in the herd classified 88. She is Patosie Roberta, a granddaughter of Verbena, Lassie milked without interruption for 1,095 days and in that time produced a total of 26,332 pounds milk, 1,170 fat and those figures are official.

Mr. Hurry suggested that long lactation of more than 1,000 days would likely constitute a record in itself. It's an unwanted type of record though, for good dairymen like to have their producers freshening regularly each year. But Eric had tried unsuccessfully to get Lassie "settled" when he was breeding her through an artificial insemination unit.

A veterinary authority told him he never would succeed in getting the cow "settled" again at that advanced age. But he finally bred her to one of his own bulls, and she settled after the first service.

In addition to being the all-time top Maritime milk producer, Lassie is also the third highest producer of butterfat in Maritime Guernsey history.

Lassie's best record in 365 days was made at eight years of age when she produced 18,322 pounds milk, 801 pounds fat, and that was on three-times-a-day milking. Her best 305 day production was at 10 years of age with 14,539 pounds milk, 658 pounds fat on twice-a-day milking.

She has also achieved distinction in the showing. She won the ROP production class at the Maritime Winter Fair in 1955, was the first aged cow in milk, and the senior and grand champion female at Charlottetown in 1956, and as recently as 1964, when she was still being shown, was third in the aged dry cow class at Charlottetown.

NATURAL RIGHT

Lassie has a natural right to

be a good producer for there is production class in pedigree. Her dam, Patosie Dorraine, completed a lactation exactly 20 years ago that produced 12,167 pounds milk, 674 of butterfat for an average test of 5.54 percent, which made her the top Canadian four-year-old of that year.

Dorraine's dam, Patosie Mariann — she was sired by Colchester Prince — was also a good producer for her day, for that goes back many years. One of her lactations produced 11,857 pounds milk, 682 pounds fat in 365 days for an average test of 5.75 percent.

There's also some blood in the Hurry herd from a bull that must be the most famous Guernsey sire that was ever bred in the Maritime Provinces and owned here on the Island. L. W. Roper, who retired March 31 as Livestock Director for the province, selected Carter's Mixer King out of a barn at Brookfield, N.S., and he went on to win 33 grand championships including several at the Royal Winter Fair.

The Mixer King animal was never beaten in the show ring, except for one time at the old Maritime Winter Fair, and the animal that was placed over him stood ninth at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto the following week in a class which Mixer King won on his way to the Grand Championship.

Mr. Roper bought him for a price that would equal approximately \$2,500 in today's currency — his dam had been the highest Guernsey producer in her class in Canada the previous year — and he sold him several years later for approximately double the purchase price.

One member of the Patosie herd carrying this sire's bloodlines was Patosie Rosie that won the Peerless Fancy Lady trophy in 1960 for being the highest lifetime producer in Canada that finished her record that year.

DOTTED WITH FIRSTS

The Hurry herd performance is dotted with production firsts. One of the more notable achievements in this line occurred back in 1952, I believe it was, when the Patosie herd topped Canada for production regardless of age of the cows, or the number of times milked daily. His eight cows at that time averaged 10,854 pounds milk, 550 pounds butterfat on an average lactation length of 341 days.

Eric has some unusual ideas on the type of feed he wants for his cattle. He told me "I get more milk out of loose hay — it's put up when the quality is good — than I do from baled hay."

If you think that's a lot of malarkey, remember Eric has proven he knows something about feeding. The production he has achieved without any fancy feeding speaks for itself. And it doesn't take as much loose hay to feed a cow as it does baled, he added.

All of the feed that goes to the Patosie cattle is mixed at home. He uses oikake as his main concentrate and mixes his own grain, with minerals added of course. He tried several of the best mixed feeds and turned back to his own mix.

He put up only about 400 bales of hay last year though he grows enough hay, and some to spare, to feed his herd of 10 to 15 milky cows, along with his young cattle and the horse he keeps and uses on his 100-acre farm.

The Patosie herd owner believes that mangels and turnips are helpful in cattle diets — Patosie Patricia — usually had a basket of mangels the last thing at night — but a farmer cannot afford to grow them these days, with labor so scarce, Eric told me, and so did many of the other farmers I've talked to recently.

He feeds one pound grain to three pounds milk, or according to the amount of butterfat they are putting up, and he has had some most unusually prolific butterfat producers. Patosie Verbena, for example, had a lifetime average of better than six per cent butterfat with nine lactations being over six percent; one of them was 6.86 percent. She had one of 6.81 percent and another of 6.66.

RAPID RECOVERY

One of the most unusual stories I've ever heard concerns Verbena. In the course of her lactation at nine years, she was down and unable to get up for 19 days, and was not milked during that time, yet her record for the lactation was 10,866 pounds milk, 700 butterfat with an average test of 6.38. The amazing part to me was that the cow did not dry, and that she recovered rapidly enough to complete such a strong record.

Verbena was one of the best showing cows Eric has bred. She was a several times grand champion at Charlottetown, and she was in the eighth month of her lactation for one of the grand champion performances. A cow in milk is normally expected to be "stale" and not showing nearly at her best when she is that far along in her lactation.

Verbena was grand at Charlottetown for two years when Patosie Patricia 2nd was re-



TOP GUERNSEY IN HER TIME

The horns at the top of this picture are those of Patosie Patricia, one of the best Guernsey producers in Canada in her time. She stood second on the all-time Canadian honor roll for butter fat producers for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hurry are holding a certificate indicating that Mr. Hurry, a past president of the Canadian Guernsey Breeders Association has been made an honorary life member.



TWINS AT HURRY FARM

This pair of twin calves were just two days old when a Guardian camera caught them in the barn of J. Eric Hurry, West Royalty. Mr. Hurry's herd of Registered Guernsey cattle has bred and developed some of the top individual producers in the nation.

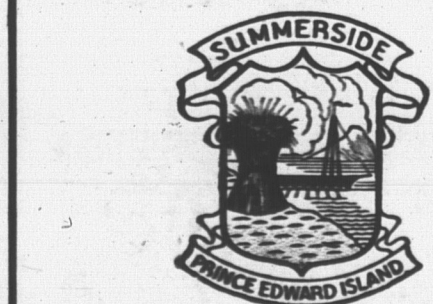
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The town of Summerside situated in a rich agricultural belt of Prince Edward Island is proud to salute our farmers, and express its appreciation for the tremendous contribution made by our Island Farmers, not only to the welfare of this province but also for the benefits of the hungry nations of the world.

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Hay improvement sought in Island

A hay improvement program will replace this year the pasture improvement program which has been conducted the last few years, by the department of agriculture and the P.E.I. dairymen's association. This program is designed primarily, it is explained, to emphasize and draw closer attention to hay production and to stress the importance of better hay management. Thousands of dollars are lost each year because farmers delay too long the dates for cutting their hay and thus reducing quality. Neglect to fertilize and manure hay meadows and failure to make the extra effort to get cured hay under cover, are other faults at which the program is aimed. Hay is another type of feed the department people point out, not just hay; it is valuable feed for livestock just as a barley and oats for example. Just as we associate the percentage of protein in the feed, and the total digestive nutrients with oats and barley, we should consider hay on the same basis, the promotional material emphasizes. From well saved early-cut hay, for instance, 10 to 12 percent of protein is available and necessary additions recommended include only TDN (total digestible nutrients) while protein has also to be added, for example, to hay that is left uncut until it is nearly mature as the protein content runs only from six to eight percent and cattle will eat a little more than one-half the amount when it is placed before them. Rules of the Hay Improvement Program are as follows: 1. All livestock farmers are eligible. 2. All hay fields are to be entered in the competition. 3. A complete set of records should be kept on acreage, cutting dates of each field, baling and storing dates of application, number of bales or quantity of hay from each field. 4. Each competitor is to display one or more entries of hay at the Provincial Exhibition. Entry forms will be made available in the daily newspaper or you can send a note showing your desire to enter. Information regarding the program will be forwarded later to each entrant. Send all entries to the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, Box 2000, Charlottetown. All entries should be in by June 1. Prizes will be awarded on a County and Provincial basis. Plants are protected by screening and by insecticides from virus carriers — chiefly the aphid and the six-spotted leafhopper, the last being the most important where certified nursery stock is used, in Nova Scotia.

Reduce virus threat in strawberries

The strawberry industry has had its quiet revolution. Now a strawberry grower using certified virus-free plants need not worry about virus diseases during the usual life of his planting. Even if virus disease does occur in the second year it would not be significant enough to have justified taking control measures in the year of planting. Reporting on this happy state of affairs in the industry, H. T. Stultz of CDA's research station at Kentville, N.S., says it evolved as nurserymen took advantage of research in many parts of the world. This research led towards recognition of virus diseases of strawberry and development of methods for obtaining and propagating virus-free plants. Leading nurserymen in Nova Scotia fell into line when the government sponsored strawberry certification in 1957. This program incorporated new findings as they became available and the advantages are now becoming fully apparent. Capable growers using virus-free stock can produce 8,000 to 15,000 quarts of berries per acre compared with the previous highest yield of 6,000 quarts. The average yield in 1951 was 2,329 quarts per acre. Because of better running production only one-half to two-thirds as many plants per acre are needed as were required in 1951. How to acquire virus-free plants? Mr. Stultz says the nurserymen start with plants which have been found virus-free through special testing techniques. Then, in a small lot, the

Farmers find greater use of fertilizers

OTTAWA. — Canadian farmers are using fertilizers more extensively. This fact emerges from reports by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of increased sales of fertilizers in the 12 months ended June 30, 1964. The Canada Department of Agriculture also reported more registrants and products registered under the Fertilizers Act. The preliminary report by DBS recorded a sales increase in 1963-64 over the previous year, of 4 1/2 per cent for mixed fertilizers and a whopping 73 per cent increase for single material fertilizers. Much of the increase, 609,000 tons for materials and 808,000 tons for mixed fertilizers was made up of the higher analysis grades. The actual increase in plant food sold was, therefore, even greater than these values indicate. Exports of mixed fertilizers were also sharply up, amounting to 144,000 tons as compared with 84,000 tons for the previous year. While Canada has recently become a major world supplier of potash, the domestic sales of potash have not increased greatly. The tremendous increase in domestic use of fertilizer has taken place in nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers. Under the Fertilizers Act, 12 firms registered 820 products in 1963-64 as compared with 111 firms and 738 products in 1963-64 — an increase of over 12 per cent.