

Springtime planting, here George plants corn.



Lesley Smith does the afternoon milking.

lose to God

Asked how she thought her childhood compared with a city childhood, Peg replied, "Better!" She said that she and her brother and sisters value their close family, where their mother is home and their father always available. "We could always find something to do without going any place," she added.

Mrs. Smith said that farming has given their family more time to do things together. She remembered that when their children were small George, in for the noon meal, always helped to put them to bed for their naps.

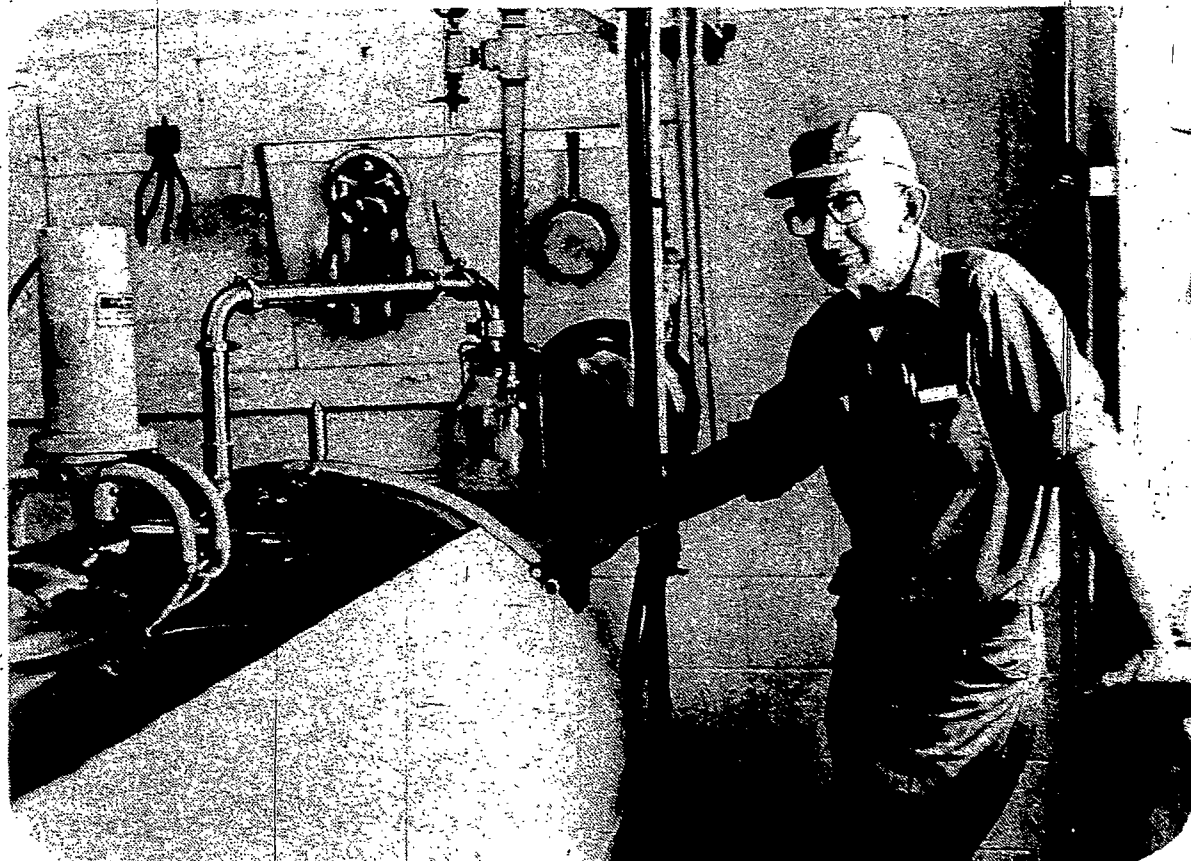
George's schedule is easier now than it used to be. He is still up at 6, but the morning milking which necessitated even earlier rising is now the responsibility of the hired man. George comes in for lunch and takes a break when the children come from school. Then it's back to work until 6 p.m. when he quits for dinner. He doesn't work in the evening any more and he has every other weekend off, alternating with his brother.

At 62, George Smith can't imagine retiring. "I suppose I'm healthier for not having been cooped up inside a building," he said matter-of-factly.

Rita Smith can't imagine living any place else.

They both agree, "It's a very rewarding life."

Text by Bonita Baldwin
Photos by Susan McKinney



George poses next to his 600-gallon milk cooler.



Manny and Oakie nibble on grass Marjie gives them.



George hitches a ride up to the house on tractor driven by teenaged helper, Neil Foose.