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Mr. and Mrs. Henry Anderegg and one of their milk delivery trucks

It is sometimes said that an occupation is in the blood of someone who pursues it and that certainly seems to be the case with Henry Anderegg, owner of Vernonia Milk Farms, who supplies most of the dairy needs of the people of Vernonia. First, he is Swiss, a nationality that is associated with the dairy industry in their native land and almost anywhere they settle. Second, his father was a dairyman and Henry grew up in the business. As soon as he was old enough he began helping around the barns and probably learned to milk almost as soon as he could hold a pail. He began driving delivery truck for his father when he was 16. Their dairy was in Clackamas county at Rock Creek corners, between Clackamas and Carver.

Later, Henry went to work for a cousin who owns the Meadowland dairy near Portland and worked for him for 14 years prior to coming to Vernonia.

It also was natural that Henry should marry a farm girl. Although he was born at Beaverton and Isabel Dimbat was born at Hillsdale, their families became neighbors in Clackamas county and they attended the Carver grade school together. She is of German descent, another nationality that is familiar with agricultural and dairy pursuits.

It also was natural that the Andereggs should have aspira-

tions to own their own dairy. In 1948 they saw an advertisement in a Portland paper for a dairy farm near Vernonia. It sounded good to them so they drove out to see it, liked what they saw, and bought from Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cameron the farm four miles out on Mist route where they now live. With it, they acquired eight cows, their first herd.

It was on Memorial day, 1948 that the Andereggs moved to their new home and Mrs. Anderegg says she was sure that many who saw their truck piled high with all their worldly possessions thought they were fleeing from the Vanport flood.

The Andereggs at first wholesaled their milk and they gradually built up their herd. Henry also worked for Nehalem Dairy as route man for some time. Then, in the fall of 1952, he bought the Pebble Creek Dairy from Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stager and on January 1, 1953 he took it over and became an owner-producer-distributor, a business he found mighty rugged in view of the long hours and hard work required to keep it going.

In the spring of 1956, the Andereggs decided to concentrate their efforts on distribution of milk, so they sold their cows and began buying milk which they processed and bottled. In the fall of 1956, they bought the Nehalem Dairy and took the name

Vernonia Milk Farms for their operations.

Now, he sends the milk from shippers in this area by refrigerated truck to the Meadowland Dairy near Portland where it is processed and packaged and returned to him under refrigeration for distribution.

Reason for the last change was mainly because the volume of his business had outgrown the processing plant that he had. Machinery for bottling is very expensive and Mr. Anderegg has a well equipped set-up for filling quart and pint bottles and quart cartons. However, there was demand for half gallons, and it would have cost \$27,000 to install equipment for them. Volume he would have on them was not sufficient to warrant such expenditures.

The Andereggs have kept their equipment and should business decrease to a volume it could handle will again return to processing and bottling. Also, they are registered with the civilian defense agency for use in an emergency. They now maintain the best of refrigerated storage for the milk they get from Meadowland.

Mr. Anderegg is out on the route at 8 a.m. and delivers to some 150 homes each day on two routes covered on alternate days. He delivers to the business houses daily. Mrs. Anderegg is the bookkeeper for the firm. In addition

to milk, they also supply cream, cottage cheese and butter.

The Andereggs grew up in 4-H club work. And, he was leader for the Maple Meadows Livestock club until the work of the dairy didn't leave time for it. However, he received his five year leader's pin before resigning. His three children have all been active in 4-H, also. Jean Ann had seven years to her credit; Ronnie is in his ninth year and now serves as a junior leader and has been a house counselor at the summer school at Corvallis this year. Their youngest son, Ralph is in his second year in the livestock club. And, no doubt, the Andereggs' two grandsons will be doing club work as soon as old enough.

The Andereggs are both active in community affairs. He is a member of the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce, they belong to the Natal Grange, and they are active members of Rebekahs and Odd Fellows where they have both earned noble grand pins.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderegg voice firm faith in the future of Vernonia and expect to continue in business here for many years to come. In his words, "Vernonia is neither built nor located like a ghost town." Of course, he expects changes but he expects them to be toward a better Vernonia with a real and worthwhile future.

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