



George Kandy and  
~~Son~~  
Antony Kandy Sr.  
Founders of the  
Spring Grove  
Dairy. 19202

**From The Collection Of:**  
**Dr. Jack D. Ellis**  
**552 W. Sun St.**  
**Morehead, KY 40351**  
**606-784-7473**



IX (9)

(P. 2158)

Spring Grove  
Daily Delivery Truck  
in the early 1940's.

Notice Photo Number  
is 15-F-

Harry Kautz  
no broken

Bernard Kautz

with Friend  
the center

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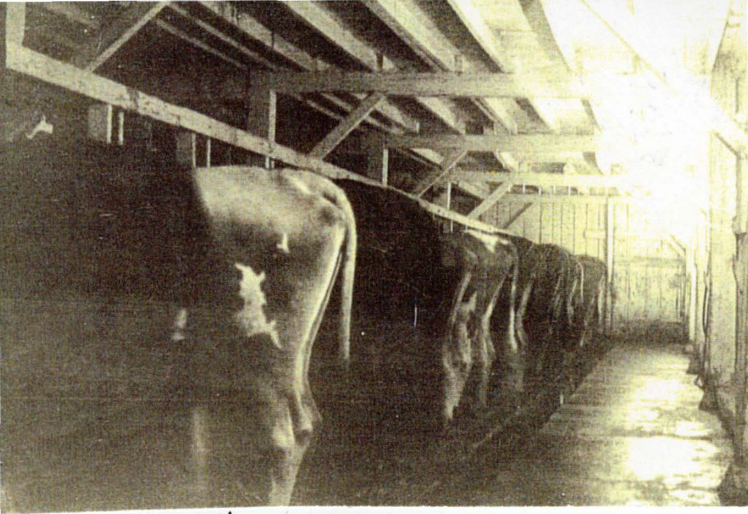
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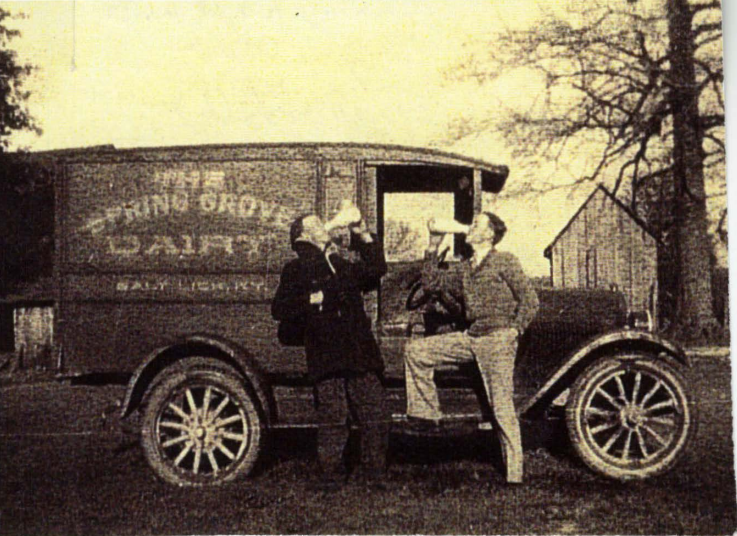




Where it all Begins - with  
Spring Grove Dairy Cows

1930s

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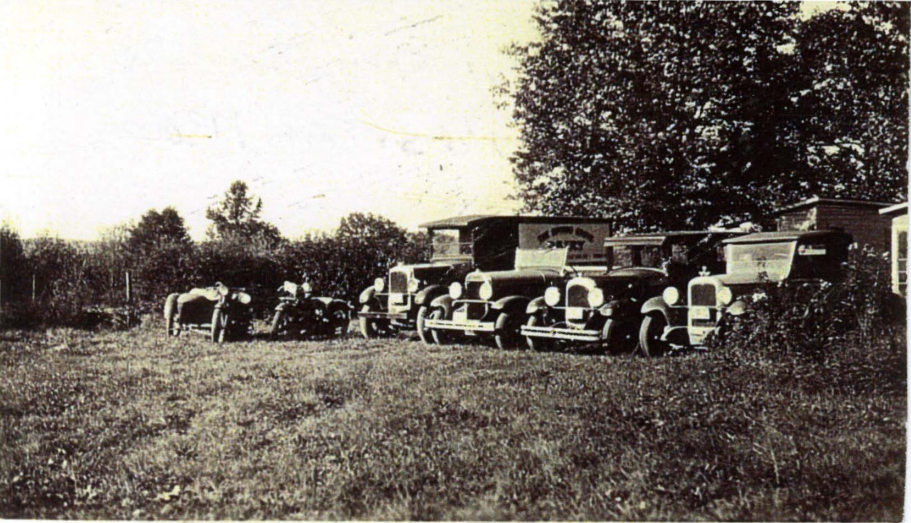


IX (7) (P. 213) Spring On Wall  
Early Dairy Truck  
Charles Ferguson (L)  
and Fred Karily

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IV (8) (P. 214)  
George Kautz Driving Early Milk Truck  
Sons Fred and Bernard  
1930s

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Early Fleet of Spring Grove Dairy  
Delivery Vehicles - Early 1930s

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110

2cols





Dairy Employees pose with the  
Fleet of Spring Grove Dairy  
Vehicles in KY The 1950s

209

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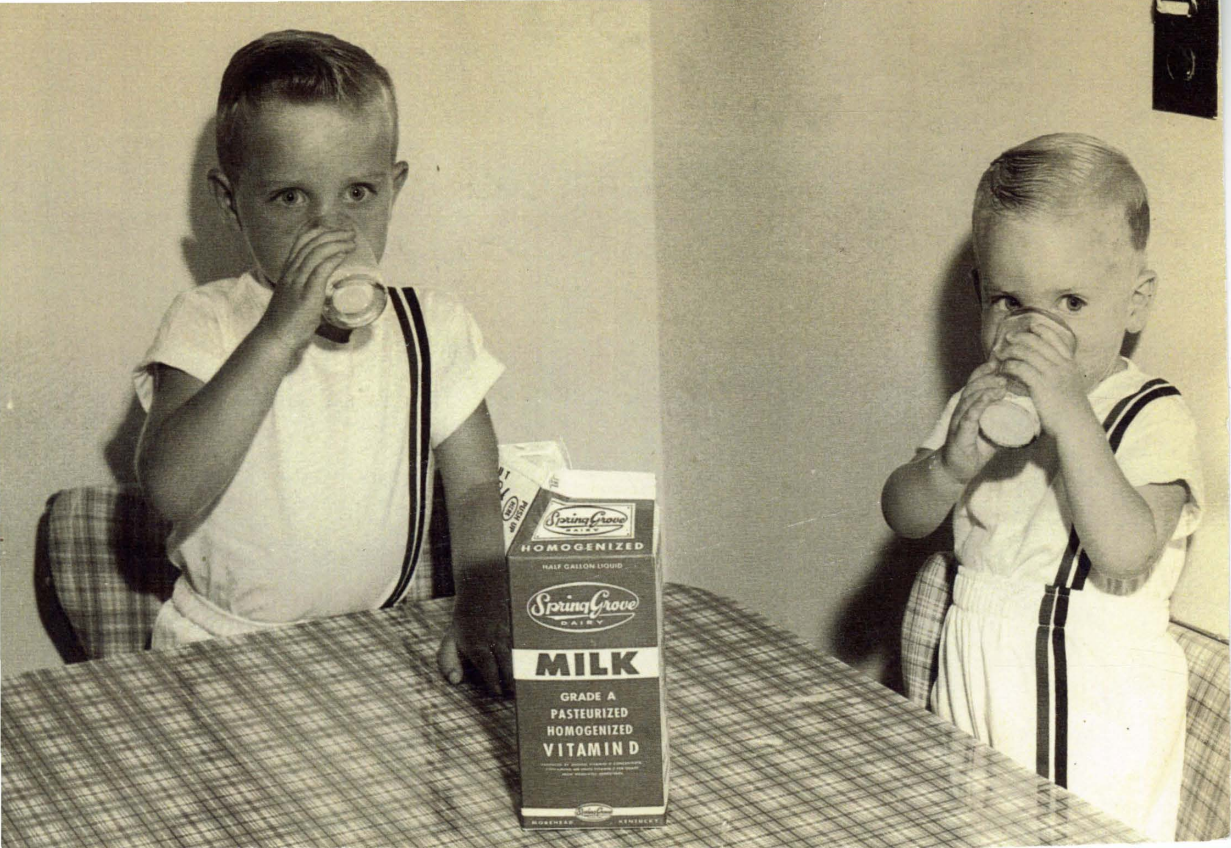
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2 cols





Don't Milk 6?  
Rusty Kauty (?) are brother  
Ron can "taste the  
difference" in that good  
Sprung Grove Dairy Milk.  
They are the sons of Avery Kauty Jr.

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70

2cols



# SPRING GROVE DAIRY

Morehead

Grade A Dairy Products

Kentucky



1951

Recenter

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1951  
Rec

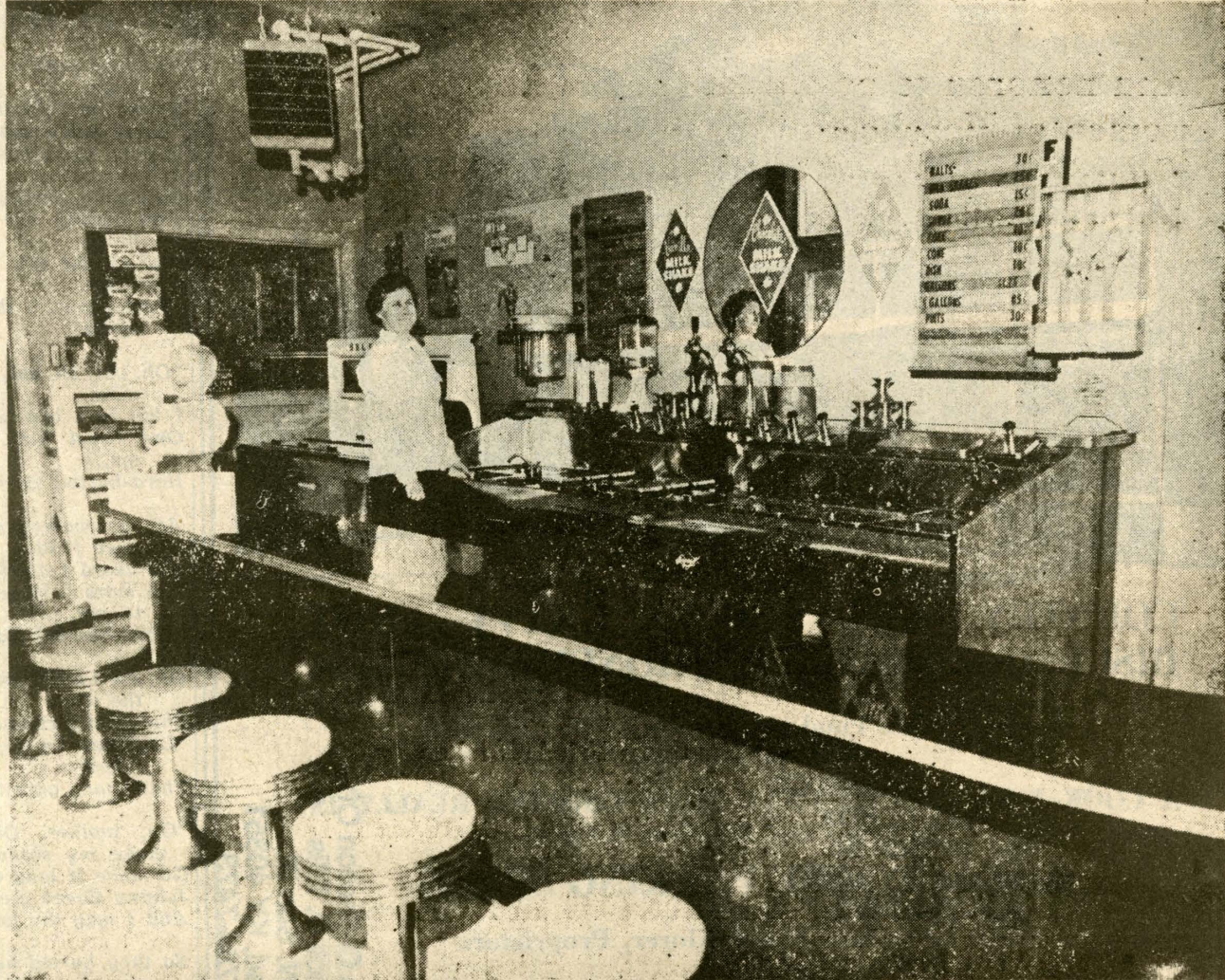


Ed Fanner

Wholesale Delivery Truck

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Our Dairy Bar is in keeping with the rest of our plant, clean, sanitary and pleasant service . . . a good place to stop for that wholesome glass of delicious milk, ice cream or a snack Try us once and you will come back often.

*Spurr Green Dairy  
1955*

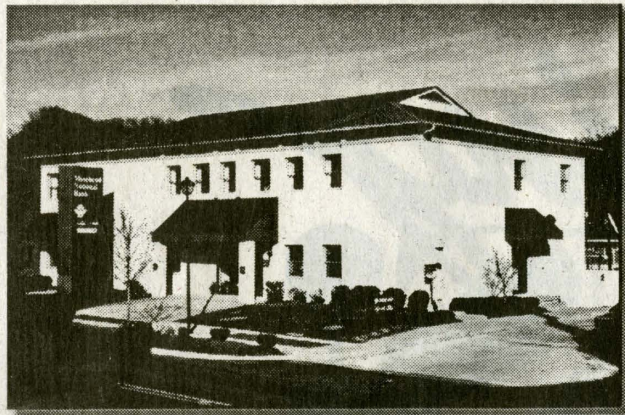


# *To The Milk And Dairy Products Consumer*

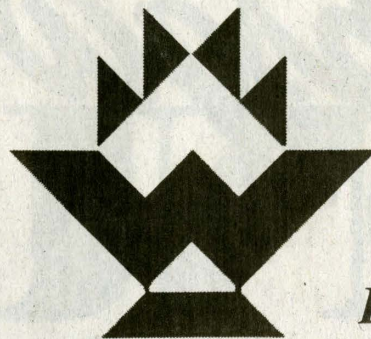


Pictured above are part of the farmers and their families who are members of the Licking Valley Milk Producers Association. The picture was taken in front of Spring Grove Dairy where their entire supply of Grade 'A' milk is processed.





Main Street at Carey Avenue  
(606) 784-8966



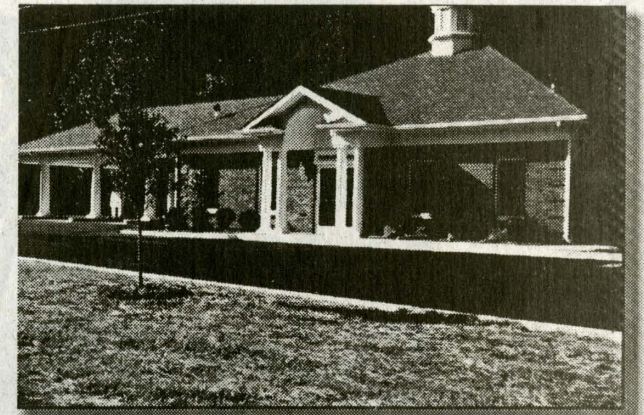
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## Morehead Memories

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# Morehead Memories

### Continued

glass bottles including: quarts, pints and one-half pints. It was very labor intensive picking up those dirty glass bottles every day, washing them and sterilizing them.

In the 1950s, the school lunch programs began to rapidly appear in schools in eastern Kentucky. That meant more milk for children in the one-half pint returnable glass bottles with a paper cap on top. Certainly the children's health improved by adding milk to their diet, but it was a lot of work for the dairy to pick up those small glass bottles every day.

### New products added

In the mid-1950s, new products were added, including cottage cheese, whipping cream, coffee cream, chocolate milk and orange aid. The latter two were very popular among the school children.

Also, a dairy bar was opened in front of the Dairy that sold all kinds of milk products including milk shakes, sundaes, sodas, ice cream and soft drinks. It was a popular meeting place for the local high school and college students. As the business increased during the 1950s and 60s, two new additions were added to the building. Those included a

In 1960, Aubrey Kautz Sr. purchased the rival Red Rose Dairy located on East Second Street (today a child care center). Following that purchase, Aubrey Kautz Sr. formed a holding company called Kautz Realty, Inc.

The Spring Grove Dairy had grown into one of Morehead's (and eastern Kentucky's) major commercial enterprises. It was based on the idea of giving the customers the highest quality products possible along with excellent service with a smile. Their motto included "Taste the difference" and "Quality you can taste". Their goal was to supply their customers "The best milk money could buy".

### Leasing meant end of an era

In 1985 the Spring Grove Dairy leased their business and facilities to Southern Belle Dairy from Somerset, Kentucky. That company operated the dairy under its original name until 1990, when Aubrey Kautz Sr.'s ill health forced him to sell the business to Southern Belle.

But for almost three quarters of the 20th century, a Spring Grove Dairy milk truck was a familiar sight in many eastern Kentucky towns.

Among those many men who over the years kept the milk flowing freely from the



Spring Grove Dairy delivery truck in the early 1940s. Notice the phone number is 15-F-3. Shown are Aubrey Kautz Jr. (right), brother Bernard Kautz (left) and a friend.



Bernard Kautz (left), and helper chopping up silage to feed dairy cows. The silo in the background was made from tongue and groove cypress wood with steel bands around it. (1930s).



Early fleet of Spring Grove Dairy delivery vehicles in the 1930s.



garage for maintenance of their fleet of trucks and a large cold storage building.

### **Dairy converts from glass to paper**

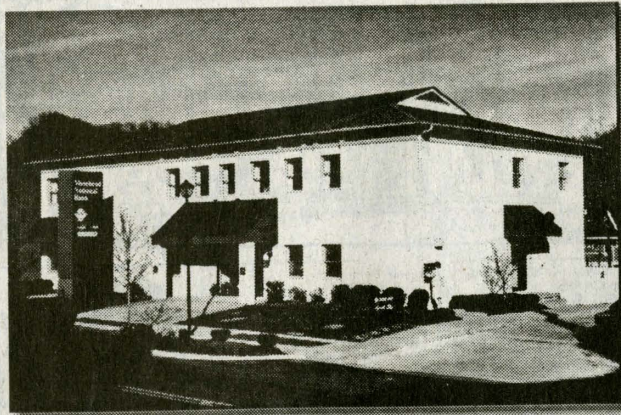
In the late 1950s, the dairy converted from glass bottles to paper. That saved many man hours picking up those returnable bottles and reusing them. However, that also meant all new bottling equipment.

The public was reluctant to accept paper bottles at first, but when they got used to the convenience, they were soon won over. At first there were some problems with the wax covered bottles leaking, but this was soon taken care of.

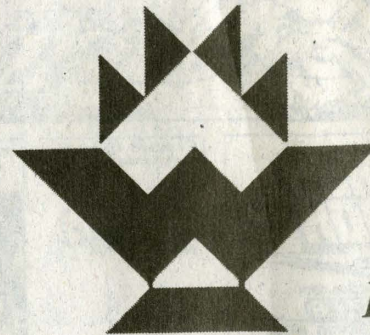
cows to the customers. George Kautz, Aubrey Kautz Sr., Aubrey Kautz Jr., Bob Jones, Elijah Stigall, Pete Stigall, Ed Fannin, Jack Powell, Dale Jones, Lloyd Jones, Hubert Barnett, Dickie Blair, Sidney Barnett, James Roberts, Ernest Poston, Chloe Sloan (and his uncle).

Also, Moe Morefield was one of their loyal managers for many years. He is now in a nursing home in Owingsville, and everyone at the "Wal-Mart" Church of God misses his cheerful greeting as they enter the door on Sunday morning. The Spring Grove Dairy remains a memory to many Moreheadians today.





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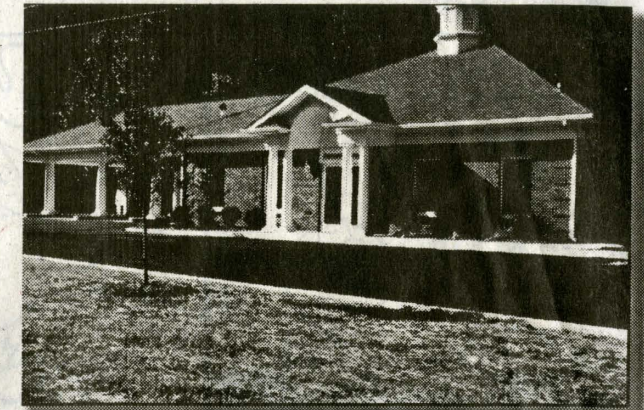
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# Morehead Memories

## *Spring Grove Dairy: milk from farm to front door*



### About the author

Dr. Jack D. Ellis is a retired Morehead State University Library director and a retired minister.

began delivering milk to neighbors in a horse-drawn wagon. But, after a years, they bought an old truck.

However, the dairy did not yet have a name. But since their milk business had its genesis as they sold milk that was kept stored in their cool spring located in a beech tree grove on their farm, they decided to call it Spring Grove Dairy. It was a name which would reach great prominence in Rowan County and surrounding counties.

In the early 1930s, the Spring Grove Dairy stopped selling raw milk at the insistence of the local health department and began to pasteurize their milk. Pasteurization meant heating the milk to a temperature of 143 degrees for 30 minutes,



Dairy employees pose with the fleet of Spring Grove Dairy in the 1950s.

without that truck, their dairy business might have had to return to delivering milk in a horse-drawn wagon.

Baseball park built on dairy farm

with Byrd Perry Sr. (Manager) in establishing that Salt Lick baseball team. We won the eastern division of the Bluegrass League in 1949.

Spring Grove moves to



Got milk? Rusty Kautz (left) and brother Ron can "taste the difference" in that good Spring Grove Dairy milk. They are the sons of Aubrey Kautz Jr.





"You have come as such as to have need of milk" (Hebrews 5:12).

In rural Rowan County during the 1920s, if you wanted milk for your meal, you would go to the barn and milk you cow with your own two hands. Next you would strain the raw milk through a clean white cloth and seal it in a syrup bucket. Then you would carefully let the bucket down into a well or store it in a cool spring house until it was needed.

Of course, many who lived in Morehead had ice boxes with weekly ice delivery, but they did not always have a cow. Also, many rural residents did not own a cow. Therefore, if you were "cowless" and needed milk, you arranged to buy or barter with your neighbor who did own a cow. It was out of this kind of demand for a product that the local Spring Grove Dairy was born.

#### Spring Grove Dairy named

In 1926, George Kautz owned a fertile farm 12 miles west of Morehead, just across Licking River in Bath County near what is now Midland, Kentucky.

He had four or five Jersey dairy cows and several of his neighbors had no cows. Therefore, George Kautz and his sons, Fred, Aubrey Sr. and Bernard, began selling raw milk to his neighbors.

At first they came to his farm with their buckets. George Kautz would keep the milk in five gallon cans and store them in a cool spring located in a grove of beech trees on the farm. The first customers would come to the cool spring house and get the milk they need. As the business increased, George and his sons bought more cows, built a dairy barn and

then it was run through a cooling system, bottled in glass bottles and stored in an

insulated storage room cooled with ice.

#### More sales meant more cows

By 1935, the dairy business increased so much that the milk produced by their own cows could not keep up with the demand. That made it necessary to buy additional milk, so George Kautz and sons began buying milk from other farmers.

In 1938, Aubrey Sr., the oldest of George Kautz's sons, purchased the farm and dairy business from his father and brothers. Aubrey and his wife, Eula (Jones) Kautz were the parents of two sons, Aubrey Jr. and Bernard. The family lived on the farm as Aubrey Sr. continued to operate the dairy.

Of course, homogenization had not been perfected and the milk contained the cream that would separate and come to the top. It meant shaking the milk bottle before drinking to mix the cream back into the milk. No one ever thought of skimming the cream off the top and drinking skimmed milk.

But, Aubrey Sr. did purchase a cream separator that separated the cream and it was sold as whipping cream or coffee cream.

During the years of 1941-1945 (WW II) the only trucks manufactured in this nation were for military use, and the Spring Grove Dairy milk truck was ready for the scrap heap. Aubrey Sr. learned of a used 1940 Chevrolet truck for sale in Jacksonville, Fla. Aubrey Kautz Jr. recalled he and his dad rode the train to Florida and purchased the truck.

Gasoline was rationed, but because the dairy was considered essential to the war effort, they could get the necessary gas station ramps needed to do business. But

Morehead  
During the years of WW II (1941-1945), the business continued to be successful as the dairy added more employees and more milk routes. In 1946, as part of their marketing strategy, Aubrey Sr. built a baseball park on the family farm.

It was an excellent baseball park, complete with fencing, backstop, bleachers, dugouts and skinned off infield. Local businesses sponsored a semi-pro baseball team in the old Bluegrass League that had been revived following WW II.

This writer, along with Sonny Allen, "Duck" Carter, Paul J. Reynolds and several Morehead College baseball

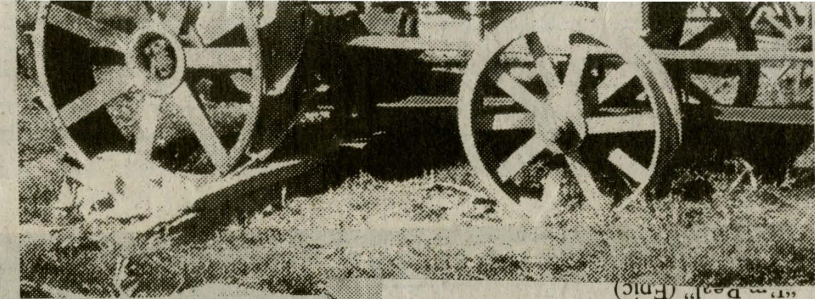
players, played on that team. In fact, several of us that are still around had a reunion of players from the old Bluegrass League this year. I was able to stand up as a former player on two different teams in that league, Salt Lick and Mt. Sterling. Aubrey Kautz Sr. was very instrumental along

In 1950, owner Aubrey Sr. moved his dairy business from the farm to Morehead where he built a new modern dairy on East Main Street, (more recently it housed a chiropractor's office). The business soon expanded to include wholesale and retail sales in Rowan and Bath counties.

That required a new modern pasteurizer, separator and cooling facility. The new business meant buying more milk from local farmers. That required more workers and trucks. At one time during the 1950s, Spring Grove Dairy products were sold in 15 counties throughout eastern Kentucky and had 20 full time employees.

Following his return from the military service in 1954, Aubrey Jr. took over the job as general manager. At that time all milk was sold in three different sized returnable

Continued on C-5



Ferguson Tractor powered  
cut up corn into feed  
Grove Dairy farm, 1938

This Week  
L. Jennifer Lopez  
No. 1



# George Kautz Began With A Good Idea

In the year of 1926 George J. Kautz had the idea that if he would produce and bottle clean fresh milk of the highest quality it could be profitably sold.

So, one day 30 years ago he started on a new venture by bottling one dozen quarts of fresh milk and started to Morehead. Three quarts of milk were sold and on the second day eight quarts were disposed of.

It didn't take long for word to spread about the good milk coming into Morehead from the Kautz farm at Midland. After a few days it was evident that this new business venture would be a success, so there would have to be a name for the dairy.

On this farm was a never failing spring surrounded by a large grove of trees which had furnished the people of this community water for more than a hundred years. The late Mrs. Geo. Kautz gave the idea for the name of the dairy, "Spring Grove", from this never-failing spring.

From 1926 until 1938 Spring Grove Dairy was owned and operated by Geo. J. Kautz and sons on a farm 10 miles west of Morehead.

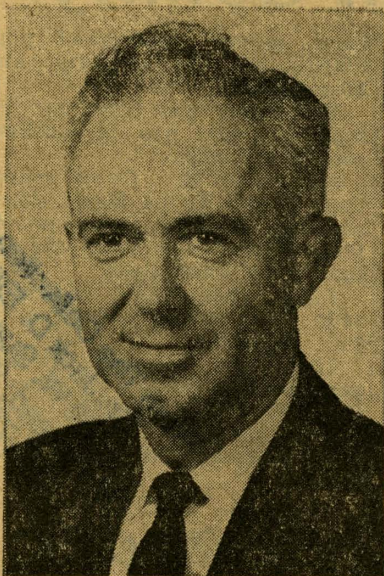
In 1938, Aubrey, the eldest son, purchased the farm and dairy and continued the operation on the farm for the next 12 years.

Business increased steadily and in 1950 the dairy was moved into the new modern building on East Main Street in Morehead.

When this new building was erected in 1950 it was thought that it would be large enough for the business for the next 10 years, but the increase in sales was so great that three years later a new addition was built and another building of steel and aluminum was finished in April 1956. It is one of the most modern in the state.

Spring Grove now has 20 employees. Spring Grove milk is produced by 45 Grade A producers in five counties and is sold in 15 counties in Kentucky.

For the past 30 years Spring



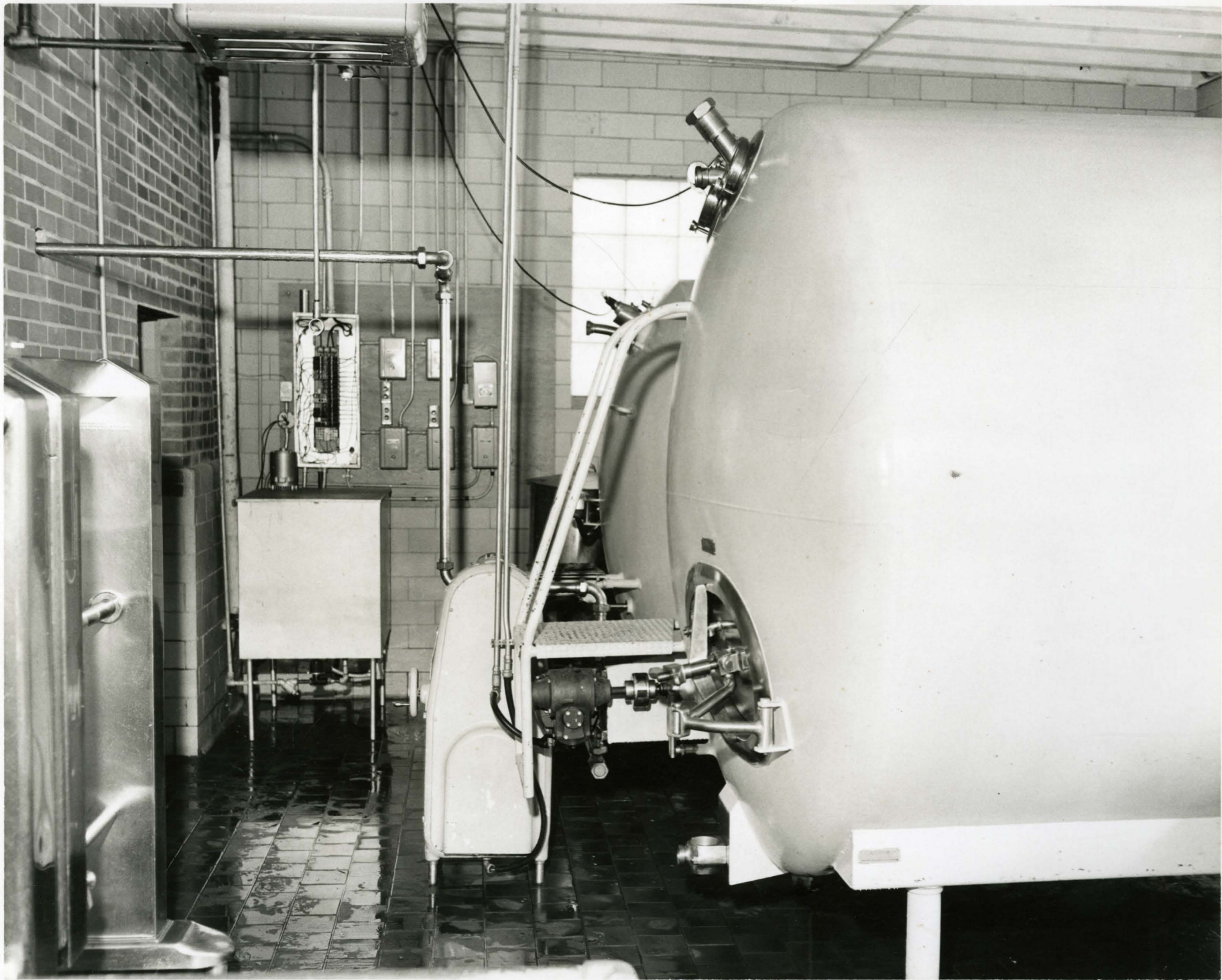
Aubrey Kautz

Grove has meant the best in quality, service and fair dealing to thousands of people. Some of the very first patrons who are still regular customers of Spring Grove are Prof. H. C. Haggan, T. F. Hogge, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. C. E. Bishop, Sam Allen, Hartley Battson, Eagles Nest Restaurant and many others.

The owners of Spring Grove have pointed out their unique position as compared to larger dairies. Whereas a large dairy will have several hundred milk producers, it is impossible for them to hand pick only the most desirable farm families to produce and care for the milk. Nor can they select the best herd.

Most large dairies' milk supply is almost 100 per cent Holstein which is the lowest testing. Spring Grove is large enough to afford the most modern milk processing equipment. Its volume is small enough that they can pick the best herds in the five county area. The larger percentage of Spring Grove milk is Golden Guernsey and Jersey. This is why it is richer and bet-





NEW SPRING GROVE DAIRY  
MOVED TO MOREHEAD 1950.  
AHH LATEST MODERN MILK  
PASTEURIZING EQUIPMENT

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