

## Home Milk Delivery from Lloyd & Alice Hammer, and Fred Kleiss

By Helen (Robb) Garrett

Today we are used to going to the big grocery stores, finding milk in gallons, half gallons, quarts, one-percent, two-percent, skimmed—in plastic containers. It was not that way in the old days. Instead, small dairies at the edge of town went into business milking by hand, bottling it and delivering to the homes in Kinmundy.

Lloyd and Alice Hammer, along with their two sons started such a business in 1921. The previous owner, whose business the Hammer family took over from sold his milk for five cents a quart and was losing money, so Mr. Hammer elevated his price to six cents a quart! Milk was delivered each evening to area in and surrounding Kinmundy. Lloyd and son Francis delivered in the milk wagon, pulled by horses of course. The other son, Dale and mother Alice delivered in another part of town with a horse and buggy. They had a meeting place, waited on the other two to arrive and drove home together. Can you imagine how dark it was by that time?

The dairy consisted of around 15 cows of different breeds. Gasoline engines were used to wash the bottles and bottle caps were ordered by the barrel. Milk not taken inside by the customers the night it was delivered would have 4-5 inches of ice on the top.

At first, Lloyd and his sons milked the cows by hand, but later a gasoline-powered milking machine replaced the hand milking. In later year when electricity came to the farm, an electric one replaced the gasoline engine.

One of the Hammer family's competitors in the milk business was the Fred Kliess family consisting of Fred, wife Dora, son Harold, daughters Mildred and Helen. Their farm was south of Kinmundy and always called "The Sunnyslope Farm."

Mr. Fred Kliess was one of the firsts of the Kinmundy Boosters formed after the 1957 Centennial Celebration and such a dedicated one. When plans were made for the beginning of the Community Center we are so proud of now, he donated money himself for the tin for the roof of the building as well as collecting donations from many others. The Boosters completed the framework and roof as well as the concrete floor and then the City of Kinmundy took it over. Later on the Lion's Club became the owner of the Kinmundy Community Center with the ultimatum that it would revert back to the City if the Lion's Club ever had to give it up. Now our Community Center is one to be proud of with a kitchen, bathrooms, meeting room and a big floor for dancing, family get-togethers, and so many activities.

Helen Robb Garrett