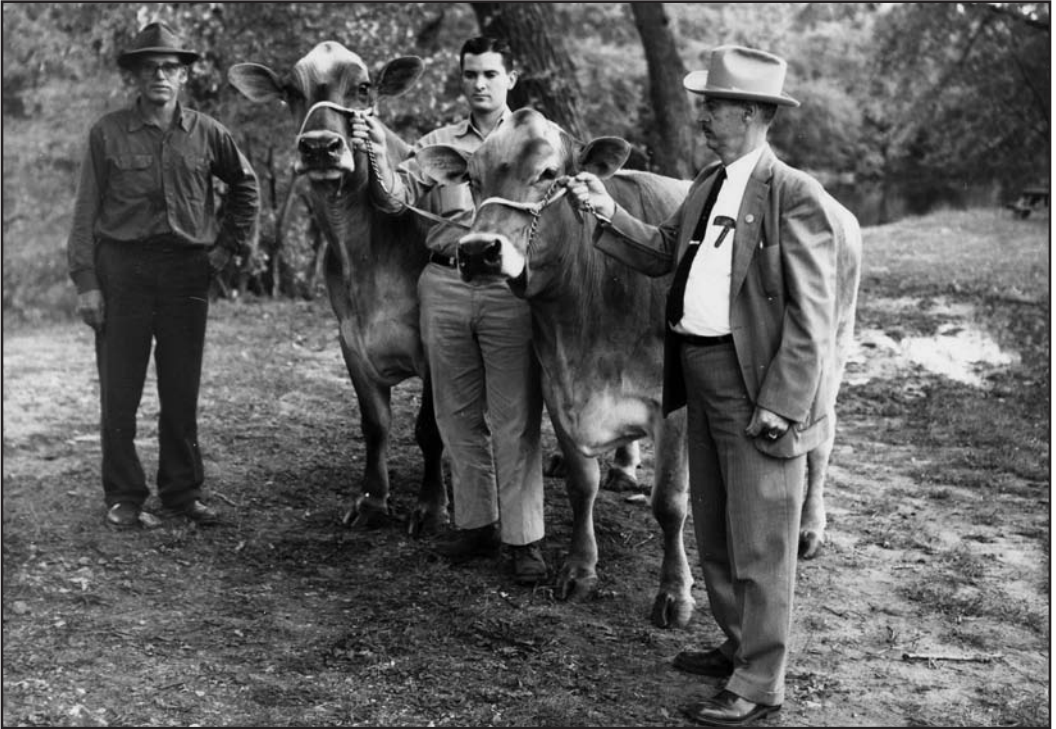


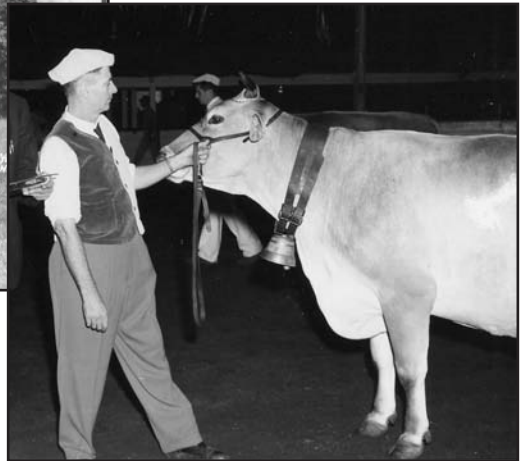
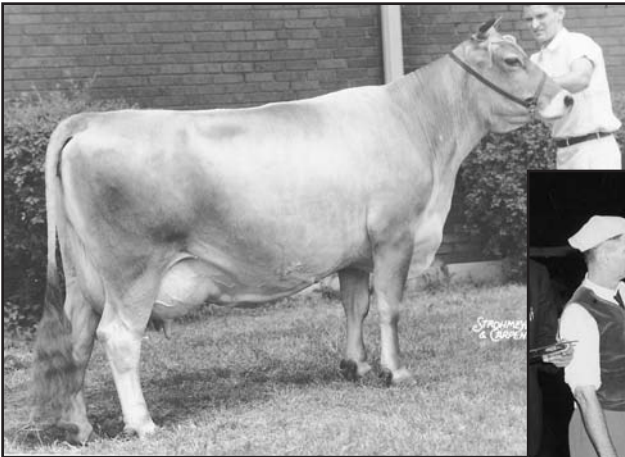
# WELCOME IN



*Left to right: Ernest Struckman, Auburn, CA, John McKitrick Jr. and John McKitrick Sr.*

Welcome In Farms, Dublin, Ohio covered over 3,000 acres of some of the most valuable land in the United States. All three thousand acres are now exclusive homes, golf courses and high end developments but at its peak the barns and pasture fields were home to some of the best Guernsey and Brown Swiss cows in the land and an occasional Holstein also. Welcome In Farms owners Dr. John L. and John W. McKitrick were considered the most popular father / son judging duo in the history of dairy cattle shows. The Guernsey herd was developed in the 1940's and dispersed in 1953 for a sale average of \$ 675 on 206 head (\$ 5,478.04 in 2009 dollars) and at the time one of the highest dollar volumes for a Guernsey sale. Like the Swiss after them the Guernseys would follow an extensive show circuit throughout the mid-west and south ending of course at Waterloo.



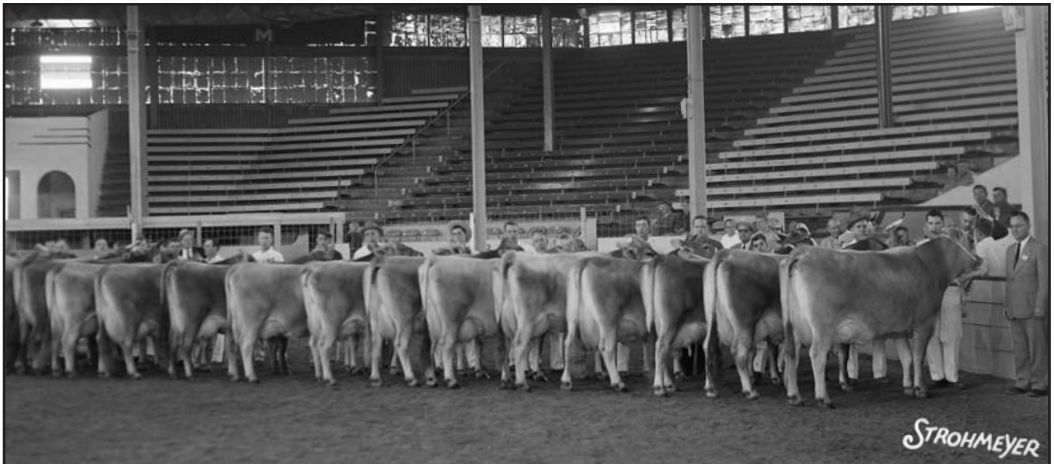


Violet was one of two “Waterloo” champions for Welcome In, the other being Orangeville Nell (*above*) in 1957. Welcome In was Premier Breeder & Exhibitor in 1960-61-62 and won both awards for five consecutive years at the Ohio State Fair. Near fifty years after the sale Welcome In blood runs through the veins of Brown Swiss cattle throughout the globe primarily through a bull Welcome In Stretch. One of the large buyers at the sale was Cold Spring Farms, Wisconsin who’s purchases included Welcome In Jinx and Welcome In Jolly.



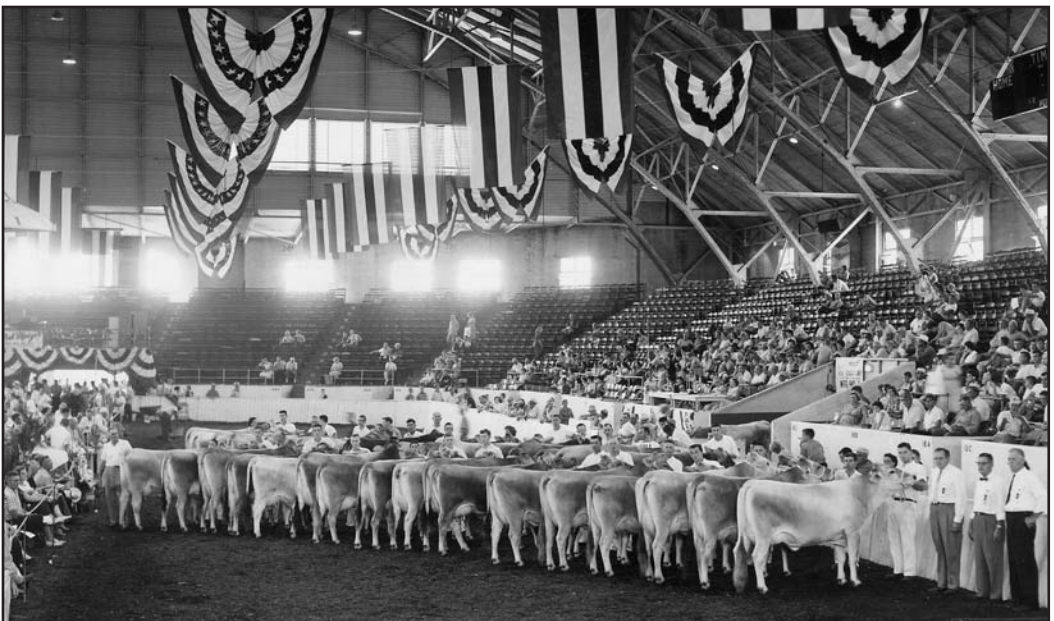
*Cold Springs Showstring (above)  
Aged Cow Class 1960 (below)*





*Judge: John L. Morris*

- 1) *Welcome In Jade - Welcome In Farm Dublin, OH - (Res Grand to Hidden View Sue A. Lee's Hill Farm 1st 4yr old)*
- 2) *Lee's Hill Kestrel M - Lee's Hill Farm, 3) Loucon haven Frodo - Welcome In Farm*
- 4) *Orangeville Nell - Welcome In Farm*
- 5) *Blackland Laird Blossom - Perry & Carl Keltner, Pearl City, IL*
- 6) *Ostval's Nabob's Pink Lady - Ostval Farm Burlington, WI owned by John Oster (The clipper and household appliance company)*
- 7) *VB Hilunda Lass Liege - Voegeli Farms, 8) Norvic Mistress Alona - Norvic Farm*
- 9) *Norvic Norse Ellen - Norvic Farm, 10) Regmyrt of Ethan Allen - Lee's Hill Farm*
- 11) *Norvic Mistress Inez - Norvic Farm, 12) Bright's M. Sensation - Ralph Bright, IA*



*1960 All Am Swiss Futurity 33 head judged by George C. Trimberger*

- 1) *Welcome In Charming Mary Doll, 2) Welcome In Supreme Jade*
- 3) *Welcome In Supreme Jeanine*

I caught up with John W. McKitrick, now living in Florida and ask him a few questions about Welcome In Farm and his memories of National Dairy Cattle Congress. Here's what I received!

**Q. At it's peak how big was Welcome In?**

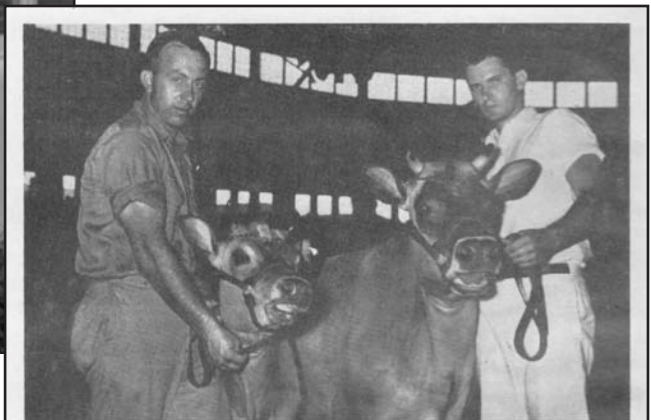
A. 3,000 acres, 300 head of cattle, milked at five locations with 15 people working at all times.

**Q. During the glory days Welcome In had some of the greatest cow people working for them as in Jim Price, Woody Nunamaker and more. Would you name some of the people that went with your show cattle and maybe tell a little bit about them.**

A. Woody was the main guy. He loved to show cattle and he was my personal "hero". He basically talked us into going on the road traveling by box car all over the Country. He supervised the building of the box car. We started most years at the Missouri State Fair, then Wisconsin, back to Ohio, on to Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mid-South and then back to Waterloo. I was always with Woody. Jim Price and I were on the Ohio State judging team together and he helped Welcome In for 3 or 4 years.



*Woody Nunamaker  
Klussendorf Winner 1962*



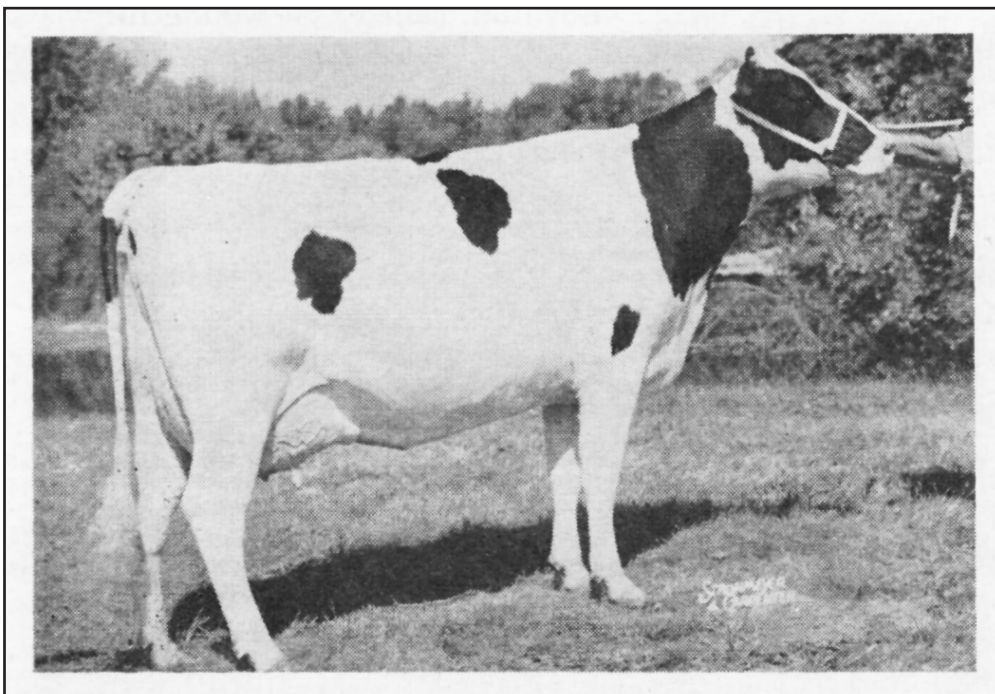
It was mother against daughter in the Jersey judging at the Illinois State Fair in August. Dandy La Pompe Maid, senior champion Jersey was pitted against her daughter, Jester Basil La Pompe Doll, junior champion Jersey, for grand champion honors. Mother "Dandy" showed she still had a few tricks in her bag and was awarded the ribbon. Shown here with the pair are Carl Arnold, Piasa, Ill., left, and John McKitrick, Dublin, Ohio. Both mother and daughter are owned by Myers Jersey Farm, Troy, Ohio.

**Q. I have an article written about you traveling in a box car. Can you tell us what a typical day would be like on the car?**

A. The box car was usually “Woody” and I. We had a deck above the cattle with our beds, feed and water and equipment. We usually had around 7 milk cows to hand milk twice a day as well as regular chores. Usually there were several cars that traveled together. West Unity Ayrshires made the same circuit.

**Q. Although Welcome In was known for their Guernseys and Brown Swiss you had a particular great Holstein cow Pat Willow Lake Victor. Can you tell us where she came from and how she arrived at Welcome In?**

A. I was judging Guernseys at the Champaign County Fair, Urbana, Ohio and saw “Pat” in the barn after the show. She has just been imported from Canada in a truck load of cattle by Gerry Askew, recently fresh and in rough condition. I bought her and as they say “the rest is history”. We sold her to Peru for what was a lot of money back then.



*Pat Willow Lake Victor*  
*1st 2-Year-Old Waterloo & All-American 2-Year-Old 1959*  
*1st 3-Year-Old Waterloo 1960 & All-American 3-Year-Old 1960*



**Q. Mables Tamarind Violet. Where did she originate and how did she become a member of the Welcome In group? Also describe her and how was she to work with. She had to be a favorite?**

A. Violet was raised about 15 miles from our farm in Westerville, Ohio. A very small farm that didn't test or anything. She like another cow "Leucon Haven Frodo" were spotted from the road while traveling to a show. The owner didn't mind selling "Violet" as she had a habit of kicking off the milking machine. She was a big cow, very hard headed and difficult to break to lead. But what a beautiful confirmation, everyone admired her.

**Q. Orangeville Nell. Where did she originate from and how did she end up at Welcome In?**

A. Nell was bred by Orangeville Farms in Pennsylvania. We purchased her at the Orangeville Dispersal. Paid \$5,000 for her, the most we had ever paid for a cow. She won the Ohio Futurity and was later Grand Champion at Waterloo in 1957. She was a great cow to work with.

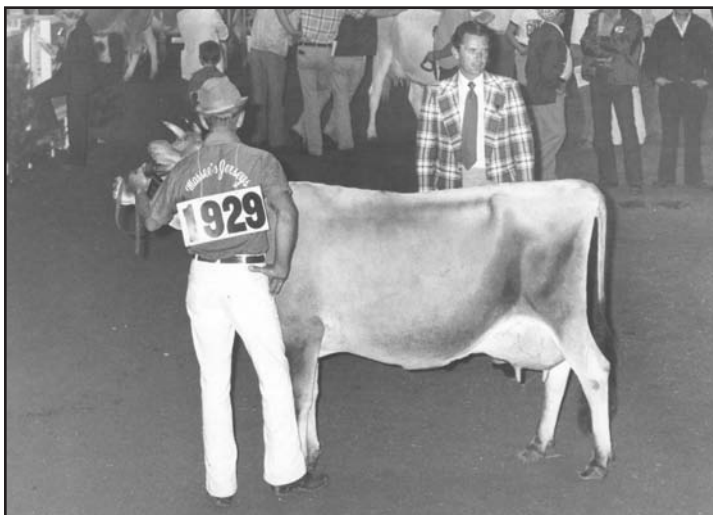
**Q. Describe "Waterloo" for us and memories you have of the show itself and perhaps memories of the show.**

A. "Waterloo" was our goal every year. Some of my favorite experiences come from there. We had great competition there in the Guernseys and later with the Brown Swiss. My goal was to judge there someday and luckily I got to judge every breed there.



**Q. You and your father made up a great father & son partnership at Welcome In and also as judges. Can you give us some highlights?**

A. Dad was a great judge. He suffered from Parkinson's for many years which cut his time short. Norm, I made a goal as a young man to judge every national dairy breed show. Once I done that I lost my desire to continue judging. So after I judged my 3rd National Holstein show I thought it was a good time to retire. I judged over 1200 shows throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries. I had watched some judges continue judging past their prime and did not want to be one of them. I retired from judging when I was 52 years old.



*John McKittrick judging Gil-Bar Gem Dreamy, Minnesota State Fair,  
Bob Massee at the halter*

**Q .John, Thank You so much for your time. Welcome In and the McKitricks make up a great part of history in the dairy cattle world and I thank you for sharing it with us.**

A. Dad & I agreed to write Herdsmans Diary and although dad never wrote any of the articles, he was always in my corner. I must admit it was easier to write when we were actively involved. Norm, good luck with the book. Regards, John





SOME EXCERPTS FROM HERDSMAN DIARY  
HOARD'S DAIRYMAN  
BY Dr. J.L. & John W. McKitrick

October 10, 1963. We ship our show herd by rail. Each year we send our show herd to the National Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo, Iowa. This means a trip of over 600 miles so the problem of shipping a show herd of 15 or more head is considerable. There are two ways to transport cattle, either by truck or box car. If the trip can be made between milkings or in less than 10 hours we go by truck. If we are making an extensive show circuit we go by rail. For example when we were showing Guernseys in the early 50's we would start out at Illinois State Fair, then Wisconsin, or Missouri back to Ohio State Fair, then Indiana and Kentucky and Tennessee State Fairs and then Waterloo and lastly to Chicago. Showing is expensive and the only way to make money is to advertise and the only thing which makes good advertising is a winner. I have always thoroughly enjoyed riding a boxcar. You see more country than is possible in an automobile. Chores are few so there is lots of time to sleep or read. Eating and sleeping facilities are not immaculate by any means but if you can eat a cold spam sandwich, with a dash of cinders and are able to hold on to the side of your cot while you sleep, you have it made. Seriously an advantage of arriving by rail is the men arrive rested. It is more work and time consuming to get there but after you do arrive both cattle and man are in show condition.

August 10, 1963 The Impression your show herd makes Showing cattle is advertising. The reason for advertising is to make the public interested in buying your product. Neatness and cleanliness.....both are essential for the cattle and equipment. Keep the cattle well groomed their tails washed and blankets clean. Keep the aisles swept and clean, have your trunks, buckets and tack stored away in a neat and orderly manner. The people in charge have to know what they are doing. They must be interested in winning rather than using the show circuit for a way to get away from home. They have to be your farms salesmen. Besides being good cow people they should be courteous and friendly. The kind of exhibit a breeding establishment keeps at a fair is usually a good indication of what you would find at the farm. Our reasons for taking out a show herd are very clear-cut. We want to impress people with our cattle, not only people that own our breed but those in other breeds as well. WE WANT TO WIN. If we don't think we have a chance at winning in a certain class we won't be entered in it. IF YOU ARE GOING TO THE FAIR ONLY FOR A GOOD TIME, LEAVE YOUR CATTLE AT HOME AND REALLY ENJOY YOURSELF.



Waterloo 1960