

# CURTISS CANDY

**CURTISS CANDY FARMS**  
 Otto Schnering, Founder

*Guernseys*

**The Sires and Herd Behind the Improved Stud Service**

Given the assist of good feed, comfortable housing and good care, the inheritance of the Curtiss-bred dairy cow will not only return a handsome profit, but will enhance the dignity and meaning of your everyday life and living.

Do Not Leave the Future of Your Herd to Chance. Breed by Choice.



GREEN HEADS LEVIS KING  
FOUNDATION HERD SIRES



Improved  
STUD  
SERVICE



1ST PRIZE DAIRY HERD  
Illinois University Show,  
Inter-County Dairy Exposition, 1931



1ST PRIZE DAIRY HERD  
National Guernsey Show, 1936



1ST PRIZE DAIRY HERD  
Inter-County Dairy Exposition, 1938



1ST PRIZE DAIRY HERD  
National Guernsey Show, 1942



1ST PRIZE DAIRY HERD  
National Guernsey Show, 1948

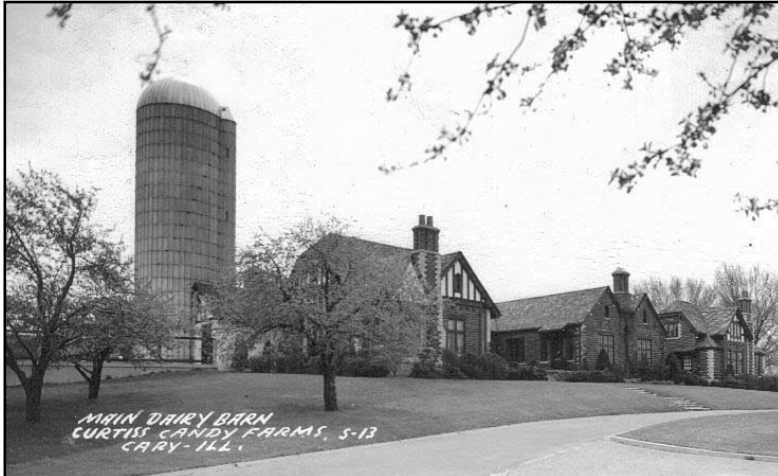


1ST PRIZE DAIRY HERD  
National Guernsey Show, 1941



1ST PRIZE DAIRY HERD  
Dairy Cattle Convention, 1946

Baby Ruth, Butterfinger, chewing gum, mints and fruit drops were generating over 70 millions dollars worth of sales in the 1940's for Curtiss Candy Company and its owner Otto Schnering of Cary, Illinois. It has been said that Schnering wanted to repay the farming community particularly the dairy farmers who had been supplying his company with tanker trucks full of milk and cream for this candy business. So in 1942 Mr. Schnering would begin buying farms with a 650 acre purchase near Cary Illinois. At the end Curtiss Candy Company would own near 10,000 acres of land where now the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago lay. The towns of Algonquin, Arlington, Grays Lake and Marengo were once largely owned by Curtiss Candy. In just land holdings alone this company defined wealth.



Curtiss Candy Farms employed over 300 employees including three full time veterinarians whom, by the way were all Michigan State Graduates. At this time there were no automated barn cleaners, power washers, and in the main dairy barn were 120 head of the most famous dairy cattle in the world in box stalls and tie stalls without a spot of manure on them with one or two men walking lines 24 hours a day with a fork and a cloth wiping down fly and manure specks. Most cows were milked three times a day \* BY HAND. It was not uncommon for Mr. and Mrs. Schnering to take evening walks through the barns to see their beloved cows and everything had to be ready for inspection at all times and it was. Mr. Schnering wanted the barn to be kept in the same manner that his candy factories were, spotless, and it was done that way every day, any day, all day long, 365 days a year. Of interest is that the first land was purchased in 1942 from John D. Hertz (Rental car man) and the main barn had been the home to two Kentucky Derby winners for Hertz (Count Fleet and Reigh Count) Mr. Schnering would pass away in January of 1953 and the herds would all be dispersed within 16 months. Curtiss Candy Farms purebred dairy herds would only be in business for a little more than 11 years.





*Three Waterloo  
Champions*

*Winning Guernsey Cows*



The farms held some of the most valuable livestock of the times with herds of Angus, Beef Shorthorn, Shropshire sheep, and Duroc, Hampshire and Yorkshire hogs. Show herds were exhibited in each species at the very finest shows in the land and to further promote Curtiss the company had a pony hitch that would be on display at parades and shows throughout the mid-west. There were also a half a million broilers, turkey and duck operations as well as a mink farm and a commercial trout farm. Nothing about Curtiss would resemble normal size. Curtiss Candy farms was a gigantic operation and the likes of which will never be seen again. Money was no object and how could it be when exhibiting strings of Ayrshire, Guernsey, Holstein and Brown Swiss throughout the Country? Show herds were exhibited in each species which in itself had a budget the size of normal business. It would not be uncommon when the Curtiss Candy Company show herd hit a fair well over 100 head would be unloaded off the rail cars. From 110 to 120 HEAD at some shows! According to those that witnessed the site, the Curtiss train cars were unlike the normal box cars in the fact they were remodeled Pullman cars and were extravagant and the envy of the showmen that used the same railroad tracks with normal BOX CARS. It would be hard to imagine the expense of putting that kind of numbers on the road but labor was in great supply and any dairy farm boy that could read a copy of the Ayrshire Digest of the Guernsey Breeders Journal would jump at the chance of working for Curtiss. When the show herd would pull into town the herdsmen were expected to carry themselves in a way befitting their sponsor and the candy company in which they represented. The displays, the decorations, the equipment were all extravagant. Everything at the shows like at home was spit and polish.

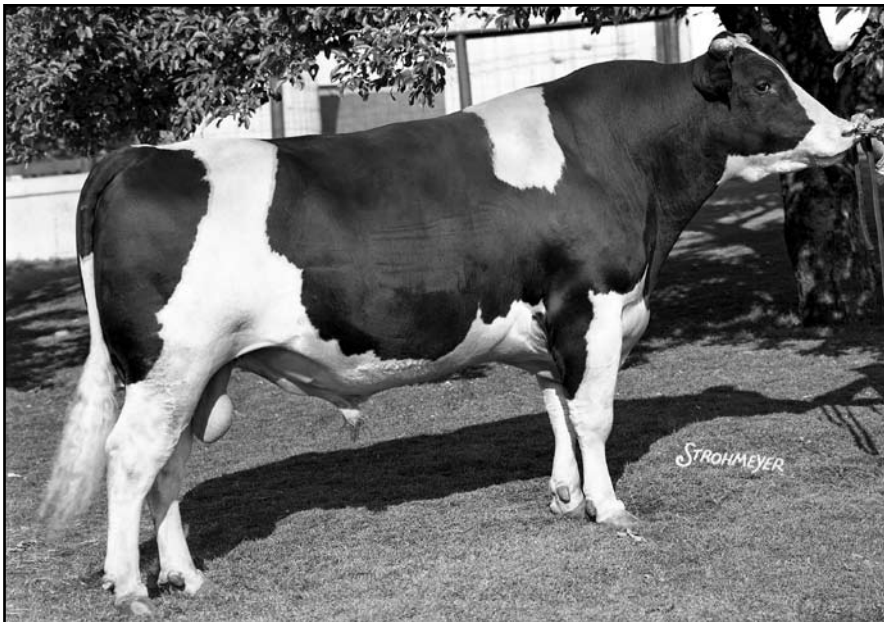
## SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS GREAT PART OF HISTORY:

\* Showing complete strings was started in 1946 and ended in 1953. The show herds accumulated enough banners & rosettes to line the interior of the huge arena at the farm in glassed display cases and enough gold and silver trophies that filled two large trophy rooms.

\* At some fairs the Angus and Shorthorns and the pony hitch would also travel with the dairy cattle adding three more rail cars to the procession.

\* Show Circuit: Northern Illinois Parish Show for the Guernseys, Northern Illinois District show for the Holsteins, State Fairs of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota and Iowa. The cattle were also shown at the Texas State Fair some years as well and then Waterloo, usually ending at the International which would be a mere 45 minute drive (*nowadays with Chicago traffic, it could be the longest of the trips*).

\* Mark this one down as “will never happen again”! In 1952 Curtiss had the Grand Champion Female in five different breeds at two Major State Fairs two days apart. They had Grand Champion Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey at Minnesota State Fair on Thursday then Grand Champion Ayrshire and Brown Swiss at the Iowa State Fair on Friday. To add to the two fine days were Three Bull Grand Champions as well as some Junior Champions, Female and Males at these large and prestigious state fairs.



*Curtiss Candy Jolly Jack*

\*Although Jerseys were by far the smallest breed by number at the 1952 Illinois State Fair, Curtiss exhibited 4 head and won 5 firsts, Sr. & Grand Champion Bull and Sr. & Grand Champion Cow, Junior Champion Bull, 1st Senior Yearling Heifer and 1st Produce of Dam.



*Imp. Curtiss Candy Sultana*

\* With day and night blankets for the dairy cattle over 300 blankets would be purchased at the beginning of each year. The blanket costs alone could run a normal dairy farm in those years.

\* An added pleasure for their hard work the show crew was treated to unlabeled or experimental candy bars.

\* In later years Curtiss dairy cattle would wear white show halters. Each breed had their own show halters, blankets, tack, etc.



\* The Box Cars were discontinued in 1952 for the last two years the Curtiss Candy dairy show herds would travel in 5 semi trailer trucks

\* Curtiss was home of two Klussendorf winners:  
Jack Spearing (*left*) in 1948 and Nelson McCammon (*right*) in 1959.



\* At Waterloo each breed was tied in their respective breed barn with separate staff, equipment and displays, for each breed. On show days the all Curtiss people exchanged help with added helpers from locals eager at the chance to be a part of the famed Curtiss Candy Farms by holding an animal in a group class.

\* 1948 at their peak Curtiss entered the following at National Dairy Cattle Congress:

40 Guernseys

(including 6 aged cows, 11 bulls, 3 Junior Gets, 2 Senior Gets and 3 Produce of dams)

26 Ayrshires (including 4 Aged cows, 6 bulls, 4 produce of dams)

17 Brown Swiss (including 4 aged cows, 5 bulls)

20 Holsteins (including 4 aged cows, 5 bulls)

103 Head including 18 aged cows and 27 bulls

\* 1953 in their last year at Waterloo Curtiss exhibited :  
23 Guernseys , 4 Jerseys, 18 Ayrshires, 13 Brown Swiss, 11 Holsteins = 69 head.

#### **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS EXHIBITED BY CURTISS CANDY:**

**Springlea Gay Lass** - Ayrshire Female 1946

**Quail Roost Noble Primrose** - Guernsey Female -1947  
there was not a National Guernsey show in 1946

**Aftons Golden Marie** - Guernsey Female -1948 & 1950

**Adohr Eldor Pearlette** - Guernsey Female 1951  
was also Grand Champion for Adohr Farm California 1949

**Netherhall Swanky Dan** - Ayrshire Male -1947 & 48  
also Grand in 1942 and 1946 for previous owner  
\* Note there were no National shows in 43-44-45

**Smithson Ivanhoe** - Ayrshire Male -1950

**Curtiss Candy Swanky Flair** -Ayrshire Male 1952

**Curtiss Candy Signal Ned** - Brown Swiss Male 1947

**Curtiss Candy Fabron** - Guernsey Male – 1952  
Delbert Kingston receiving award (*right*)

**St. James Philosophers Barbee**  
Grand Champion Guernsey Female at Waterloo 1942  
not a National Show



*Springlea Gay Lass  
Champion Ayrshire Female  
1946*

*Aftons Golden Marie  
Champion Guernsey Female  
1948 & 1950*



*Curtiss Candy Signal Ned  
Champion Brown Swiss Male  
1947*

*Netherhall Swanky Dan  
Champion Ayrshire Male  
1947 & 1948,  
1942 & 1946 (for previous owner)*





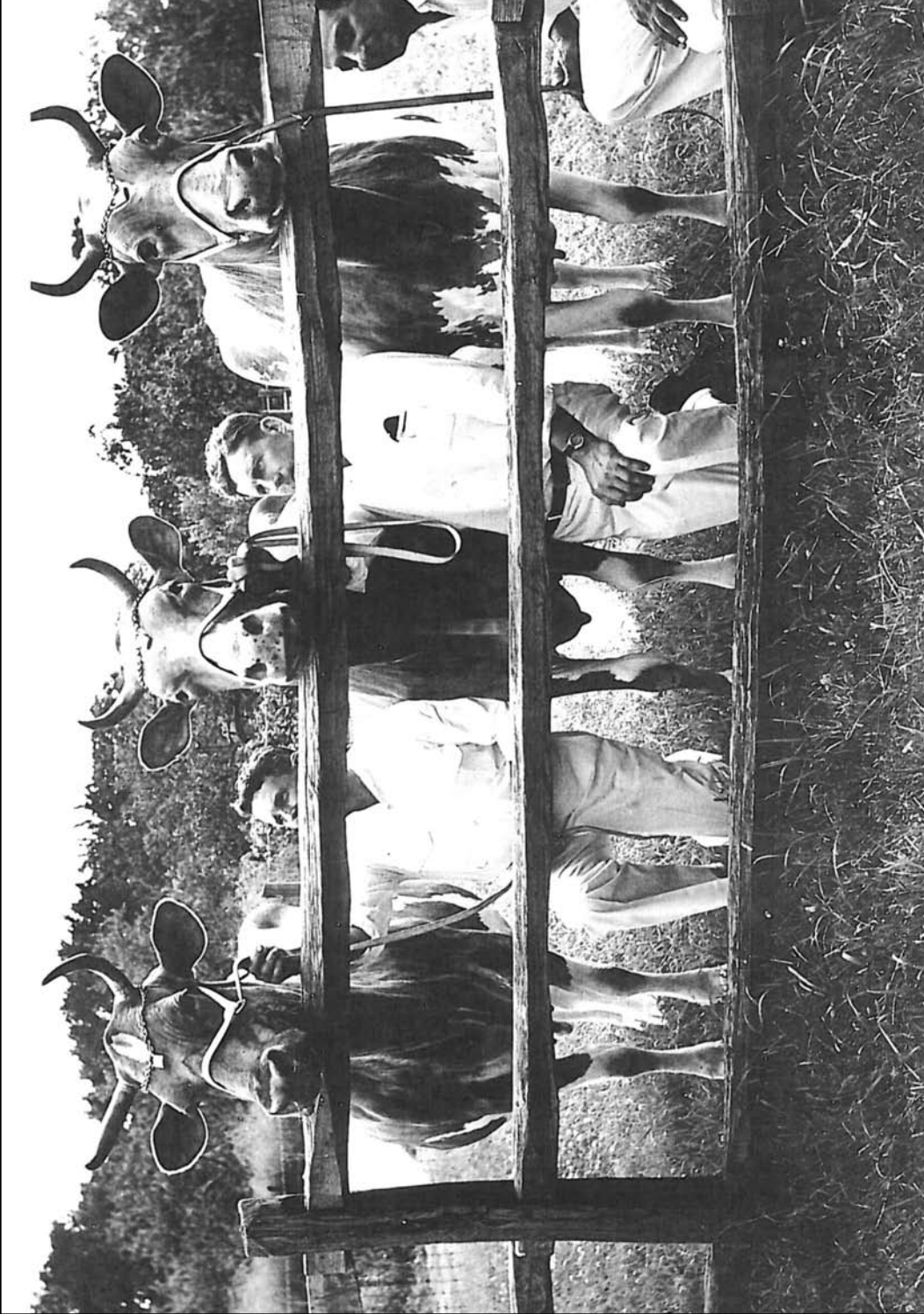
11 National Champions from 3 breeds in an eight year span. When you consider there were very few National shows for a 4 year period during World War 2, these numbers could have easily been doubled and what is more amazing is that Curtiss was just getting started in Jerseys at the time of Mr. Schnering's death and had already had a Reserve National Champion with only a handful from their upstart Jersey herd of under twenty head.

Aside from the Waterloo honors Curtiss accumulated State Fair Champions and International Champions by the car load sometimes several in a given day at the very roughest of shows. Maurice Core said that shortly after Mr. Schnering's death the employees were gathered and informed of the decision to disperse the breeding farms and discontinue all but the newly started Curtiss breeding service. Bob Schnering, Otto Schnering's oldest son told the employees that the farms were costing the company more than 1 million dollars a year in 1953 money which was sizable and thus the verdict to shut down what to this day is still thought of as one of the greatest pieces of dairy history ever written.



*Delbert Kingston (left) Curtiss Farm Manager  
receiving awards for  
Champion Guernsey Male and Grand Champion Female 1952*





*Three Waterloo Champions: Barbie, Pearllette & Marie (photo courtesy Darrell Pidgeon)*

## **Curtiss Candy Guernseys Can Write**

### **A Record Of Consistent, Repeated Performance**

#### **THE POWER OF PRODUCTION AND PERSISTENCY OF PRODUCTION:**

Our Guernsey cows have made records up to 19889 lbs. milk and 1,055 lbs. butterfat. Several of them have national Class Leading records, both for milk and butterfat production. In addition, many state production records are held by cows in the Curtiss Candy Herd.

We have followed a program of Advanced Registry Herd Testing wherein **every two-year-old on the farm is tested.**

#### **THE PROOF OF TYPE AND CONFORMATION:**

We have also followed a classification program and have exhibited our herds in the several major shows throughout the country with gratifying results.

In the show ring, Curtiss exhibited the first prize dairy herd at the Dairy Cattle Congress in 1946, 1947, 1948, 1950, 1951 and 1952 (Curtiss did not show in 1949). Curtiss exhibited, the first prize dairy herd in the International Dairy Exposition in 1950 and 1951, the only two years we exhibited at this show.

Since 1946, Curtiss exhibited the Grand Champion Female five times at the Dairy Cattle Congress. We have been awarded the Douglaston Manor Trophy for the best A. R. cow on five different occasions during this time.

Curtiss females also were given the Meadow Lodge Trophy for the best udder in 1947, 1948 and 1950.

Curtiss Candy was Premier Exhibitor at the 1946, 1947, 1950 and 1951 National Guernsey Show, as well as the 1950 International Exposition.

#### **REPRODUCTION OF INDIVIDUAL INHERITED GOODNESS:**

Green Meads Levity King was the sire of the 1st Get of Sire at the 1946 Dairy Cattle Congress.

Curtiss Candy Levity Heir was the Grand Champion Bull at the Dairy Cattle Congress in 1946. His son, Curtiss Candy Merry Curtiss, was Junior Champion at the National

Guernsey Show in 1947 and he, in turn, sired the Junior Champion Bull in 1950.

"Heir" also sired the following winners at the National Guernsey Show: winning Junior Get, 1950; Curtiss Candy Fabron, Senior and Grand Champion Bull, and winner of the Langwater Trophy, 1952; Curtiss Candy Navigator, Reserve Senior and Reserve Grand Champion Bull exhibited by Mr. John Worthington, 1952; first prize Get of Sire and winner of the Peer Challenge Trophy, 1952.

Curtiss Candy Levity Peer, a son of Green Meads Levity King, was the Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Bull in the 1948 National Guernsey Show.

Curtiss Candy Magistrate, bred at Curtiss Candy Farms, sired the Junior Champion Female at the 1952 National Guernsey Show for Kepple and Getz.

#### **ESTABLISHING LONGEVITY OF USEFULNESS:**

In the Curtiss Candy herd are many cows that are doing a most creditable job at an advanced age. Among these are:

**SPOT OF VANITY**—18 years old last September and again in calf.

**PANSY'S PATSY OF MEADOW LANE**—now 13 years old. The dam of 11 calves in her 13 years.

**ST. JAMES PHILOSOPHER'S BAR-BEE**—now in her 15th year. She produced 19,889 lbs. milk and 1,055 lbs. fat at the age of 11 years.

**AFTON'S GOLDEN MARIE**—at the age of 11 years was 1st Aged Cow at the 1952 National Guernsey Show, and was winner of the Douglaston Manor Trophy for Best A. R. Cow. Twice a National Grand Champion and Best Uddered, 1948 and 1950, she has had 9 calves in her 11 years.

We believe that these families carry an inheritance for longevity. We realize, however, that care and nutrition are also important factors. We feel that the care and management given at Curtiss Candy is possible, and is actually the same, as in many good farmer-breeder herds.



*Guernsey Aged Cow Class National Dairy Cattle Congress*