

NEW LAYER BARN – This 32' by 302' layer barn has recently been built at Argyle Farm on Silver Clay Line in Dunwich Township.

Layer barn state-of-the-art

With much thought, planning and an eye to the future, a new state-of-the-art layer barn has been built by Ian, and Alan and Nancy McKillop.

The barn, located on the northern portion of Argyle Farm on Silver Clay Line, will replace the existing layer barn on the south farm. The community is invited to an open house in the facility on Friday, March 26th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Modern technology has been incorporated into the 32' by 302' layer barn which has a capacity of 22,700 birds. Three runs of cages will house the birds but for now, two rows of cages have been installed for the 13,000 white leghorn hens which will arrive on March 30th.

Computerized

Computerized equipment control the feeding system which will operate for 12-14 minutes four times per day. The heating and ventilation systems are also electronically controlled with sensors throughout the main portion of the barn to signal the opening of the ventilation system, and how far to open the baffle or to turn the 24 fans on to regulate the temperature. An alarm system will also signal if there is a malfunction or loss of power.

A radiant heating system was included in the floor of the packing room to make standing on a concrete floor more pleasant in cold weather.

The new manure system keeps the waste drier which is beneficial as this makes the product less of a risk to contain and spread and easier to handle. A 45' by 80' manure storage barn will provide one year's worth of storage capacity. A conveyor system will remove the manure from the barn every other day which will

also assist the ventilation system in ensuring good air quality

All of the equipment in the barn including the ventilation system, cages and conveyors, are Farmer Automatic from Germany. The 2,528 cages arrived in individual pieces which then had to be hand assembled.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is a part of this new structure as well as the main layer barn is lighted by 5 and 7 watt compact fluorescent bulbs.

Eggs will be gathered twice daily and shipped to Gray Ridge Egg Farms twice a week. The eggs are moved from in front of the cages by a belt conveyor with a carousel at the end of the row lifting the eggs to a main conveyor which transports the eggs to the packing room.

The eggs are then placed in the cooler until shipped. A separate outside door for the cooler room eliminates the need of the shipper having to enter the barn, thereby being Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point compliant. Separating this area will allow for better control of possible contamination and enable the area to be secured.

A manual check of the birds and equipment will still be made twice a day in order to check for any problems. Even though the McKillops will have twice as many birds as they previously had, with the new technology incorporated into the barn, the actual amount of time needed to complete the work each day will be close to the same.

Commitment To Future

This new barn represents a commitment to the future of the egg industry. The demand for eggs is increasing but deciding to expand is always a risk.

"When our father built that barn it was just as much of a risk as this is," stated Alan McKillop. Thirty years ago, the McKillops father built a layer barn which would house 6,000 birds, and purchased quota, newly-introduced, for the eggs which would be produced.

Work began in September 1998 on preparing the site for construction and pouring cement with framing underway in October and the building closed in around mid-November. Along with help from friends, many local contractors were involved in the project.

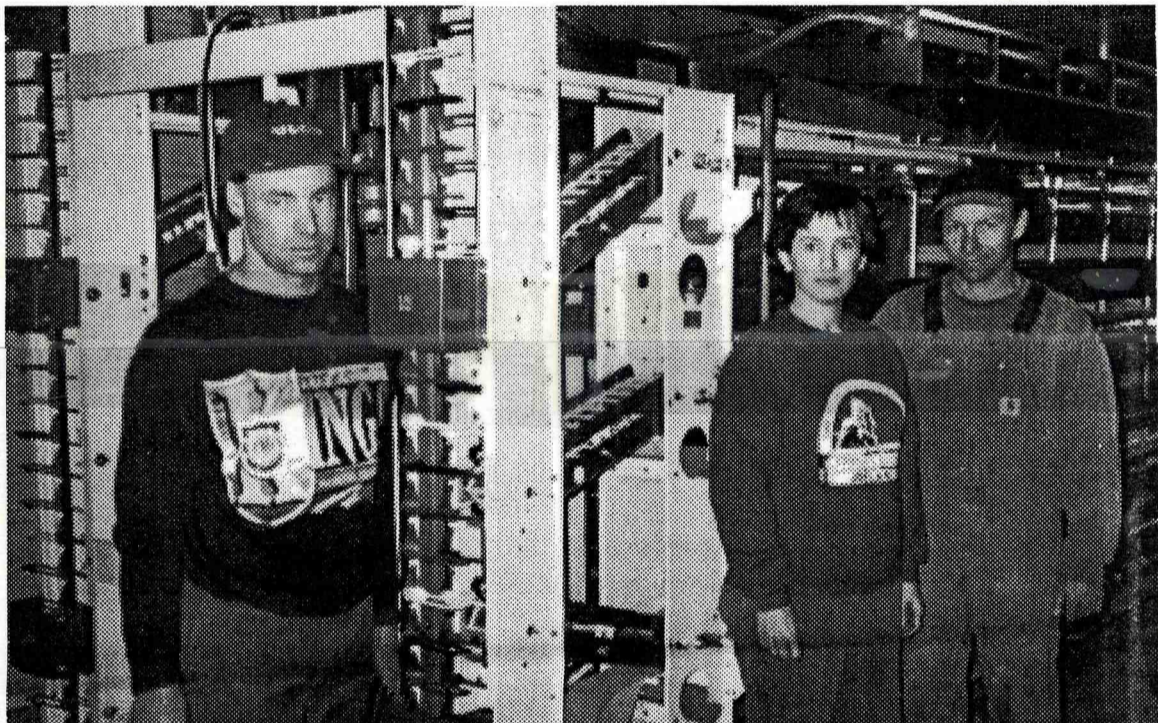
The McKillops have compared construction of this facility with the barn their

father built, noting the changes in costs and technology, with the 1967 building permit cost of \$2.50 being one of the more notable.

Some finishing touches and clean-up have to be completed before the birds arrive. An office and shower room are also part of the new barn.

The McKillops toured many other farms prior to deciding on their design. What they have created is very similar to other operations, including the electrical controls, which are becoming the industry standard.

Despite doubling the size of their layer operation, it remains a family-based operation.



STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY – Ian (left), and Nancy and Alan McKillop, show the new conveyor system which will move the eggs from the cages into the packing room.

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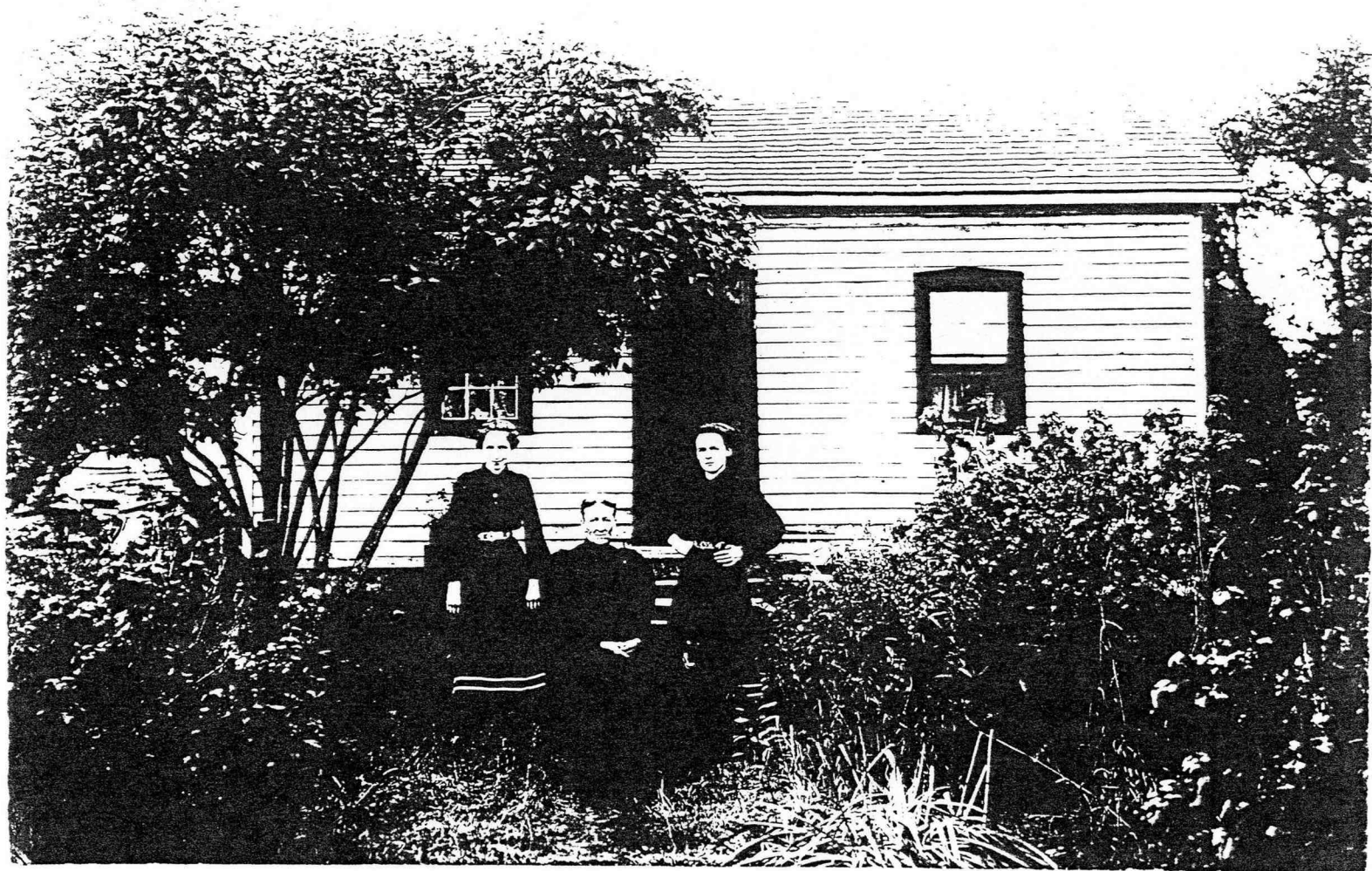
CATHERINE (PALMER) LYONS ON LEFT.

MAYME (PALMER) SHIPLEY ON RIGHT.

MATHER_MARY (MacLEAN) PALMER.

PHOTO TAKEN 1900.

9th. CONCESSION DUNWICH TOWNSHIP.



CATHERINE ISABEL LYONS (PALMER)

Born Feb. 3, 1885 on the 9th concession Durwich Township close to the Aldborough Townline in a frame house located on the North side of the road. Her Mother was Mary McLean and her Father was Dan Palmer. She had one older sister Maime who married Edward Shipley. Dan died March 11th, 1885 when Catherine was only 6 weeks old. Her Mother supported herself and her girls by raising cattle, chickens and sheep. Her nephew Jack McLean helped her in return for his keep. She also raised 2 nieces after the death of her sister Sarah.

During the good weather Catherine attended school at the Townline school. During some winter months Catherine went to school in West Lorne and stayed with Pete McGregoor and family. Catherine also studied tailoring.

Catherine married Charles Arthur Lyons (born 1877 in Oxford Township) April 15, 1903. They lived with his parents William and Christine on the lake road at Lot 6, Concession 10. Charles farmed and helped his Father run the Hotel on the beach at Whiteside now called Duttona. This Hotel was used on weekends for Church Group retreats and dances were also held. There were rooms for people to stay. The back 100 acres of the farm where the beach was, was sold to Arthur Newman and Art Martz on Feb. 20, 1927. They sold it to Earl Baker Sept. 1, 1939 who then sold it to Lyle Stacey in 1967. The front 100 acres of the farm was sold to Jack and Eva Wack Feb. 3, 1943. During the time that

Catherine and Charles lived on the lake farm, they had 6 children. They were Carmen (1903), Gordon (1905), Jean (1917), Catherine (1919), Ruth (1922), and Harold (1926). When Carmen and Gordon were young Catherine used to walk and carry her boys to the Methodist Church in Tyrconnell.

Catherine's Mother Mary died in 1915 at the age of 71.

Catherine and Charles moved to their other farm Lot 6 Concession 9 where they continued to farm the land and raised cattle, chickens, pigs and horses. They also owned the Brown farm beside them on the corner. Charles died suddenly of a heart attack July 16, 1952. Their son Harold and his wife Bessie (McBrayne) had previously moved in with them in 1950 so they stayed on and Catherine continued to live with them until her death on the eve of her 103rd birthday Feb. 2, 1988.

Catherine was a very quiet woman who loved to knit, crochet, and play her piano. She had many grandchildren, great grandchildren and one great great grandchild when she passed away. She lived her entire life on the 9th and 10th concessions of Dunwich Township.

Information compiled by Catherine's granddaughter Rosemary Leitch (Lyons) as told to her by Bessie Lyons (McBrayne) and Ruth Wild (Lyons).



Mrs Catherine Lyons.
photo taken in 1985.