

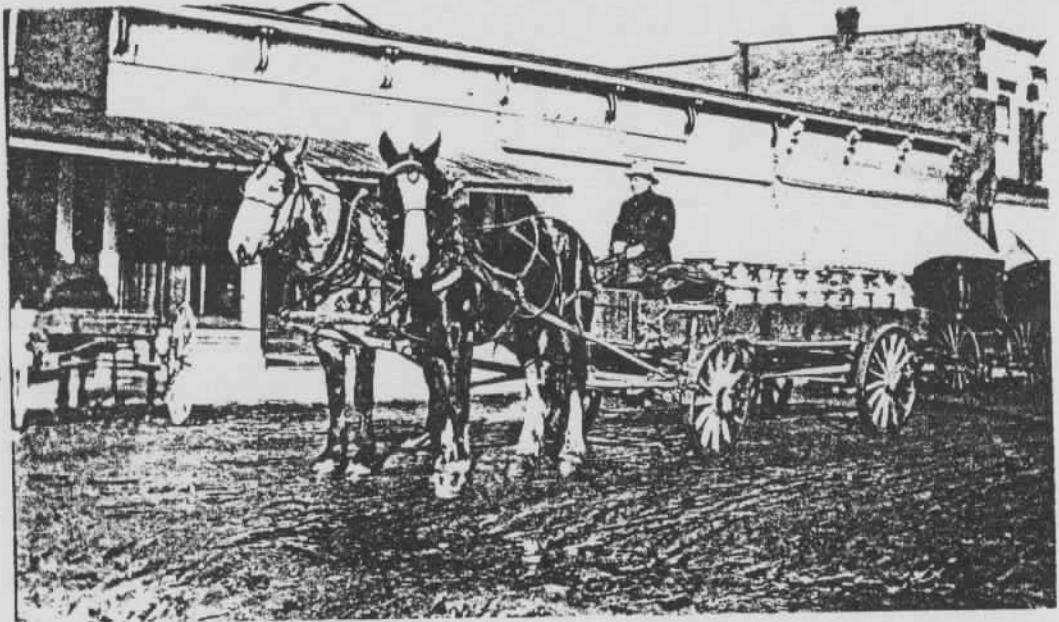
BRIGHTON AREA FARMERS: FROM BEEF TO DAIRY c. 1900 (cont.)

The temperature of milk, as it comes from the cow, is normally about 100°F. To prevent souring it must be cooled quickly. Farmers selling milk built tanks deep enough to bring cold water high on the cans. Water, as it comes from the ground, averages about 55 F. Often an extra well was dug which served the cooling tank in the milk house.

To keep the milk cool on the trip to the milk factory during hot weather the driver of the milk wagon covered the cans with a thick burlap blanket. This he'd wet in the cold water from the farmer's cooling tank. Conversely, during the winter the blanket was used to keep the milk from freezing. It was a hard way to make a living but people were accustomed to hard work, small pay and profit in those days.

The milk hauler also occasionally served as an errand boy and would make purchases for people on his route to be delivered on the return trip. To show appreciation the farmer's wife often had a hot cup of coffee and piece of cake waiting for him. He was also often the bearer of local news in those pre radio days.

Another local milk hauler was Clarence Taylor, whose picture is on the right. He's taking milk to the creamery in Brighton which stood on N. First Street between Cedar and Chestnut. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)



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