



Luman and Fern Surine at their Centennial Farm.

# CENTENNIAL FARMS

## Pennock Farm

The Centennial Farm located at the Three Bridge Corner known as the Pennock Farm is now owned by the fourth generation, Wayne A. Pennock. This farm was homesteaded from the U. S. Government by William Marshall Glendy. The date of the U. S. Patent was January 5, 1839, as issued to Mr. Glendy. This consisted of 160 acres in the S W  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 12-2-7 in Maple Grove Township, Barry County. This farm is located two miles south of Nashville on present M-66.

On November 25, 1853, the farm was purchased by Thomas Dillon, who owned it until his death. My Great Great Grandfather, Henry Feighner, purchased it from the heirs of Thomas Dillon on February 24, 1862. Henry Feighner lived in a small building north of the present line fence of the homestead that has been moved a number of times and is now used as a granery. This building was built sometime before 1862. The original section of the present white house was built in 1881. The east wing one story high added on in 1902 and the upstairs in 1912. On December 31, 1888, Flavious Feighner purchased the farm and sold it to my grandfather, Curtis W. Pennock, March 19, 1890.

On March 17, 1891, my father was born in this house. In the early 1900's a large dairy barn was built and in 1914 a modern set of steel stanchions and mangers were installed for 32 cows. On October 5, 1918, this large barn burned to the ground from an undetermined origin. A new barn was built during the following winter which must have been quite an ordeal for it is understood that 1918-19 was quite a winter. The stanchion work was salvaged and put back into use for 20 cows.

The first barn next to the house, or better known as the horse barn, was built in 1906. This barn had spaces for six horses, but while I was a boy we kept only four, getting rid

of the last horses in 1941, making space for hog pens and chicken coops. My father, Ralph C. Pennock, was married to Gertrude S. Hoffman on June 14, 1914.

Henry Feighner owned a total of 300 acres. My grandfather, Curtis Pennock, only owned the eighty where the homestead is located. He purchased the 40 acres west of the Three Bridges. In 1912, Curtis Pennock purchased the 90 acres S E of Three Bridges.

The brick house on this property was built in 1881. There was also a large barn on the property which was destroyed by fire, June 14, 1927. This building being replaced by moving the old horse shed from the former Wilcox Church yard in sections and made into a tool shed that next year. Curtis Pennock died January 11, 1933, and Alice Pennock, December 6, 1940. My father purchased the farm in 1941 from the estate.

On January 24, 1948, I was married to Marian Cooley of Hastings. Our children are: Rodney, Brian, Loraine, and Elaine.

In 1957, we purchased the farm from my father and have added several buildings, a milking parlor in 1957, one silo in 1961 and a second one in 1968, a large tool shed in 1967. Through all these years a dairy herd has been the major enterprise on the farm. In the depression years, 1930-1940, truck crops played an important part of the farm crop program. Another interesting part of the farm is the Sugar Bush on the back end of the eighty, it having been tapped each and every year since about the 1880's. In 1968 a new oil-burning evaporator was installed.

A great highlight in 1936 was the construction of the Consumers Electric line.

*Wayne Pennock*