

more water than milk. I knew. That's how we tried to catch it, before it got too bad.

Int. When you were working at Upton Manor, where did you live?

P.B. In a large dairy house. We 'ad the one boy then and my daughter was born there as well, while we were there.

Int. Was it just the family in the house?

P.B. We 'ad a landgirl and a lad. At one time we 'ad one girl and two lads and me wife 'ad to look after an' feed them, which was awkward, during the war, everything was rationed. The farm workers 'ad a little more, we 'ad plenty of milk, that was one thing. We could 'ave all the milk we wanted and I 'ad a garden there and plenty of potatoes.

Int. Did you keep chickens?

P.B. Oh yes, I did, I 'ad about 40 chickens and we 'ad plenty of eggs, 'course I used to sell a few then, during the war. When we come there, they 'ad electric light to the door, but not inside, so I said we wanted it inside and they wouldn't pay for it, the landlord wouldn't pay for it. We said we'd pay for it an' we 'ad to get a permit, you know, they weren't allowed to put, er, use any fittin's or anythin', because of the shortage. Anyway, we 'ad it put in an' paid for it, all on our own an' 'twas not our 'ouse.

Int. That was in 1940/41 and you hadn't got electric light!

P.B. No, we 'ad to use candles, with young people, you know, 'twas dangerous. So anyway, we 'ad it put in, an' then we could 'ave an electric cooker, 'cos they 'ad a funny sort of a grate thing that me wife di'n' understand. We used the oil stove until we 'ad the electric put in an' then we 'ad the cooker an' then we were alright. We 'ad a copper outside an' we 'ad to 'eat the water up an' there was really no bathroom. There was a nice toilet. There was a bath in the kitchen an' we 'ad to bring the hot water in, pour it into the bath and each one 'ad to be in the kitchen an' wash yerself there an' me wife cou'n' use the kitchen, yer see!

Int. How did the landgirls find this?

P.B. They di'n' like it until they got used to it, 'specially the one that'd been a typist, yer know, it was ever such a hard job fer 'er to get used to it. But anyway, the girls were better than the boys, 'cos they could do their own washin'. Boys can', so it made more work fer me wife, but girls was a help 'cos they did their own.

Int. You used to pluck your own chickens, and did you sometimes pluck turkeys?

P.B. Oh yes, pluck some turkeys fer Mrs Lentall, bring the turkeys over and pluck them. That was hard work 'cos you had to truss them.



Int. Did they keep ducks as well?

P.B. No they di'n' keep any ducks.

Int. In that farm complex, there are several cottages and barns, aren't there?

P.B. There was one out in the field, but it was mostly barns. After I'd reared the calves an' tha', they used to go down there an' another man used to feed them to get on the time to turn them out, yer see, that was 'is job an' 'e used to grind up the corn an' tha', to feed them with an' the carter used ter keep 'is 'orses there as well.

We 'ad one lad who used to like to smoke a cigarette now an' again an' Mr Lentall, 'e wasn' in favour of smokin', 'e di'n' smoke 'isself, so one day this lad was smokin' a cigarette an' Mr Lentall came up an' patted 'im on the back an' said, "If God 'ad meant us to smoke, 'e'd 'ave put a chimney in your 'ead!" (laughter).

## SECOND PART OF INTERVIEW

Int. I have with me Mr Percy Bowditch, who worked at Upton Manor Farm from 1940 to 1949. He's featured, as you saw on the film, as the dairyman. He's going to describe a day in his life as a dairyman, at that time, when he was working there.

P.B. I start the day at round about five o'clock, feed the cows, who were already in the stalls, with hay and their cake rations, then wash them down, ready for milkin' an' test them for mastitis, 'cos we 'ad to do that every time. We 'ad a cup, with black plastic on the top, then we'd squirt a little drop from each teat into the cup and then we could tell then whether the milk was clear or clotted.

Int. If they did have mastitis, how did you deal with that?

P.B. We 'ad a tube of penicillin then and we put it up into the cow's teat after stripping it properly an' after a couple of times, that should cure it.

Int. Before you had the penicillin, because penicillin didn't come in until later, what did you do?

P.B. Tha's right. Originally I 'ad my own cure, which was salt and water. I used to rub this into the hard quarter fer about an hour. It did take alot of time, but usually it got it down and usually it got right, eventually. We milked the cows from 6 o'clock 'till 8 o'clock an' then after that, we'd take the milk down in churns to meet the milk lorry, to take it to the factory.

Int. How many cows would this be?

P.B. 40 cows, and four of us 'd be milkin' an some would give about three gallons an' some about two an' some only one, all depends when they calved. The Devons di'n' give much milk, they



were mostly fer meat. Then we fed the calves and the pigs, the calves with the milk an' water an' the pigs with their rations, then we went ter breakfast then at 9 o'clock 'till quarter ter ten. After that we'd cut the kale in the fields an' take it to the cows which were already in the fields an' the kale was fed to them from September to the end of November.

Int. What did you feed them on the rest of the year?

P.B. Then they went onto sileage, from then until March. Then from March 'till later on, 'till end of April, May, it was mangles, o' course with hay as well, so that was more of a balanced diet.

Int. We saw them preparing the mangles in the film. Did you have to do that?

P.B. The other workers brought in the mangles, but we 'ad ter cut the kale an' we 'ad to cut the hay from the ricks and bring it in t'stalls, which is all extra and hard work. 'Course we 'ad to clean out the stalls and wash that down, all 'ad to be washed down and the pigs and the calves, which is rather alot and there was ten sows and their young ones, which could be eight or nine each, when they farrowed down. After that, I should think it was one o'clock and we went to dinner then.

Int. I should think you needed it.

P.B. That went on 'till 2 o'clock an' then we 'ad ter get the cows in an' get them ready fer milkin' again an' did the same as in the mornin', such as feedin, an' then 'ad ter feed the calves an' the pigs again an' by then it was 'a' past five, to go into tea. An' in the evenin', 'ad ter go an' feed them again, 'cos they were already in the stalls 'ere laid in, give them their hay an' bed them down with straw. So that was my day.

Int. It was a very long day, too.

P.B. Yes it was, an' that was six days a week, Sundays we used ter get over the work a little quicker, we used ter 'ave three hours off in the morning, about ten 'till one, an' that was only time off that we 'ad.

Int. What about the bull?

P.B. We thought we'd 'ave more milk from the cows, so we'd 'ave a cross-breed, so we 'ad a white short-'orn bull. We called it 'Snowdrop', 'cos it was white, an' we crossed it with the Devons. Then the calves an' the heifers came along, eventually an' they were better milkers than the old pedigree Devons, so that was a success. This bull was very quiet, even the girls could lead it about, which was very nice, which amused them.

Int. What about the pigs?

P.B. Yes, we 'ad one sow that was very artful an' was always gettin' out. It kept on pushin' it's nose under the wire, which we 'ad all round the field an' liftin' it up an' gettin' out.



What we did, it would get out, some'ow or another and get into my garden an' root out the 'tatoes an' parsnips an' carrots, what was tasty an' then it would come runnin' up to the door an' knockin' at the door. An' that was very inconvenient at times, so we 'ad to stop that by hittin' it on the snout with a stick or somethin'! It was called 'Artful', it was much more artful than the other pigs, so we called that 'Artful'.

Int. Did you have names for them all?

P.B. Oh no, that was the only one. We di'n' 'ave so much ter do wi' them as the cows, cows are more friendlier than the pigs. Saddle-back pigs, they were black with white across the shoulders, they called them saddle-backs.

Int. You used to see those alot, didn't you?

P.B. Yes, tha's right, but the boar was a white boar, so we thought we'd 'ave a cross then wi' more white amongst them.

Int. What about the cows' names, did they all have names?

P.B. Oh they all 'ad names, all the flower names we could think of and some women's names - daffodil an' primrose an' violet, ruby, snowdrop .....

Int. As the dairyman, you were a very important man on the farm and you and your wife had a very nice house there. Can you describe the house?

P.B. It had four lovely bedrooms, the bathroom was downstairs an' the toilet was downstairs, an' a large kitchen an' two reception rooms, very large rooms, but no electric. So when we come there, we thought that with girls in the house and with candles an' things like that, 'twas dangerous, so we tried hard to get the 'lectric put in. We 'ad a job, because it was wartime an' you 'ad to 'ave really a permit to get 'lectric put in, but we did 'ave it an' we paid fer it ourselves. Then we were able to 'ave an electric cooker then, 'cos before tha' we 'ad a stove that di'n' cook very well an' me wife di'n' understand it, but 'course with electric, we got on with it very well, things were much easier then.

Int. The landgirls lived with you?

P.B. Yes, with us. We 'ad a wash'ouse outside and a copper to 'eat the water, then there was plent of space fer things. We 'ad ter bring the water from the wash'ouse, which was several yards away, about ten yards away, into the kitchen, we 'ad it screened off, with a bath, then o' course, we 'ad ter dip it out an' pour it down the sink.

Int. How did your land-girls take to that?

P.B. Not very well to start with, but they soon got used to it. Havin' girls it weren't so bad 'cos they did their washin'. The cookin' of course was hard 'cos we were rationed, but we did 'ave more meat an' more cheese an' butter an' things like that. Of

course I grew alot in the garden to help out , an' plenty of milk, so much as I wanted. An' we kept our own chickens an' they went an' layed all among the straw an' the hay an' the girls, it was their job to go an' lift the eggs, which 'course bein' town girls, it was all new, it was like fresh to them an' they enjoyed it. With the animals they learnt alot of things that they didn't know before.

Int. I wonder where they are now. Did you ever hear from any of them?

P.B. I know one, I see 'er sometimes, she lives at Charmouth, she married and 'ad two girls. 'Er 'usband worked on the farm down there, but 'e died after a while, before 'e got to sixty, so she's on 'er own. we do meet 'er an' talk to 'er now an' again. But the others, we don't know what 'appened to them.

Int. None of the farm workers are still alive, are they?

P.B. No, that's the only person that's connected, her an' me.

Int. Thank you very much, Mr Bowditch.