



Cantigny's King's Elaine, 3½-year-old cow at the Tribune Auxiliary Experimental farm, Wheaton, Ill. She is the mother of one of the eight calves born at the farm this year.

Tribune Herd Subject of Unusual Tests

By Frank Ridgway

ONE day in May, 1924, seven aristocratic Guernseys were brought to Cantigny farm, now known as the Tribune Auxiliary Experimental farm, near Wheaton, Ill. This year the Channel Islander family, totaling thirty-eight head, is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the arrival of the original herd at the farm. Jack Kunde, herdsman who took charge of the cows soon after they were brought to the farm, has seen to it that flowers and music have been included on the celebration program.

In honor of the fine records made by the Guernseys, these prima donnas of the dairy world have been presented this year with a new hay keeper, and a modernly equipped calf barn. All summer a colorful assortment of flowers has been kept growing in boxes in windows of the main dairy barn. Soft music has been furnished by a radio receiving set installed over the stanchions. The hay keeper, comfortable barns, flowers, and music are all a part of the serious business of keeping the cows under ideal conditions to encourage the production of rich, wholesome milk.

Aiyuka Harvest King, placed at the head of the herd the second year after the cows were brought to the farm, still is ruler. He is the son of Langwater Eastern King, a superior animal coming from an outstanding strain of Guernseys, and was bought from the late W. W. Williams, Lion Mountain, N. Y. Cantigny's Cavalier, son of Aiyuka Harvest King, soon will take the place of the old ruler.

With scientists still debating over the question of whether animals can think rationally, the herdsman at the experimental farm is willing to continue his tests and observations to determine the value of practices that put to test the intelligence of the Guernseys at the Wheaton farm. Already he has a hint that radio music may have a beneficial effect on the dairy cows, which are known to be sensitive and nervous individuals. Certainly kind treatment, pleasant surroundings, and plenty of tasty, well balanced feeds are essentials in producing milk. Extreme cleanliness is necessary in the handling of milk if it is to be sold at a profit. From the beginning the milk from these Guernseys has been sold at a premium price. Today it is being sold to a dealer in Glen Ellyn, Ill., at \$3 a hundred pounds, with the butter fat content around 5 per cent. Last month dairymen in the Chicago milk area received a blended price of \$2 a hundred for milk figured on the basis of 3.5 per cent butter fat.

These ten practices have been consistently followed during the ten years the Guernseys have been kept at the farm:

1. Line breeding is rigidly followed.
2. Only pure bred are in the herds.
3. All heifer calves are saved.

4. None of the calves is ever sold as a vealer; the bull calves are sold to other breeders.

5. A premium price is demanded and received for all milk.

6. All of the animals, including the milk cows and bulls, are kept in the open day and night when the weather is fair. (The cows are kept in the barn only long enough to be milked morning and night.)

7. Throughout the year concentrates are fed to the milk cows, even when the animals are grazing in pastures where the grass is knee high, to maintain body weight.

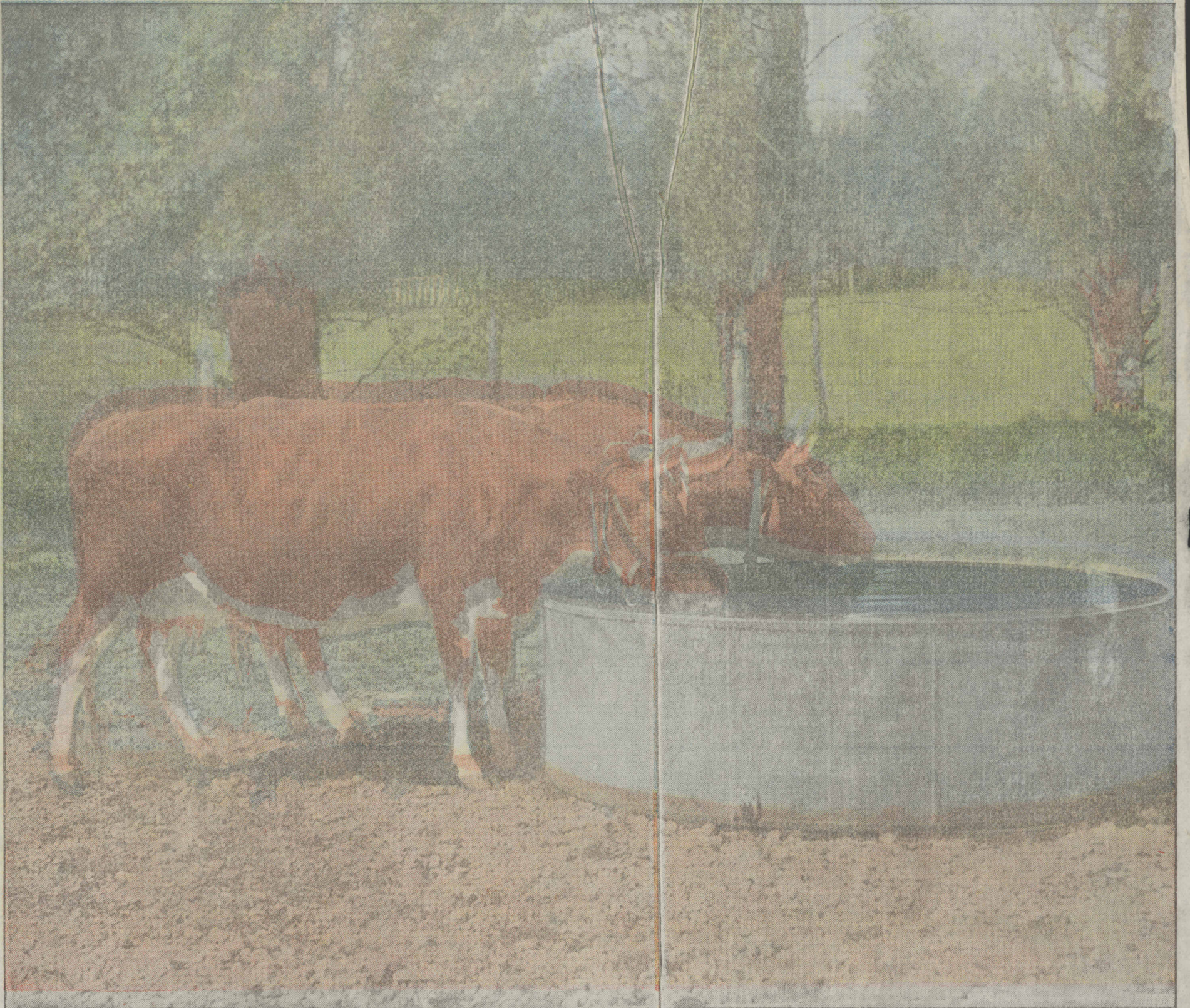
8. On extremely hot days the cows are kept in the barn under electric fans installed in front of them.

9. With this small herd it is practical to do all of the milking by hand.

10. Immediately after the milk is drawn it is run through a cooler in the milk house and cooled to a temperature of about 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Yearly Advanced Registry records, approved by the American Guernsey Cattle club of Peterboro, N. H., have been made by fourteen Guernseys at the farm. These include King's Mary Ann, producing 10,556.7 pounds of milk, testing 5.04 per cent butter fat, or a total of 531.7 pounds; King's June, 9,492.4 pounds of milk, 5.42 per cent butter fat, or 514.4 pounds, and Romona, 10,351.9 pounds of milk, 5.13 per cent butter fat, or 530.7 pounds.

All of these are Cantigny bred cows. The herd now consists of 17 cows, 11 heifers, 2 bulls, and 8 calves.



Pair of contented advanced registry Guernseys at auxiliary farm. Left: Cantigny's Royal Blanche, 6 years old, with yearly record of 10,588.7 pounds of milk containing 530.7 pounds of butter fat. Right: Cantigny's King's Della, 4 years old, produced in one year 10,533.5 pounds of milk containing 486.3 pounds of butter fat.



"Moo; what's this, bite of hay?" asked this 5-year-old Guernsey, Cantigny's Royal Narvina, as she raised her head just before the camera clicked. Narvina, with her fawn-colored, patterned coat and shapely dairy body, typifies her breed of cows, that come from Guernsey Island in the English channel.



Cantigny's King's Lilyette, 4 years old, is on test at the Tribune Auxiliary Experimental farm. In a one-day test last July she produced 40 pounds of milk, testing 4.6 per cent butter fat. Lilyette is the mother of one of the seven bull calves produced by the herd this year.



Dorothy Kunde, daughter of Jack Kunde, herd manager of the Guernseys at the auxiliary farm, and her two pets. These baby Guernseys were being coaxed out of the pasture to be given the first look at the inside of their calf barn, which has just been completed.