

Austin  
Bowey - July 24 - 1991

# Bowey recalls life on the farm

by Joan Holman

## TOWN OF EAGLE -

It's been said that if a man is a farmer, he's capable of doing many different things. Austin Bowey is that man.

He explains how he's been a carpenter, mason, mechanic and milker during his time as a dairyman.

Born 1918 in the family's 150 year old farmhouse on Wilton Road, he was one of eight Bowey children.

Of his three brothers and four sisters, Bowey was the only one who stayed in farming. He recalls his career as a farmer. Bowey started hand milking when

he was eight. He thinks it took six to seven minutes to milk out each cow. That was way before the animals were bred to give today's record production.

When the family got into machines, Bowey remembers having two jobs. He would have to get home in time for chores as neither of his parents could get the automatic milkers to perform.

The milk was picked up by Pet Milk plant in North Prairie. Before he walked to the Eagle State Graded School (now a proposed apartment complex on Hwy 67) his job was to jet the milk to Peardon's garage (Hwy 59) for the North Prairie collection.

By the late 20's, wheels had replaced hooves and Bowey's milk was being collected by Luicks Dairy of Milwaukee.

Bowey also recalls his first experience with this faster form of transport - the first family car. His father had purchased a model T Ford which was kept in the shed. He and his brothers got the machine out of the garage and as he was standing to reach the wheel, his first journey was about to start when, fortunately, the thing ran out of gas.

In 1946 Bowey was able to buy his grandmother's share of the property and begin on his own. By 1948 he had married one of his sister's bridesmaids. So, with his wife Louella's help, a third generation Bowey entered Eagle's agricultural scene.

"To the north of the village," explained Bowey, "the farmers seem to have

stayed. There's still Arndt's and Wilton's but to the south of the village, subdivisions have replaced corn and cattle on the Doman, Markham and Haffner properties. Names like Grucver and Judas are part of the past."

Bowey feels it's the love of the land and house which keep him on the property. The Boweys' two children have no desire to keep up the tradition. In fact, Bowey knows neither could afford to leave their well paying present jobs.

Each child loves the old fashioned farm house - but only to visit. Bowey says they, like many others, have put a part of themselves into the home. "This is a building which has seen over 50 people come and go and leave a mark within the walls," adds Bowey.

Although his health brought an end to dairy farming, Bowey has proved farm training makes him capable in many side trades.



Austin and Louella Bowey