

J. C. Penney, donor of the Foremost Guernsey herd, with Prof. A. C. Ragsdale. Between them, Foremost Quantity, with the Otto Lieber trophy she won for greatest lifetime milk production of any living Guernsey cow.

THE GIFT THAT GROWS

By PATRICIA SELLERS, '56

Thousands of visitors, from thirty-six states and twenty foreign nations, have signed the guest register at the J. C. Penney Foremost Guernsey Farm at the University of Missouri. What these people saw during their visits is one of the greatest breeding herds on one of the most modern dairy farms in the nation.

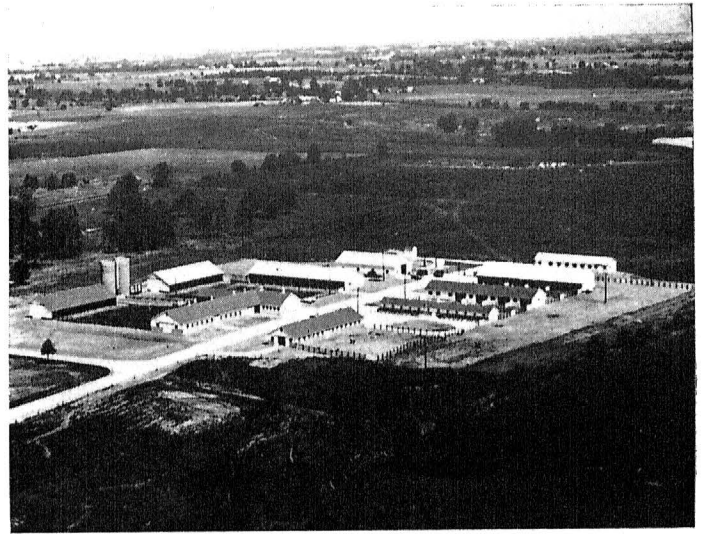
Mr. Penney developed the purebred Guernseys in Dutchess County, New York, beginning in 1922. The herd was established as the Foremost Guernsey Association in 1936 with the idea of assembling Guernseys that would have a beneficial influence on the herd.

When Mr. Penney, chain store founder and one-time Missouri farm boy, presented the \$200,000 herd to the University five years ago, he also included cash and other assets worth almost \$550,000. The funds were used to purchase a tract near Columbia, to erect new buildings, to buy equipment and make other improvements for the new Foremost Guernsey Farm. The farm, consisting of a 610-acre tract, is located eight miles west of Columbia on Highway 40.

The 267 purebreds were shipped the 1,200 miles in five shipments covering a period from November, 1952 to May, 1953. The herd now numbers nearly 300 head of animals of all ages. Of these, 138 are milk-producing cows. These cows produce more than a million pounds of milk a year. That averages about 11,628 gallons of milk a month, or 387 gallons a day. The milk is distributed through the University Dairy to the dormitories, Student Union, University Hospital, and other departments.

Mr. Penney requested that the herd be maintained by the University's Department of Dairy Husbandry,

Modern buildings form this attractive layout at the Foremost Guernsey Farm. Not shown are seven nearby residences for employees. The 610-acre tract, eight miles west of Columbia on Highway 40, has many visitors.



of which Professor Arthur C. Ragsdale is chairman. Mr. Ragsdale served as a director of the Foremost Guernsey Association since 1939, advised Mr. Penney concerning the transfer of the herd, and selected the present farm site.

The herd is continually being improved to keep the "Foremosts" in the foreground of Guernsey breeding herds. The University is constantly striving to better production and longevity through selection and line breeding. In addition to breeding superior cattle, the University sells animals from the herd throughout the country, thus helping to build up other herds.

Four sires, Langwater Foremost, Langwater Valor, Mixer May Royal, and Shorewood Resolute, were used to start the herd. All other sires have been selected from within the herd or are of "Foremost" breeding. Foremost Footprint is the senior herd sire.

The primary goal at the Foremost Guernsey Farm is continuous herd improvement: increased production, improved type, increased longevity, and improved bloodlines.

A dairy cow's length of service averages a little under four years. Research and experience have shown that cows bring more real profit after they

reach maturity (at about five to six years of age). Nearly one-fourth of the Foremosts are over ten.

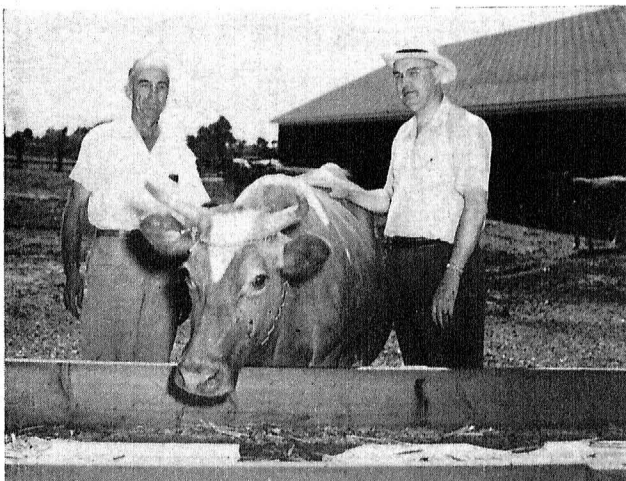
The herd's daily feeding is estimated at two and one-half tons of silage and one and one-half tons of hay during the winter feeding season. A study is being conducted at the farm on the relative merits of pasture and soiling crops. Some of the cattle pasture graze while another part of the herd is fed cut green forage.

The cropping program for the farm is planned so that practically all the roughage and forage needed by the herd can be produced on the farm. All manure produced goes back on the land, and commercial fertilizers are used as needed. Ordinarily, no crops are grown for grain although in some years corn and cereal crops not needed for silage are harvested for grain.

The Foremost herd was exhibited nationally by Mr. Penney for several years and also won many production awards. The entire herd is now on Herd Improvement Registry Test. Animals from the herd also may be shown at the Ozark Empire and Missouri State Fairs within the next few years.

Superb's Faithful was the first cow of the breed to make four consecutive records averaging more than

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Lawrence Rainey, at left, is superintendent of farm. He is a Guernsey breeder with years of experience. Long time associates form nucleus of his crew.

adviser of women. Her travels had taken her to France, Germany and Italy. The trip was not primarily for study, she said then, but she did some work in Goettingen with a professor noted as an authority on Plautus. The position of adviser of women, created in 1903, had first been held by Miss Mary Elizabeth Lewis, then by Miss Mary Bidwell Breed. When the latter resigned, Miss Eva accepted the appointment and returned to take on her new duties.

By then, there were more than 200 regular faculty members. Women students were admitted to all departments (except Military Science and Tactics, of course) and numbered about 600 in the total Columbia enrollment of some 3,000. Read Hall, lodging 32, was the sole women's dormitory.

"My new work was most interesting," Miss Eva once said. "It was hardest, of course, during the war and the influenza epidemic when affairs were naturally in an unsettled state."

In 1923 she resigned the deanship and returned to full-time teaching as an associate professor and later a professor. Although she retired in 1933, she kept a close association with the University, did part-time work until 1935 and was made professor emeritus of Latin in 1939.

"Dr. Johnston," one professor said after her death, "will ever be regarded among scholars as a real classicist and one of the finest teachers of Latin this University ever had." But students learned far more than a language from her. One alumna wrote: "She taught, unconsciously, simplicity of life, to love things but not be centered by them, not to confuse gracious living with expensive living."

It was an appreciative alumna who started a movement, when Miss Eva retired as dean, to raise funds for an oil portrait. A St. Louis artist, Warren Ludwig, was engaged, and the portrait was presented to the University in connection with the dedication of Memorial Tower and Stadium in 1926. This is the painting that now hangs in the library reference room.

Friends remember her as a tall, quiet but adventuresome person—and always with a keen sense of humor, a ready wit that made her

the delight of any social occasion. Her sister, Mrs. Ellis, describes her as always dignified, always seeing the humorous side of a situation—even the humorous side of herself, for she laughed at her absent-mindedness. If Miss Eva was present, there was sure to be one of her amusing stories about learning to drive her model "T" Ford or riding a camel in Egypt. Despite a heart disease in her later years, she stayed young in spirit and still managed an occasional tour—one of the Mediterranean when she was 74.

In addition to teaching and her duties as dean, she found time for a number of local and national organizations. She was one of the founders of the National Association of Deans and was elected to honorary life membership when she resigned the position here. She helped found the Faculty Women's Club, and belonged for 36 years to the Fortnightly Club. One of a small group who organized the Columbia branch of the A.A.U.W. in 1907—when it was known as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae—she became its first president, was a member for 36 years and served as University counselor for the national organization.

Several faculty members will remember the dinner at the Tiger Hotel honoring Miss Eva when she retired in 1935. Many more will recall the occasion in June, 1951 when Eva Johnston Hall and Sarah Gentry Hall were named for two of the earliest women graduates who had outstanding careers in the field of education—when the name of a woman who supervised a lone dormitory lodging 32 women was given to an impressive modern building housing 316 students.

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1,000 pounds of butterfat. Her production records average 15,631 pounds of milk and 810 pounds of fat. (The average U. S. cow produces 5,500 pounds of milk and 220 pounds of butterfat annually). She is a great brood cow with more than a dozen progeny to date.

Lawrence Rainey, Guernsey breeder with many years of experience, is superintendent of the farm. He was brought to the University by Mr. Ragsdale after the dispersal

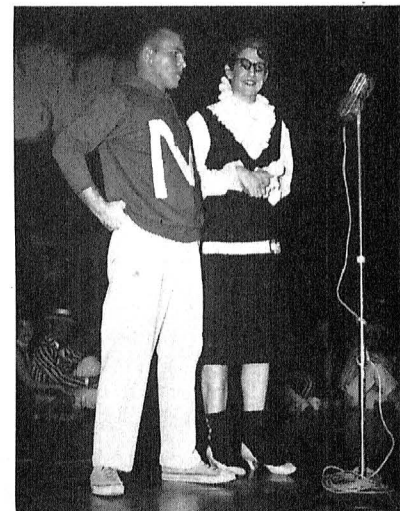
of the St. Alban's (Mo.) herd. With Mr. Rainey came four other men who now form the nucleus of his crew. They are Bryan Lail, herdsman who has been with Rainey eighteen years; Ernest Schmitz, milker; John Lynch, milker and assistant herdsman; and Wilbur Cowan, milker.

Buildings for the herd include the central milking unit and milk house, test cow barn, loose housing barn, three hay feeding sheds, a maternity and hospital barn, young calf barn, older calf barn, heifer barn, bull barn, machine shed and well house.

The University built four new residences on the farm and remodeled three old ones for employees. The overall layout is modern and attractive in appearance.

Frolics Winners

Sell-out crowds again saw this year's edition of the Savitar Frolics, presented in three performances in Jesse Auditorium. Fraternities and sororities collaborated on four skits, the winner being "Of Moose and Men," by Kappa Alpha Theta and Sigma Nu. From the cast came



John Wheeler, Jean Ainsworth

the best actor and best actress—John Wheeler as a former football hero and Jean Ainsworth as a dean of women type. Proceeds of the show help defray cost of printing the Savitar. A month after the stage show, portions of "Calypso Carnival," by Pi Beta Phi and Alpha Tau Omega, were presented over the University's TV station, KOMU.