



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Milk delivered right to your door! Yes, it used to happen all the time. Before the days of supermarkets and convenience stores, people who didn't live on farms where they had their own cows for milk, bought milk from local dairies or had it delivered right to their homes by milkmen.

Milk was a big business in North Greenbush.

I've been developing a list of milk dealers in our area from the last century. Many of the names will be familiar to local residents. Jack Schillinger had a route in Wynantskill and South Troy. Bert Sharpe had a milk house and the building is still standing (across from the American Legion on Main Avenue). "Shy" Craver and Willard Hidley operated the Sunshine Dairy (it stood where the parking lot for Gregory's Restaurant is now). Hidley had his own milk business further west off Main Avenue in the 1920's. Later he moved to Church Street and built a milk house of his own. Other milk houses in Wynantskill were run by the Koon, Wooden and Ernst families.

The Defreestville area had its share of milk dealers. Although Jordan's Dairy was noted for its ice cream, Chet Jordan also had a milk house building in back of what is today the Prudential Insurance Office on Route 4 in Defreestville. Ed Defreest, Cyrus Phillips and Charles Sliter had many customers in the northern part of the town and into Troy. There was also an Anderson dairy on Route 4.

Sherrel, Yates and Richard Hoffman of Route 43, peddled milk for many years to customers along the West Sand Lake Road and down into Rensselaer.

Customers would receive their milk in different ways. Before glass bottles or the strict rules of pasteurization, milk peddlers would ladle the milk from galvanized cans, dipping it out with long-handled dippers and pouring it out into the customers own containers. This process was later refined to where people had milk boxes on their porches and would leave notes as to what they wanted. The milkmen would drop off milk, cream or butter (usually every day).

No story about milkmen in North Greenbush would be complete without mentioning Johnny Kruczlnicki. His father Joseph moved to a farm on Hidley Road in 1929 and started a dairy operation. Johnny took over the business in 1950 and ran it until the 1980's. He lived to see the dairy business come full circle-from home delivery to the rise of convenient stores and then back to a specialized home delivery. He would pick up milk from Borden's in Menands and make the rounds in South Troy and Wynantskill and also around Albany County. In 1983 he had 300 customers who would pay for this doorstep delivery. He's gone now, and I think this type of service has ended. I'd write more, but I have to run out to Stewarts to get a quart of milk.

I'm writing an article on hunting. Are there still any areas in town where people can hunt? My number is 283-6384.