

The figures for the six animals now in residence are to this point:

WHO	Born	Purchase	Feed	Vet, Other
Freckles II (Hr-J)	4/82	\$ 9.80 (AI)	\$54.43	\$ 9.39
Dropsy (Hr-J)	7/82	17.60 (AI)	27.55	.00
Rose (Hr-H)	7/82	35.00	22.38	.00
Freckles III (Hr-J)	6/83	8.30 (AI)	40.56	.00
Thistle (J)	6/83	8.30 (AI)	40.56	.00
Susie (A-H)	7/83	60.00	27.83	.00

I haven't been as religious about analyzing as about amassing these data. This exercise has been instructive. It confirms our desire to do at least part of our own haying and thereby to expand our beef operation. If anyone has suggestions or strategies for making hay in a small-scale, alternative way, we're all ears. Also, we'd welcome any other advice or ideas that the above information might suggest to anyone.

-- Bill Sutkus

INTERVIEW WITH



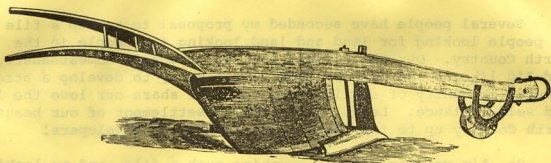
BRIAN & VEIGH LEE

One of the fringe benefits of being "Articles Editor" is that I get to do interviews. What a great excuse to ask personal questions of people you hardly know. I had heard about Brian and Veigh through the homestead grapevine and thought they sounded like interesting people. I was right. Here is an interview conducted in December on the day Brian turned 35.

-- Kathy Montan

- K - Are you natives of this area?
- B - No, I was born in Minnesota and then lived in Iowa until I was 17. From there, I moved to a place outside of Albany.
- V - I grew up in North Greenbush, just outside of Albany. It turned out that Brian and I lived across the street from each other although we actually met in a bar. We lived six years together in a place near Albany.
- K - What brought you up here?
- V - We corresponded with a guy for three years who we heard about in the Mother Earth News. We were originally interested in communes and we're still working towards that.
- B - We found an abandoned farm in Rossie and wrote the owner. He said we could caretake the place, and we moved up right away. We were in Rossie for three years.
- K - Tell me more about your interest in communes.

- V - Well, we were interested in communes first and "back to the land" second. We looked at the Rudolf Steiner Community, but it was too suburban for Brian. It just didn't feel right.
- K - Who is Rudolf Steiner?
- B - I guess you would describe him as a Christian mystic. He's also known as the father of bio-dynamic gardening.
- V - The North Country was the best place for us. It was hard to adjust to a totally new lifestyle, but now it would be hard to leave.
- K - Why the move from Rossie to Canton?
- B - Here in Canton (where they have lived the last two years) it's more practical. Things are closer; Veigh can bicycle to work.
- K - (I asked this question for personal reasons, so if you're not interested, just skip this section.) Do you find it hard to live a homestead life and send your child to public school?



- V - Yes, sometimes. School is too fast; they zoom right through the day and don't follow the child's natural rhythm. Also, I don't like to explain everything. Like when your kids' friends come to visit and you don't have electricity. You never know how a child's mother is going to react. So far everything's been OK.
- K - (We went on to discuss other school matters including the horrors of school lunches and kindergarten snack time, but I became engrossed in the conversation and forgot to take notes.)
- K - What do you do for income?
- V - I taught art education for one year and then retired. Now I work at housekeeping on Saturdays and Sundays and work two nights a week at Willow Island.
- B - I do small construction jobs--mostly by myself. I usually work about three days a week from August through December.
- K - Do you guys garden?
- V - Brian usually starts the garden, and I do the weeding and harvesting.
- K - Do you do any preserving?



- V - I really like drying, especially beans and peas. The only canning I do is tomatoes.
- B - Our big thing is the root cellar. (They have built a 7'x7'x9' walk-in root cellar in the side of a hill.) We live a lot on root crops.
- V - I do a lot of growing seeds for sprouting. Buckwheat and sunflower sprouts in the winter give you a lot of vitality. You just cut them for lettuce.
- K - (Brian and Veigh live about five miles out of Canton on 27 acres of land. They have two children, Hannah (age 6) and Ursala (age 2). One of their big accomplishments has been to build their own timber frame house. They have just hooked up to electricity but would like to have a windmill someday. One of their future projects is a small tofu factory operated in a room off their house. Brian says the market is definitely there.)



A "Land Access Information Center"?

Several people have seconded my proposal to set up a file of people looking for land and land looking for people in the North Country. Our area offers much to potential homesteaders, and I'd like to see more of them settle here, to develop a strong, diverse community of smallholders who will share our love the land and self-reliance. Let's not leave the settlement of our beautiful North Country up to the real estate agents and developers!

So, I'm volunteering to organize such a file, and am looking for help from our members to fill it with entries. Please send me information on property you know of that is for sale, or might be, exact location, owner, acreage, type of land, etc., and whether any real estate agents are already listing it.

Also, send me information on people who are looking for that farm of their dreams or some land to build on or a woodlot for firewood or whatever. Keeping such a file seems so simple, and could help to bring you and me some interesting new neighbors.

-- Doug Jones
Birdsfoot Farm, Star Route,
Canton 13617 (386-4852)



At the December General Meeting, we decided to follow the lead of Co-operative Extension in having all memberships fall due once a year. A large proportion of our memberships come up for renewal in the spring, anyway (and most of the rest of you are, alas, overdue). So great convenience for your membership secretary will not be offset by inconvenience to the members. This new system should be a boon to those of you who consistently forget to pay your dues: When Spring springs and the earth is renewed, so is your membership!

-- Jane Plastino
(address on Page 1 in "Red
Check" box)