DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNY

WHITE ROSE CREAMERY/UNITED DAIRY

CIRCA 1895

First owned and operated by Christian (C.E.) Yoder, the United Dairy under the name White Rose Creamery was one of Lodi’s finest business. C.E. was married to Viola Emery and had one daughter Gladys. I could not locate a gravesite for C.E. Yoder, so did he stay in Lodi, I do not know. I did find his daughter married at age 38 in the Toledo area.

The White Rose Creamery’s principal products were butter and cheese. The building constructed from wood then replaced to the brick structure we all know. He operated the creamery until 1898, when he sold the business to W.R. Grannis and Paul Miller.

It was in 1902; Mr. Grannis sold his interest to Horr Warner Company of Wellington. If you remember, the Horr Warner Company owned what is now Hall Growers. The Horr Warner Co. came to Lodi in the late 1800.s, after selling the creamery in 1908; they started to farm the 1200 acres of muck land producing onions, lettuce and celery. There office building was at the end of Harris Street and now an apartment.

A little trivia according to the American Produce Review Vol 24, 1907 it stated “The White Rose Creamery received the contract to supply 1000 lbs. of butter per week to the Massillon State Hospital. “

It was in 1908, the company became United Dairy. In 1920, the originally building was destroyed by fire was rebuilt by 1921. About 25 men worked at the company at one time. Don Grimm hauled cream to Cleveland and provided general hauling for the dairy. John Croskey hauled coal twice a day from New Philadelphia for the boilers.

My father-in –law worked the dairy from age 14 until the day it closed in 1967. He was a licensed chemist that tested the milk. Like many young boys in the area, my brothers worked many summers at the United Dairy. Cheese was not a favorite for the boys in our house for many summers.

While talking with Joyce Miller Brainard she asked if I was aware, a death occurred at the United Dairy, which interested me. Joyce is the daughter of Bob Miller who took over Islay’s store, which is now D’Antonios. Another story for another time….

This was a relative of Joyce’s husband. She gave me the obit and in 1931, the obits would describe the completely unfortunate event. It was in 1931 that tragic news spread through Lodi, noted in the papers; Instantly killed by a heavy blow from a falling steam pipe, Bert Jackson ( Jack) Gossard, 47, prominent Lodi resident , engineer at the large United Dairy Company creamery there and father of children, was found dead at the creamery plant at 5pm yesterday, shortly after the accident. It does go on to say he was an accomplished musician and had organized an orchestra composed entirely of his own children. Sound like a great guy to me. What a shame.

I’m not sure of the next gentleman Frank Yost, but the small amount of information started he died at the United Dairy on March 11, 1934. More information or a story behind a story would be great, give me a call.

After World War 11, the United Dairy discounted powdered milk and started to make cheese as the bulk of the operation, as opposed to the condensed milk operation. It closed in July 1967.

It was in the 1970’s it reopened as Harris Tire building customs tubes. I do not know what is in the building today. Dr. Longo has his practice in what was the United Dairy office.

Please call or send me interesting stories of the history of Lodi.

We have been working hard on the outside of our new Lodi-Harrisville Historical museum. We have moved some items in. We have a lot of work ahead but have had many interested in helping. Thank you my dear hubby for your tireless help.