



La Crosse Downtown Rotary Classification Talk
January 28, 2021

Lee & Anne Nere

Minnesota



Milky Way Dairy

A family farm of 109 years

By Ashley Alstara
Staff Writer

Each year, the State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau recognize Century Farms. To qualify, a farm must be at least 100 years old, have been owned by the same family for at least 100 years, and be of at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

This year, one of the farms recognized is the Nere Homestead located three miles south of Danube.

The 160-acre four-generation farm was purchased in 1905 by August Nere, an immigrant from Germany from John Schendel. August and his wife owned and farmed the land for 15 years focusing on oats, wheat and corn. Soybeans were not around yet.

"They always had oats because they needed it for the horses," recalled Leroy Nere, grandson of August. "And we've had milk cows from day one."

The original farm house on the site has been moved twice. The first move wasn't very far, just across the road. A dealer from Minneapolis inherited some land and wanted to try his hand at farming. A few years later the house was moved again, this time into the City of Danube. It remains there to this day and has been remodeled many times.

The house was moved when Leroy was a child. He specifically remembers the house being moved on

blocks when he was around 10 years old as he recalls falling off the steps once when he was carrying a basket full of eggs he had just collected. He was fine, but the eggs did not make it.

The current house on the site was built in 1961, and was later added on to by Brad Nere, Leroy's son and current owner of the farm.

Leroy took over the family farm just as his father, Henry, stepped in after August. Leroy remembers taking a larger part in the farm work after his high school graduation in 1943. This was only around six years after the family purchased the first John Deere tractor which had steel wheels. Before that time, everything was done with horses.

Leroy remembers his father being very precise. "He made sure things were planted straight." A difficult task using horse drawn equipment. Today, farmers like the Neres rely on new technology such as GPS to keep the rows straight.

Leroy retired in 1993 and moved into Danube, but the 86-year old still climbs into the tractor seat to help in the spring and fall. Since his father's retirement, Brad has taken over the family farm with some assistance from his brother Russ Nere who owns and works land just north of Danube.

As the farm has passed from

Farm

Turn to page A2

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An early aerial photograph of the Nere farm. Only the house and barn structures on the far left remain to



John & Doris Carlson

Minnesota



John & Doris
Carlson



Tim & Kathy
Carlson



Tim & Kathy
Carlson;

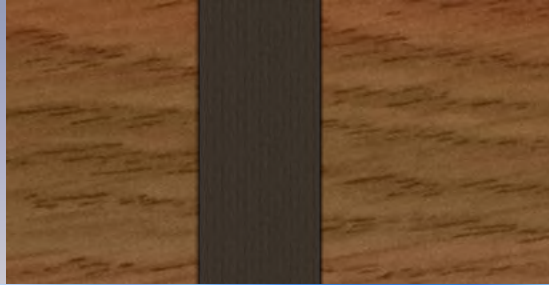
Joe & Charissa
Carlson;

Rachel & Eric
Sippel;

Kristen &
Christian
Einertson











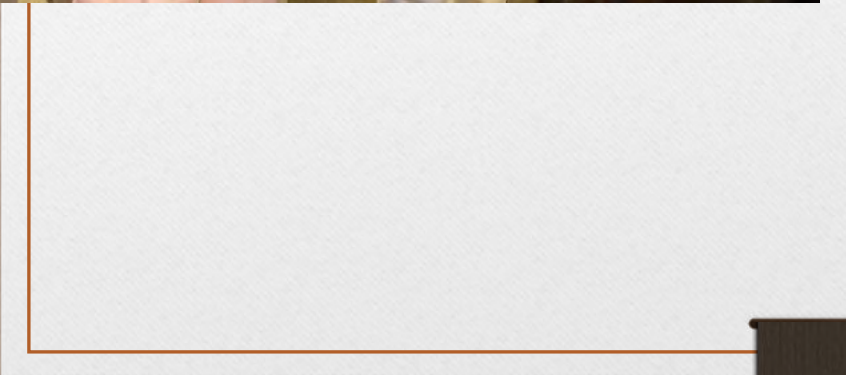
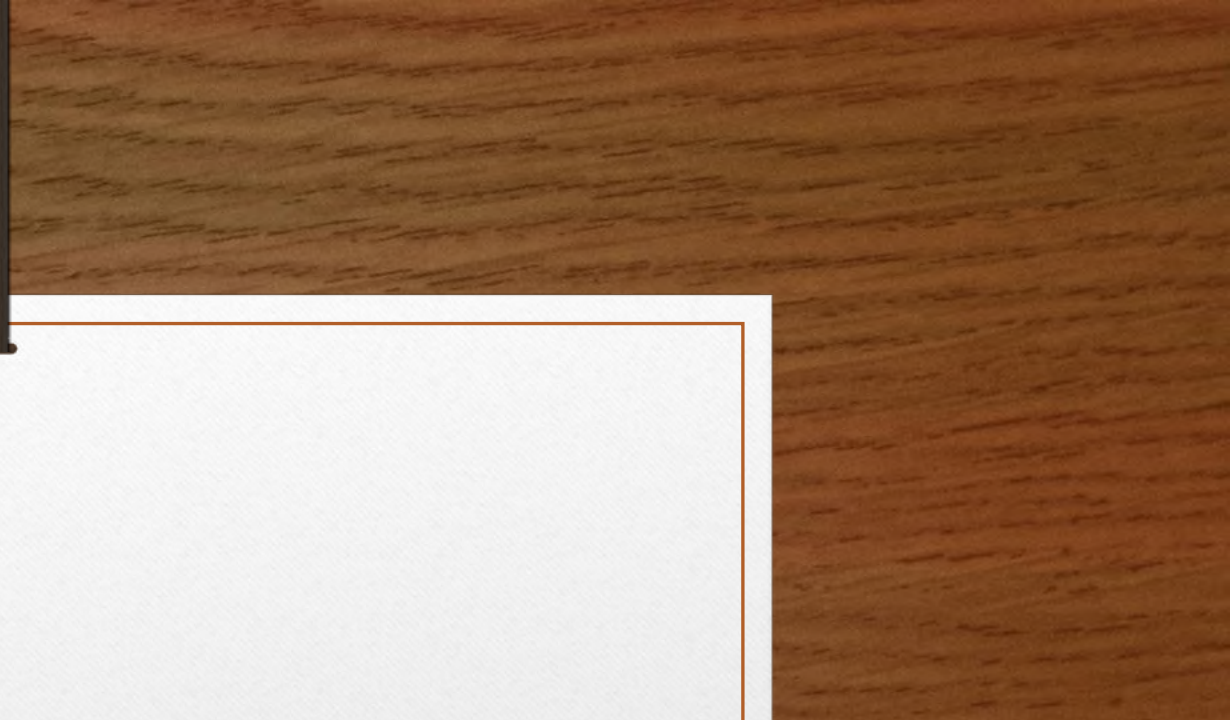






Photo By Anona Waind
Winter's Coming Eau Claire 2011





Wisconsin Boy Scout Councils

