

West Virginia

Farm Bureau News

August 2015

^R
Dennie

mail 50014

HIGH ST ROMANEY
WV

Received 9-22-15
from C.P. Raxwe



table of contents



- 4 Presidential Paradigms
- 6 Motorcycle Safety
- 8 Young Farmer & Rancher Update
- 9 WOTUS: Army Corps Memos Reveal Dysfunction, Secrecy and Misconduct at EPA
- 11 Women In Ag Conference
- 16 Standing Strong
- 26 Chilly Treats for Summer

On the cover
WVSDB Barn
E.A. Letherman III



West Virginia Farm Bureau News

*The Voice of Agriculture in
the Mountain State*

August 2015

Volume 23 Number 8

West Virginia Farm Bureau
62 Farm Bureau Road
Buckhannon, WV 26201

PRESIDENT

Charles Wilfong

VICE PRESIDENT

John Pitsenbarger

SECRETARY/TREASURER-ADMINISTRATOR

Steve Butler

EDITOR

Joan Harman

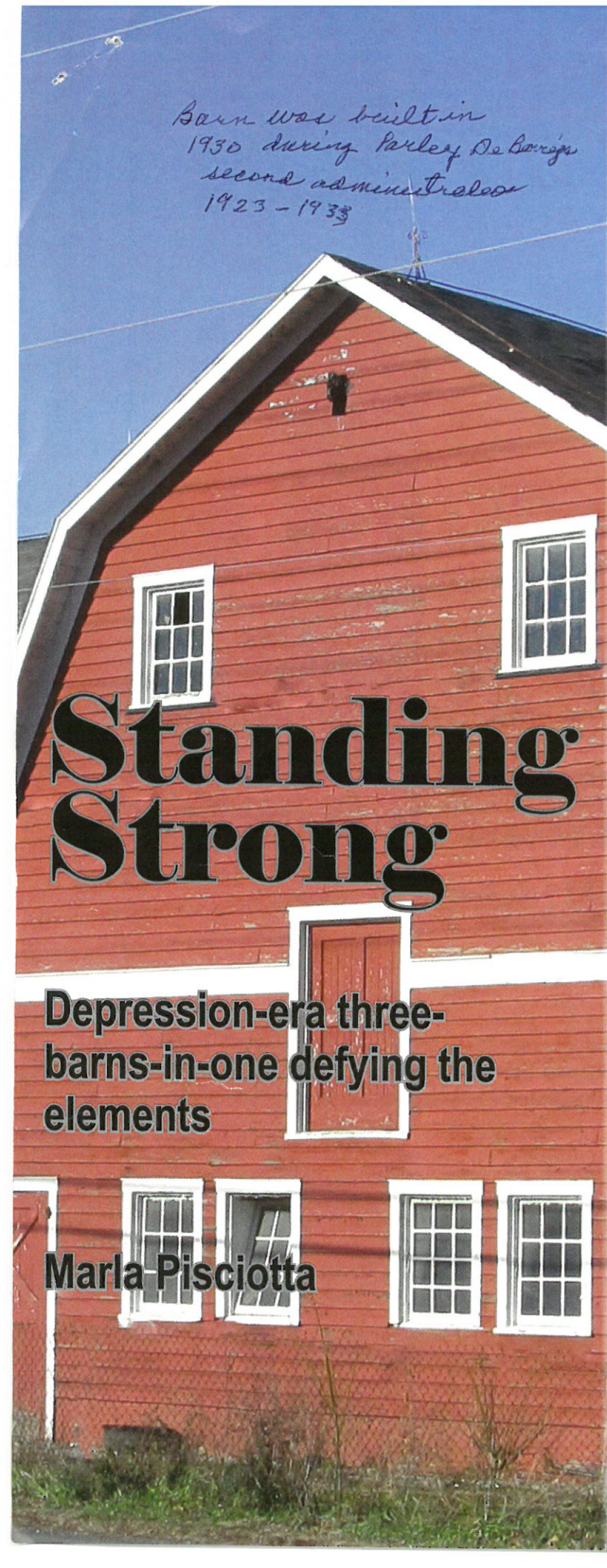
West Virginia Farm Bureau News is published monthly by the West Virginia Farm Bureau, Inc. Annual subscription rates: \$3.32 (included in annual dues). Advertising rates and circulation information furnished upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Buckhannon, WV and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: return all forms 3579 to West Virginia Farm Bureau, 62 Farm Bureau Road, Buckhannon, WV 26201. (ISSN 1076-8556) (USPS 011-537)

Printed by Ralston Press, Inc.
Buckhannon, WV.

© 2015 West Virginia Farm Bureau
*No portion of this publication may be reproduced in
any manner without prior written permission*

web site: www.wvfarm.org
email: joanh@wvfarm.org
phone: 800.398.4630





*Barn was built in
1930 during Parley DeBorja's
second administration
1923 - 1933*

Standing Strong

Depression-era three-barns-in-one defying the elements

Marla Pisciotta

Although she's painted red with white trim, this barn is not something you would normally see standing on a farm. The barn at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind stands tall on the outskirts of the city of Romney, and although a little timeworn, she's still a site to be seen, inside and out.

The birth of the WVSDB and the farm began in 1902 when 140 acres of land was purchased between what is now Route 28 and the South Branch Valley Railroad for \$4,385.50.

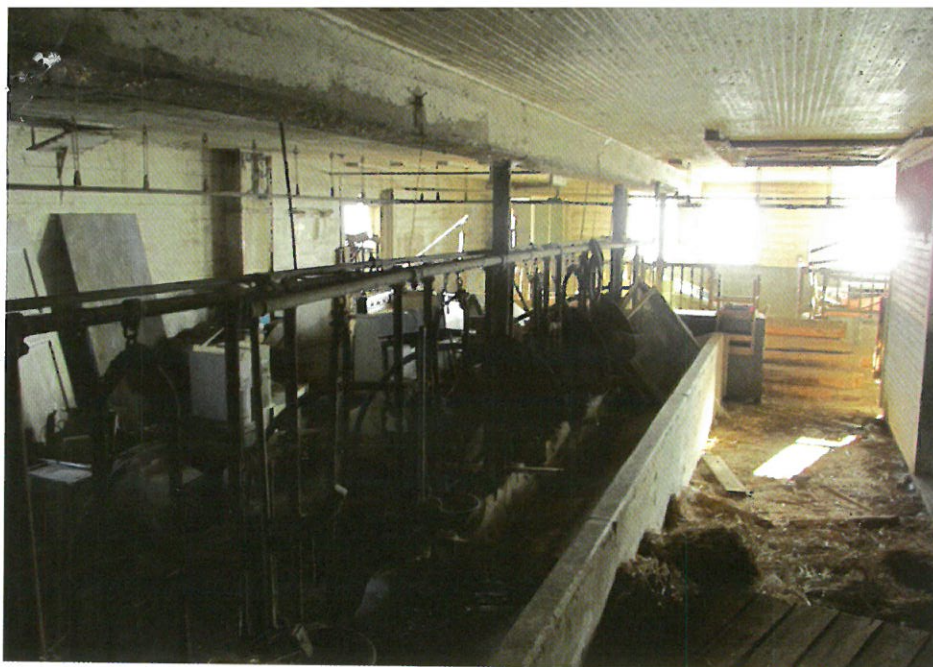
The huge barn, which is actually three barns in one, is owned by the WVSDB. Built in 1930, the barn housed the latest equipment and was operated by the school's students.

Built during the depression, the cost to construct the barn was \$16,662.07. Although the schools tried to get funding through the legislature, they were turned down. So, monies set aside for a rainy day fund were used to build the massive barn.

Prior to the opening of the new barn, another barn existed on campus, which held about 25 head of dairy cattle, a pig sty, and chicken house. The old barn and out structures were located roughly in the vicinity of the current central supply and school greenhouse on the WVSDB campus. Once the new barn was finished, the old barn was torn down.

The three barns in one had room for 60 cows and eight horses, all divided in sections and separated. Two sections measure 74 feet by 36 feet, and each are connected by a third section approximately 43 feet by 30 feet. Four pens were isolated from the rest of the herd for sick cattle. There were two bullpens and two calf pens.

The central part of the upper story housed feed bins lined with galvanized iron. Two carloads of ground feed could be stored, mixed, and easily transported to feed rooms on the first floor. The loft could carry 100 tons of hay or other feed and the silo, which measured 14



was put in the waste treatment pit at the rear of the property.

At one time the WVSDS was almost completely self-sufficient. The kids and staff raised all the food students consumed. There was a cannery behind the administration building and what they didn't use was canned for use in the winter. Any excess was sold to other state institutions. In January 1943, the War Production Board in Washington, D.C. requested information on

feet by 37 feet, could store 108 tons of ensilage. Feed room floors and driveways on the first floor were constructed of concrete.

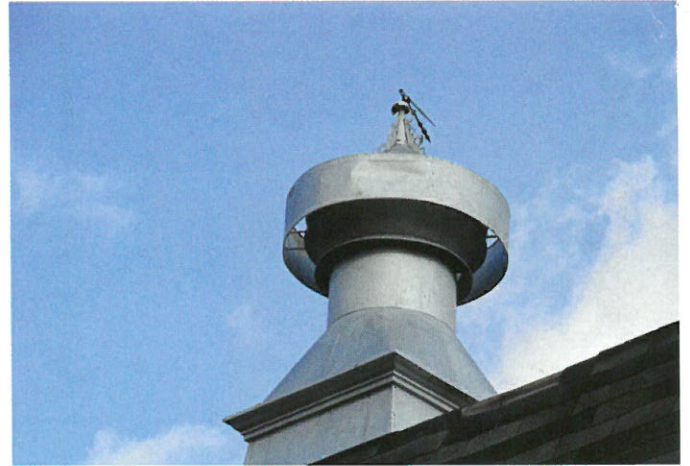
The barn was a state-of-the-art project for its time. Modern milking machines were installed. At each of the cow stalls was an automated water fountain. Each cow could press its nose to the fountain to get water. Cork flooring covered the floors in the stalls for comfort and kept the cattle from slipping. An overhead conveyor belt system carried silage down to animals out of the silo. More carriers took waste and litter away, which

production at the schools. In addition to acres of soybeans and hay, the school reported the following to the war board: Tomatoes: 1,633 bushels in 1941; 770 bushels in 1942 and 800 bushels in 1943. Sweet corn: 375 bushels in 1941; 512 bushels in 1942 and 450 bushels in 1943.

The schools also produced 10,893 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables in 1941; 11,000 pounds in 1942 and 11,000 in 1943. They made applesauce, canned pears, peaches, catsup and

Opposite page: Partial front view of the Three-in-one barn at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind in Romney, West Virginia. Above: a view of the milking parlor, which was state-of-the-art in its day. Right: rear view of the barn.

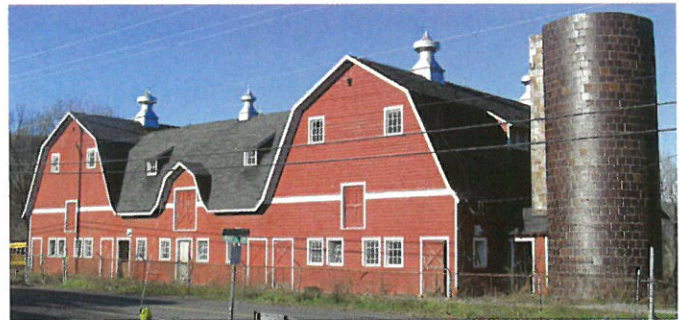




Left: The loft of the barn, where hay was stored. Holes in the roof are evident here. Above, the cupola, part of the venting system. Below, a full view of the front, complete with silo.

tomato juice, in addition to producing eggs, milk (30,000 gallons), beef and pork.

As the use of the farm decreased, parcels of land were sold off. Acreage was sold to build the old hospital, the Army Reserve, Kinney Shoe Factory, the Potomac Center, the city sewer and the state police building. Around the 1950s the barn fell out of use.



In recent years, there has been interest in repairing and restoring the barn. A restoration committee was formed and several years ago they began repairing fencing and clearing debris from the land. Documentation is ongoing to include photos of the damage to the interior and its contents. Currently there are holes in various areas of the roof, and damage to some of the wood. The barn has been used for storage for many years, but little by little it's being cleaned out.

Saving the barn has slowed due to the economy, but according to the current administration, there may be light at the end of the tunnel in the near future to re-ignite the restoration. As one of the schools' staff said when the cleaning began, "It's a work in progress. We are looking back to preserve the past while looking at the future."



Cost to build the Three-in-One Barn in 1930	
Misc. building materials	\$4,054.52
Lumber	\$2,972.87
Shingles	\$ 49.50
Plumbing supplies	\$ 56.52
Electrical	\$ 102.46
Hardware	\$ 939.74
Paint, oil, varnish	\$ 601.56
Cement	\$1,076.95
Sand, gravel, plaster	\$ 115.88
Cut stone	\$ 308.73
Brick	\$2,027.99
Tile for silo	\$ 692.55
Barn equipment	\$3,662.80

PHOTOS COURTESY WVSDA by E.A. Letherman III, agriculture education teacher.