

# Lloyd S. Frazier, 92, dairy farmer

by Nan Lincoln

Lloyd S. Frazier, one of the last dairy farmers on Mount Desert Island, died Dec. 30, 1995.

Born in 1903, in Portage, the son of dairy farmer Abner Frazier and his wife, Lillian (Tuttle), Mr. Frazier first came to Mount Desert Island in 1930 to start a dairy farm in Salisbury Cove.

Mr. Frazier's Rougilla Farm managed to survive the Great Depression, but succumbed to the Great Fire of 1947, in which he lost both his home and most of his cattle.

Although his farm lay in ashes, Mr. Frazier never reconsidered his chosen field and went to join his brother, Charles, on an 800-acre farm in Trenton. Later he bought out his brother's share, and with his nephew, Merval Porter, managed several hundred head of dairy cattle. Although black-and-white Holsteins were the more commonly used breed in this part of the country, Mr. Frazier was strictly a Guernsey man. In fact, he was so fond of this brown-and-white breed, he penned its praises in poetic verse and kept an almost biblical record of his herd's bloodlines.

Eventually he became internationally known as a breeder, with farmers coming from all over the country to breed their cows with his prize bulls: Sampson's Morey Boy, Roughwood Splendid and Haven Hill Melba's Bill

The bloodlines of these and other Rougilla Farm bulls are likely still represented in dairy herds throughout this country, Canada and England.

In 1966 Mr. Frazier sold the big Trenton farm and moved his operation



Lloyd Frazier with one of his prize Guernseys, Billie Juno, circa 1950.

to the smaller Lakewood farm on the Crooked Road in Bar Harbor's Emery district. His grandniece, Linda Sawyer's wife, Daisy, and their children, Merval Jr., Linda, Timothy, Robin and Deborah moved along with him.

"I guess Uncle Lloyd was just too busy with his farming to look for a wife and start a family of his own," says his grandniece, Linda Sawyer of Hulls Cove. "So we were his family — in fact, he was 'Uncle Lloyd' to every kid in the neighborhood."

In addition to sharing his wisdom, humor, time and a seemingly endless supply of candy treats to his extended family, Uncle Lloyd also passed on his love of animals, which went far

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## Notes by John Clark of DowneastMilkBottles.com:

- 1) I can't find any evidence that Lloyd Frazier moved to MDI in 1930.
- 2) Saying "his farm survived the depression only to succumb to the fire of '47" is wrong in three ways: He didn't move here until after the depression; it looks like he moved his operation to Trenton in 1945, two years before the Fire of '47; and according to the Acadia National Park copyrighted map, the fire never even reached Salisbury Cove, where his farm was.
- 3) It claims that he lost most of his cattle and his home, but in fact, he lost 12 animals, and only the barn burned (and it wasn't even his barn), not his home.

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beyond their capacity for earning his livelihood.

"He didn't die a wealthy man because he was just too big-hearted," says Mrs. Sawyer. "All of his animals were like pets to him, and he could never bring himself to weed out the unproductive ones."

He wasn't quite so soft-hearted on himself, however. In 1981, at age 78, he reluctantly conceded he was no longer as physically productive as he needed to be to continue managing the farm. So he passed the responsibility on to his grandnephew, Merval "Rocky" Porter Jr., confident that the young man had learned just about everything he needed to know about the dairy business.

But in a day when the giant agribusinesses had all but wiped out the family farm, knowledge was not enough to save the island's last dairy farmer. In 1986, a surplus of milk prompted the U.S. government to "buy out" small operations like Lakewood Farm.

"It was hard for Uncle Lloyd to see the herd go, but he understood that nothing could be done to prevent it," says Linda Sawyer.

With the cows gone, Mr. Frazier turned his attention to his gardening and poetry writing. By the time of his death, he had completely filled a little paper-bound book with his observations and reminiscences of life on the farm — its triumphs and tragedies, the weather, the sayings and poems of other people he admired, cartoon sketches, and, of course, his continuing paean to that splendid breed of cow, the Guernsey.

*"There's beauty on the hillside with a background of green,*

*With my fawn and white cattle — a quiet restful scene.*

*There's beauty in the flatland — again the color's green,*

*With the feeding of my Guernseys — each one of them a queen...*

*Cows back to their hillside and their valley green,*

*Hurrying through my days of work — endless as they seem.*

*Caring for my young ones — my "wee bonnie coos" —*

*I'll be ready for my resting when my work is through."*

Mr. Frazier is survived by his nephew, Merval Porter, and his family; many other nieces and nephews including Eugene Paine of Trenton and many grandnieces and grandnephews.

A service of remembrance will be held at 11 a.m. on Jan. 6 at the Eden Baptist Church, Salisbury Cove with pastor Robert Maddocks and the Rev. Randall Wilbur officiating. Spring committal services will be held May 18 at Leland Cemetery, Trenton. Friends who wish may donate in his memory to the Bar Harbor Public Nursing Assoc., 93 Cottage St., Bar Harbor 04609. ■