

Ruddick's Dairy in Seymour, Indiana

By: Cody Wayt. Columbus, Indiana



The Ruddick Dairy operated from 1935 - 1964 just South of US Hwy 50 on the Jackson-Jennings County Line

The Ruddick Dairy in Seymour Indiana was owned and operated by Otis H. and Bertha Ruddick.

The Ruddicks began dairy farming near Seymour, Indiana shortly after their marriage in 1922. They then purchased a farm in Spencer Township on the Jackson-Jennings County Indiana line in 1935 and moved the dairy to this location. Otis and Bertha, along with their children, Richard, Carol and William, began improvements to the farm and expanded the business. During this time, the Ruddicks bottled their own milk and cream and sold their products in Seymour.

After WWII had ended, the Ruddicks sold their route to the Thompsons Dairy, based in Seymour, and began



The Ruddicks used their pickup truck to run their milk route in Seymour, Carol and Bill Ruddick standing on the family Plymouth pickup delivery truck



Another view of the Ruddick Dairy farmhouse and barns



Otis and Bertha Ruddick bottled their own milk and cream for ten years and made their own deliveries to customers in Seymour. After WWII, they began selling their milk to Thompson's Dairy of Seymour, Indiana

selling their milk to Thompson's. Mr. Ruddick was a well-known resident in Spencer Township and throughout Jackson County. He was an officer with the Artificial Breeders Association, the Soil and Water Conservation District, a founding member of the Spencer Township Volunteer Fire Department and helped support the Hayden High School FFA program.

On May 30, 1954, the Ruddicks were chosen as Farm Family of the Week by the Cincinnati radio station WLM. Otis died of cancer in 1964, at age 64, and the family decided to end dairy farming. Otis and Bertha's son, Richard, took over the farm and began raising Black Angus cattle. In 1972, the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge made an expansion, and forced the family to move from

YOU CAN'T BEAT OUR MILK

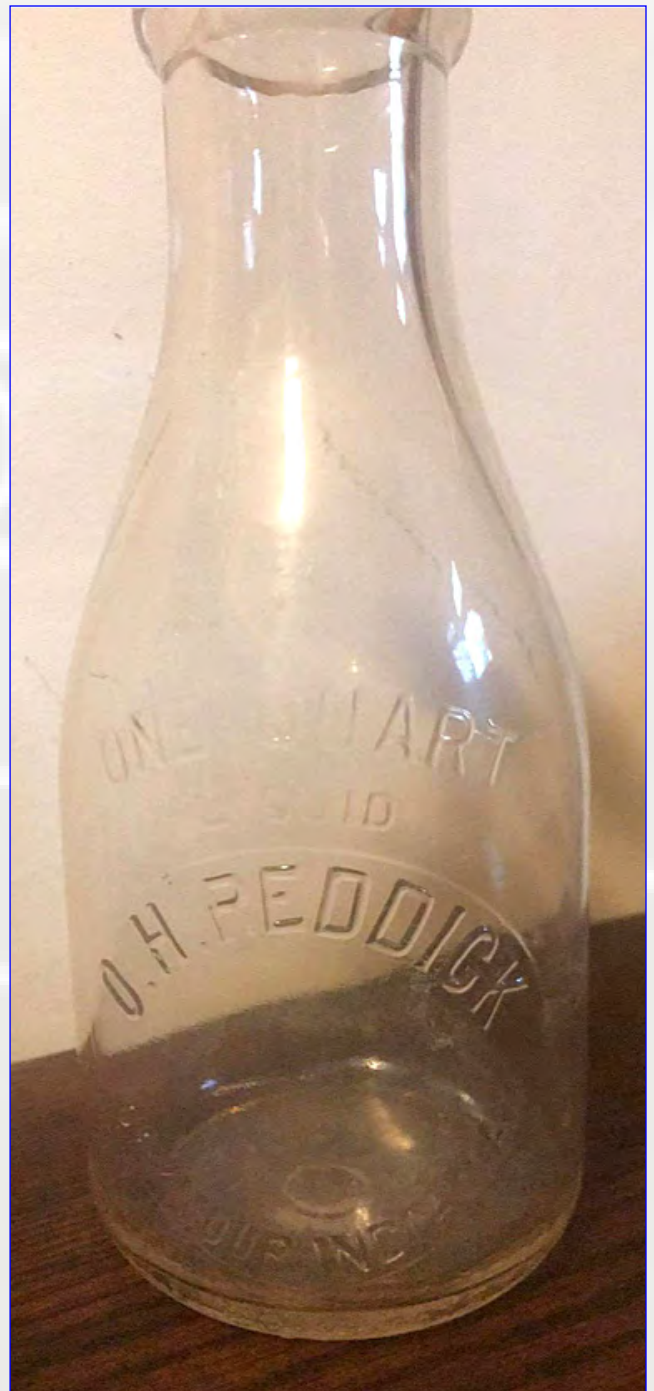
BUT YOU CAN WHIP OUR CREAM

RUDDICK'S DAIRY

Advertisement for the whip cream from Ruddicks



Ruddick bottles are extremely rare and there are two versions. Here is one version (Photos courtesy of Rodger Ruddick)



Here is another version of the Ruddick bottle, notice the misspelling of the Dairy name as Reddick (Photos courtesy of Kevin Tracy)

the farm.

The Ruddicks Dairy is a typical example of so many small family run dairies that operated across the United States, and sadly were ran out of business by the larger dairies that controlled most of the routes in their areas. I would like to thank Rodger Ruddick for providing me with the information and photos for this article.

