

## THE REVIEW'S SPECIAL FARM NEWS DEPARTMENT

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EDITOR

Live News About Crawford County Farms and Farmers

### POLAND CHINA TOWN

The town of Arthur is the pop-corn center of the world, and the town of Manning is the hub of the Poland China universe. Do you know that located within almost a stone's throw of each other, in the suburbs of Manning, are three great hog factories? Of course you know it, for the world knows it!

Lyden, Halford and Hassler—"three souls with but a single thought, three hearts that beat as one." When those three gentlemen gather together the agreement of opinion touching the subject of Poland China swine is beautiful. Each one is loud in his praises of the other's judgment in choice of swine. "How beautiful for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Last week I had the pleasure of looking over the three herds, and it was like unto a visit to the National Swine show, for many of the elite of the Poland China breed are members of those three great herds. I would like to give a description of each and every hog I saw, but lack of space forbids, and only a brief mention will have to suffice.

I first visited the Standard Stock Farm, of Chas. E. Lyden, which is located about one-half mile south of the National Bank. There are now some thirty-five head of brood sows, from yearlings up, 110 spring pigs and several fall pigs. Most of the spring pigs were sired by the mighty Disturber. Mr. Lyden took this great sire last year to the state fair, but owing to an accident after he reached the grounds, Disturber was not shown. He had been a great disturber to the peace of mind of the other fellows who had entered their sires, and, while I do not mean to say they were glad of the accident, nevertheless they breathed easier when it was learned that Disturber would not be shown. He has recovered from the accident sufficient for breeding purposes, but no doubt he will not be shown. He is now four years old and belongs to the more-than-thousand pound class. Those who figured Mr. Lyden out of the show ring had better watch out; there is another gentleman hog, who answers to the name of Crusader, who will give them such a dizziness when they see him coming into the show ring. He is three years old, weighs over nine hundred and is still growing. He was sired by Grand Master, the mammoth. A two year old sow by King of Wonders and a yearling gilt by Disturber are two very good prospects for show ring honors. A three year old brood sow sired by A Wonder B and a granddaughter of Grand Master is going to make 'em sit up and take notice. She will now weigh better than 700 and it would require a clothes line to measure her around the waist. An Indiana man offered \$1,000 for her last winter. Those Indiana men have their nerve! One thousand dollars would not buy the twist in her tail. All of the matured hogs on the Standard Stock Farm have great size and finish and it is no wonder that even an Indiana man would fall in love with them.

Just a short distance south of the Lyden farm is located "Big Bob" Halford and his wonderful herd of Poland China swine. About two weeks ago, Mr. Halford bought the forty-acre farm of "Alfalfa Bill" Carpenter and will soon make a number of building improvements on it. The entire forty acres will be devoted to the hog plant. He now has a large farm just across the road, but that did not give him work enough—Bob likes to be busy.

Anyone who knows anything at all about the big type Poland China swine has at least heard of Big Bob, the famous Poland China sire. Mr. Halford told me a little history concerning the early days of Big Bob which will no doubt interest you. As you know he bred Big Bob and afterwards sold a half interest in him to Fred Sievers of Audubon.

Big Bob was for sometime in a pen with a bunch of other young boars and six other boars were selected from the bunch before Big Bob received much more than a passing glance. To Fred Hassler is due much of the honor of discovering Big Bob. When he visited the herd he singled out Big Bob from the rest and grew eloquent and loud in his praise. Mr. Halford had also seen the good points about this then unknown boar and after Mr. Hassler had backed up his judgment Mr. Halford decided to separate Big Bob from the others to have and to hold for his own use. Soon after Fred Sievers told Mr. Hassler that he was looking for something extra choice for a herd boar and Mr. Hassler took him over to see the Halford hog. Mr. Sievers was captivated and greatly disappointed because Mr. Halford was not at home so he could buy Big Bob. In a very few days, he returned and brought his brother from Audubon to see the wonderful hog. During this visit Mr. Sievers bought a half interest in Big Bob and he and Mr. Halford still own him.

Mr. Halford says: "You remove the Bob breeding from the various state fairs and other big shows held the past two years and you remove a large per cent of the prize winning animals. You extract the Bob breeding from the herds in which it may be found and a great number of our most noted breeders would be at a loss to know where to replace that portion of their breeding plant."

While at the Halford farm, I had the pleasure and honor of an introduction to the mother of Big Bob, she is now seven years old, and a grand old brood sow.

About a year ago, Mr. Halford sold a bred sow for \$200 and since paid this man who bought her, \$1,000 for the choice of one of her male pigs. That was certainly a good investment for the man who bought the bred sow and it also proves that Robert Halford has faith in his own stock. This choice young sire goes into the Halford sale August 2, when 40 bred sows—20 bred to Big Bob—and ten boars will be sold.

Mr. Halford has proven himself one of our very best breeders. He has not only produced hogs that made him a profit, but they also made money for the men who bought them. His stock has the power of transmitting their good qualities to their progeny. No higher praise could be given any stock than that. There are now 60 head of hogs from yearlings up in the Halford herd, also 20 fall and 85 spring pigs.

Some half mile east of Manning is located the hog plant de Luxe. If there is a better one in the state of Iowa, I would go a long way to see it. It is the home of the Fashion herd of the Poland China and F. H. Hassler is its owner. While there is a temptation to describe the beautiful buildings, entrance driveway, etc., on this model farm, it is of the swine and the man behind the herd which will receive our attention. Sometime I am going to visit the farm and try to describe the buildings.

F. H. Hassler started out much the same as other successful stockmen have—bought a few good ones and grew into the business. The personality of the man from the start was apparent. He never goes into anything half-hearted and with his earnestness and determination to succeed, it is no wonder that he has reached the top-most rung. He is credited with great judgment in selecting the likely prospects and seems to be conversant with the possibilities of an animal, his power along that line is certainly wonderful. To him is due much of the credit for discovering the great sire, Big Bob, and there is another noted sire which no doubt would have been practically lost to the breed and his greatness would have been unused if it had not been for F. H. Hassler. It was Fred who discovered Grand Master, the hog which has done so much for the big type Poland China breed. Grand Master, when first seen by Fred, was only a big frame and to many there was no future to him. But here is where the real worth of this man to the breed came in. He had the ability to foresee what others could not and he also had the business ability to recognize a bargain. Grand

Master cost him just \$150. I saw him soon after Fred bought him and I want to confess that he looked to me more like an empty corn crib set upon four sturdy posts of oak, than the great sire he afterwards proved to be. After he had been given the attention of Fred, and he had touched him with the magic wand, as it were, it was rumored that Fred Hassler had uncovered something. He certainly had, for Grand Master was so good that Fred sold him for \$2,500, which at that time was the largest or one of the largest prices paid for pork. The price received for Grand Master was not the greatest evidence of his greatness either, it was the big type quality he bred into the Poland China breed. Mr. Hassler has earned the right to wear the spurs, for he has proven himself a great developer and is endowed with judgment of foretelling just how good it is possible for an animal to become. I am convinced there are none better. Time after time he has purchased animals which others had passed up and developed them to such a degree of excellency that they were sold at many times their first cost. Mr. Hassler does not raise as many hogs as many other prominent breeders do, and it is not necessary, for he lets the other fellows breed them and he looks them over—picks out one here and there and always has a classy bunch of swine to sell for which he gets a long price.

What the Fashion herd lacks in number, it makes up in quality, for there is not a cull in the herd. Right now there are at least forty head from yearlings up, besides several choice spring pigs. Those who visit the Manning herds should not fail to feast their eyes upon Fashionpiece. This great boar was sired by Masterpiece and he by Grand Master. His ancestors on the dam's side were just about as classy as it is possible to get them. Think of a pedigree with the magic words, Escher's Standard, and Fashion Princess, and you will be thinking of Fashionpiece's pedigree.

Manning is the mecca from which no disappointed lover of the big type Poland China ever returns. You may talk of the town's paved streets, its beautiful homes and well kept lawns, magnificent business blocks, good schools, churches and beautiful women; but if you visit the town and do not look over these three herds above mentioned, you have missed the heart and grandest part of it all.

WAVELAND STOCK FARM  
"The mighty oak from little acorns grow."

I like to write of the successful men who started out in a small way and have made good, and I have noticed that most of those who have made good started out in a small way.

For instance, there is C. A. Oldsen, who is the proprietor of Waveland Stock Farm, located four miles northwest of Wall Lake, Sac county, on the main road between Odebolt and Lake View. He started out in a modest way to build a reputation as a breeder of live stock and today is known throughout the length and breadth of America wherever Shorthorn cattle grow. In building for the future, he decided to first place his own feet upon solid foundation, by a schooling such as is nowhere else to be found outside of the great agricultural school at Ames. His next move was to secure stock and take up the work in earnest.

The first purchase was only three head of heifers that were purchased in the year 1903. Well do I remember how pleased he was when they arrived and he proudly invited his friends to look at them. Many of us did not even dream that in a few short years this herd would reach its high state of perfection that it now occupies. He now has on his farm, ninety-seven head. He has had two very successful public sales on the

farm and every year sends many to combination sales elsewhere, besides the ones sold at private sale on his farm. He has many times had the honor of topping the sales at Des Moines and Sioux City.

Mr. Oldsen is not afraid to show his stock in the fastest company either here or only last spring at the Shorthorn show and sale at Des Moines he received a beautiful and expensive trophy for exhibiting ten best head by one breeder at the show. Last year he sent a junior yearling imported bull, Inverness Hall Mark, to the big time show. This grand young bull won second at the Iowa State Fair in the Iowa class; third in open class in Minnesota; first in open class in Wisconsin and first at the Sioux City Interstate. That was certainly a great showing for its first time out.

Mr. Oldsen met with a piece of bad luck for this promising young bull fell and broke its leg and was then killed. However, he has in his herd, twenty cows in calf to him, and one cow has a calf at side sired by him. The greatest loss was to the breed.

To take the place of this young bull, which he had planned to head his herd, he recently purchased of E. B. Thomas, of Audubon, the good young white bull, Bapton Gaintford. He was sired by Gaintford Monarch and is a Marr-Missile. Gaintford Monarch was sired by Gaintford Champion, who sold for \$6,500 last spring. The blood

of White Hall Sultan also mingles in his veins with numerous other noted sires. He was calved May 23, 1917, and has all his promising life before him.

Mr. Oldsen's herd bulls have been such class as Imp, Inverness Hall Mark, Sultan 3rd, Sturdy Victor and Bapton Gaintford, and a great male quartette. Sultan 3rd, used for some time in the herd, was a son of the great White Hall Sultan, from a Marr Princess Royal dam, and I guess that was about as classy as you can find them. The young imported bull was by Silver Plate on a Maregold foundation, some class there too. Sturdy Victor, bred by Held Bros, is a large red bull sired by Wayside 2nd, on a Gipsy Girl foundation. Mr. Oldsen has had a number of roan sires in the herd and he is now using the red to mate with some of the beautiful young cows in this herd. Speaking of cows, say you ought to see those big broad-backed beefy type cows, for they are certainly there with the quality to spare.

Mr. Oldsen has a number of young bulls coming on that are beauties. There is a dark roan which I pick to develop into one of the best ever bred on the Waveland Stock Farm and there have been a lot of good ones. He was calved July 20, 1917, and was sired by Sultan 3rd, his dam was Fairview Violet. Only back three generations and his ancestors were imported stock and A. Cruickshank, the old Shorthorn wizard, bred most of them.

I certainly spent a pleasant afternoon at Waveland Stock Farm looking over the cattle, buildings, silos, and fertile fields. Mr. and Mrs. Oldsen are nicely located in a beautiful home and are good entertainers. If in the vicinity of the Oldsen farm, and interested in good cattle, I advise you to make the farm a visit, I know you will find much to admire.

Coon Rapids Enterprise: The Enterprise is reminded of the anomaly, that while most everybody is turning their back yards into war gardens and the farmers doing intensive farming, there are several farms in the vicinity of Coon Rapids, owned by non-residents, which are lying idle, growing up in weeds. Why, is a question. It is strange that with the high price of farm products and also high farm rentals, that good land in Iowa could possibly be idle. The county or state should take possession of such lands, lease them to farmers and appropriate the profits.

Carroll Times: The silo campaign of last week conducted by County Agent Coupe under the direction of Iowa State college at the request of the government, resulted in ten interesting meetings being held in the county and awakened a lively interest on the part of the farmers in silo building. Eight meetings were held on farms where silos are now in use, while two of Lanesboro and Halbur. In all, 134 farmers were reached by these meetings. During the campaign it was learned that about 25 new silos

are in course of construction in the county this year, and that others are being planned as a result of the campaign. The county agent is highly pleased at the prospect, as he states that he is sure that with the large amount of live stock in this county and the short pastures everyone of them will prove an excellent investment.

The Burlington Gazette says that "Orville Wright is right; no Hun air raid would scare the United States."

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