

Rossland farms and dairies fewer than there used to be

By HARRY PEPPER

If you travel straight south of Rossland on the road towards Drake's Dairy you come to a turnoff which leads to a little farm that was also a dairy at one time.

The house and buildings nestle about halfway up a narrow valley between two mountains, the valley widens after you pass the buildings and cross the little creek just beyond. It could certainly be called an idyllic setting.

The young couple who own it are Neal and Bonnie Snyders who were at one time part-owners of the Allan Hotel. The farm where they now live, originally was 160 acres, but they sold all but 40 acres and are into the hog business.

Recently when I was there, the barn housed something like 30 or 40 pigs, from large sows, one with a large litter of wee ones, medium-sized ones suitable for breeding, and some in between.

At one time they had about 20 breeding stock but Neal wants to get his herd down to a more manageable size, like about six or eight, he is also getting started into cattle to utilize his fairly extensive pasture. He has two young cows at present.

When he first moved there, he had the government inspectors out to pass his place for a piggery. Both provincial and federal authorities passed on his premises, but he had to make certain adjustments to satisfy the local board of health when they made their inspection. One requirement was to re-route the creek which flows through his property, not exactly an easy task.

Neal has a real thing about farming around the Rossland area, he feels that we would all benefit from having more places around



Neal Snyders says that pigs have personalities that closely resemble human ones, and he and his wife Bonnie have favorites among their small herd.

like his. He said that veterinary Dr. Peter Morgenthaler told him that he serviced 27 dairies in the district when he first arrived here. Today there are just three left in the entire district.

Today he sells his meat to a local butcher but

much difference between the two, just add an "n" on to the end of "bar", some of the denizens you meet in one place would be right at home in the other."

While there, Neal and Bonnie led me to his upper pasture area. From an elevated area we got what is



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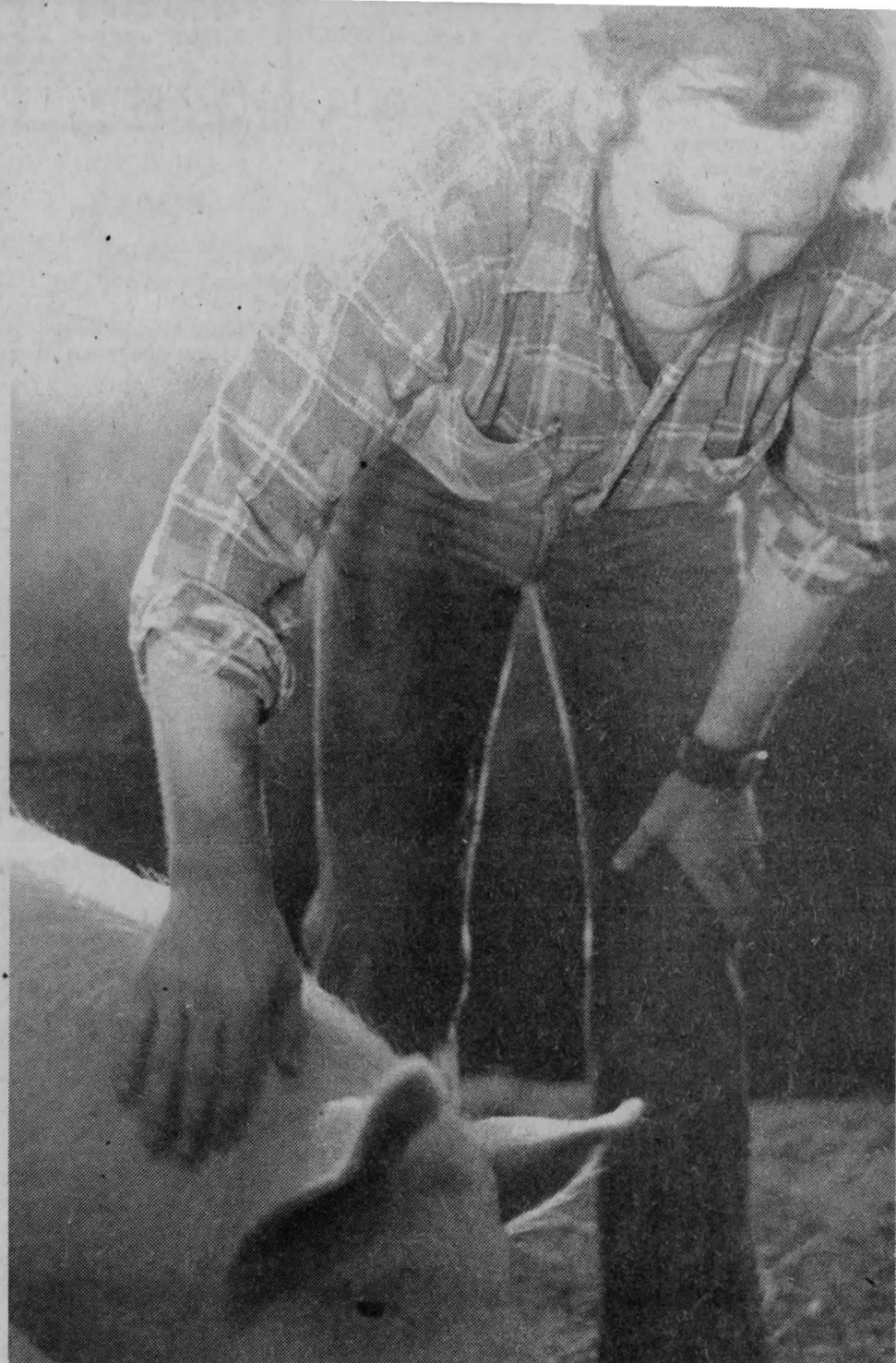
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Who says that pigs are ugly?

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Today he sells his meat to a local butcher but restrictions call for him to ship it to the coast, and then the local butcher buys it. It would seem like a lot of bureaucracy is involved in the hog business too.

I smiled at a remark from Neal when he compared his former business in the hotel to his present one. Said Neal, "I find that there is not too

much difference between the two, just add an "n" on to the end of "bar", some of the denizens you meet in one place would be right at home in the other."

While there, Neal and Bonnie led me to his upper pasture area. From an elevated area we got what is one of the most complete views of Rossland that one can get from any point around the city.

With their enthusiasm for what they have taken on, one can imagine that during future years a pretty nice little farm and home will result from their combined efforts.



Call this the 'Kevin Connection.' Kevin VanKalkeran (left) and Kevin Zakall are members of the Rossland Warriors this season, a team that currently holds down third place in the Kootenay International

Hockey League. The pair were standouts with the South Okanagan Midget Reps last year. Rossland trails second place Castlegar by just four points in the K.I.H.L. Western Division standings.