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"IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE"

Togetherhness | Helpfulness | Friendliness

*We Remember
We Celebrate
We Believe*

A Rescue Mission

"Carey's Hillside Dairy"
Transforms to
"Trinity Hillside Acres"



As part of their mission, Jon and Sue Bornemann happily open their Couillardville farm to animals with little opportunity for life.

Generations of the Carey family built a large, beautiful and successful dairy operation known in the area as "Carey's Hillside Dairy."

When Ron Carey shut down his dairy operation and ultimately retired from farming he decided it was time to turn the property to someone new. In the summer of 2021, the deal was done and the Bornemanns assumed ownership of Carey's Hillside Dairy, renaming it "Trinity Hillside Acres."

Jon explains "The 'Trinity' part refers to our strong belief in God, the 'Hillside' part to its historic name, and since we're not a dairy yet, we changed that to 'Acres'."

Those familiar with the miles of verdant land surrounding the village of Couillardville already understand why it lured so many farming families over the decades. Dairying was an especially attractive pursuit thanks to the abundant acreage available for both grazing and raising feed grains.

As the economics of farming changed, so did Couillardville. Medium-sized farms that once supported large families have consolidated into larger and larger enterprises. Many farms with familiar names reaching far

back into local history have disappeared.

Carey's Hillside Dairy, just south of the Oconto River Bridge on County Highway J, is one of them. But it's a story with a surprising twist.

When Linda and Ron Carey decided to retire a few years ago, they were delighted to find a couple from the Town of Chase, just north of Green Bay, to take over. The Careys had sold most of the farmland leaving the farmhouse, buildings and the immediate surrounding acreage. It became not a dairy farm but a refuge for rescue animals!

Sue and Jon Bornemann had been searching for an affordable solution to their growing animal rescue activities at their home in a newer Chase subdivision.

“I always loved the idea of having a farm,” Sue says. “It’s the calm, the peace, the capacity to create your own world.”

Jon fully agrees. “I always wanted to be in the county where it’s quiet and where you have your own life.”



Sue with “Red” the sweetest hen she has ever had

That idea became urgent when the Bornemann’s began bringing rescue animals home, starting with Carmine, a rooster with a big personality. He was soon followed by two Emden geese they named Laverne and Shirley. As the backyard menagerie continued to grow, especially with the addition of several dogs to the

mix – including Tillie, a Yorkshire terrier, so did the complaints from nearby neighbors. Sue said they even consider moving the entire operation to their cottage near Crivitz, but at only three acres it also wasn’t up to the challenge.

Making the move

Clearly, a larger, more secluded property was the obvious solution. And Carey’s Hillside Dairy provided the perfect answer. A broker soon introduced them to Couillardville and the Carey farm.

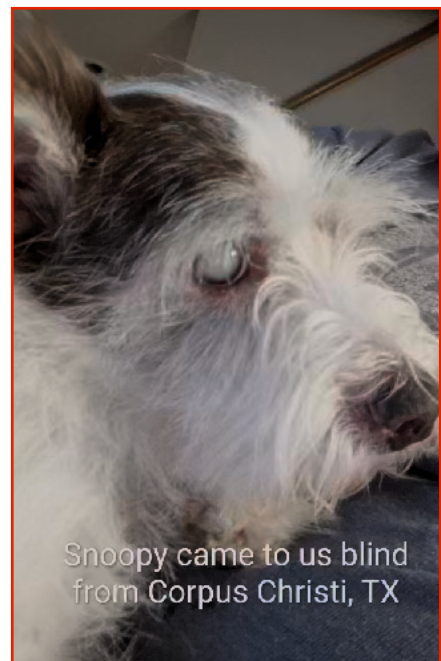
“We had so much fun going through the property,” recalls Sue. “Just the old-fashioned way the farmhouse is built with hand-hewn logs that are actually the beams holding everything up. And when we saw the barn which was begun in 1877, we just about flipped. It brought me back to my childhood when I used to visit my aunt and uncle’s place in the Coleman area and play with my cousins swinging from the rafters and jumping into the hay mounds.”

“There’s things that you look for when going to see a house,” said Jon. “And this place hit all



Geese discarded by original owners

the boxes with stuff we hadn’t even thought of, such as a stream running through the property so the animals always have fresh water. Little things like that are just wonderful!”



Snoopy came to us blind from Corpus Christi, TX



Sally, our rescue lamb Linus needed a friend

Heeding the call

The Bornemanns found their way to animal rescues after she retired from a distinguished nursing career and he from a 20-year career in law enforcement, plus an earlier seven years on active duty in the Army, and service in the National Guard that continues today.

Sue’s professional career was shortened by a rare neurological disorder that forced her retirement. During her convalescence, the doctors discovered a Stage I renal cancer that was successfully treated thanks to its early discovery. “So my neurological condition really wound up saving my life!” she says.

Their expanding commitment to rescue dogs, begun by Tillie the Terrier, led to additional efforts to save “puppy mill moms”—female dogs retired from commercial breeding operations facing immediate euthanasia.

“We decided to give these dogs a permanent retirement home,” Jon explains, “a decision directly leading to everything that came next.”

Their intense commitment to rescue animals aside, Sue and Jon also continue to pay

homage to the tradition of their farm, proudly hosting a Scottish Highland bull and heifer, as well as a Jersey milk cow, not to mention a breeding pair of pigs, and other assorted farm denizens—cats, lambs, dogs, chickens, ducks, and geese. While mostly “rescues,” their growing reputation for also taking in strays led to people showing up at their door with abandon kittens and such. They started the farm by rescuing two horses from kill pens in Oklahoma and most recently a mare and foal from the fires in New Mexico .

a century. Despite the distractions of modern technologies, some of the old amusements are the best of all and create memories that last a lifetime.



Cecily also has a Navajo brand



The Bornemanns have five children and a bonus daughter, plus six grandchildren. They absolutely love their frequent visits to the farm where they enjoy talking with the animals, doing pony rides, driving the tractor, getting dirty and going home tired. They are likely doing what Couillardville youngsters have been doing for



Jon with the help of grandkids



Major Jon Bornemann with five of their six grandkids on Memorial Day 2026



Jon with Simon. Simple joys.

and Heather came over to help. Eileen and Pete Gossen and Bill Gallagher, the undertaker from Oconto, also came and we got the cow back in. Everybody was hot and sweaty by the end, but we all got to know each other better by helping each other out.”

Jon observes, “This probably goes for everybody in the neighborhood, anytime there’s a need or question, or somebody sees something that we’ve done at the farm that interests them, they should stop by and talk to us. We’ll show them how we do things and if they do things differently, we might learn something from each other. It’s neat to get to see other people’s operation and learn how they do things that could improve on our practices.”

Couillard Family

New neighbors, new friends

It’s clear that Sue and Jon have found a permanent home in Couillardville and have great expectations for the community and its residents.

Jon says, “Getting to know each other and working together to share chores and knowledge of how to do things better helps everyone.”

“If a cow gets loose, it is nice to have your neighbor’s number and warn them that your cow is coming into their yard,” chuckles Sue. “We played ‘cattle-thenics’ a few summers ago and I called Elijah Benke up the road. He happened to be in Madison that day but called the Jahnkes

Hope and Fears

“My hope is that Couillardville stays just this kind of community where people get to know and help each other,” says Sue. “My greatest fear would be property being sold off and more subdivisions going in. We don’t have much control over that, but Jerry Peters knows that if he decides to sell next door, we’ll try to save up enough money to buy it.”



Callie, the kitty found by the bridge and directed to our home by a neighbor.



Sue and Little Ricky