

The Dairy Barn on Central Louisiana State Hospital grounds has served as a hilltop landmark all my life. As a young child, I passed by daily and always delighted in seeing the distinctive black and white Holstein cows grazing in the bowl-shaped pasture below the highway. But most of all, I was fascinated to see the cows passing underneath the highway tunnel on the long trek up the hill to be milked twice daily. They would stand patiently in a herd awaiting a turn to enter the milking parlor and then make a return trip down to the pasture again.

After the herd was sadly disbursed and flooding of the pasture to create Lake Buhlow, my sisters and I decided to ride our horses to the lake for a swim on horseback. First we treated ourselves to a stop at the truck weighing station nearby where we carefully stood each horse on the large scale. My horse, Buck, registered twelve hundred pounds!

We continued past the barn to the lake water inlet where the old tunnel had been located. Unsaddling the horses, we swam them back and forth. When we got to the shore, the horses delighted in rolling in the sand, seeming to have as much fun as we did. On our return home, we traveled through nearby Sandy Canyon, now the location of Pineville High Stadium.

So in this small area, I have lots of fond remembrances to this day. I am pleased that many are working to restore this valuable landmark and creating new future memories.

Thank you to those responsible for hanging the massive Christmas wreath on the barn hayloft doors. It brings a smile to my face when driving by. Somehow it represents a caring acknowledgment of a proud structure worthy of preservation.

Nona Yeager
November 2016