

**NEW MEXICO
FARM & RANCH
HERITAGE
MUSEUM**

**ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
INTERVIEW ABSTRACT**

CONSULTANT: Edward De Ruyter

DATE OF BIRTH: January 30, 1945 GENDER: Male

DATE(S) OF INTERVIEW: August 17, 2001

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: De Ruyter residence

INTERVIEWER: Ron Nelson

SOURCE OF INTERVIEW: NMF&RHM OTHER

TRANSCRIBED: Yes: September 20, 2001

NUMBER OF TAPES: One

ABTRACTOR: Aileen Platt

DATE ABSTRACTED: September 20, 2001

QUALITY OF RECORDING (SPECIFY): Good

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Mr. De Ruyter describes how he came to be in the dairy business in New Mexico, how he grew the business, operations during the year and speculation on the future.

DATE RANGE: 1973- 2001

ABSTRACT (IMPORTANT TOPICS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

TAPE ONE, SIDE A:

The interview begins with a discussion of how DeRuyter acquired his first and subsequent dairies. Why he milks Holsteins instead of other breeds of milk cows, and the types of feed given to the cows is discussed, as well as water sources, water uses, and the volume of water needed to run a dairy. There is an indepth discussion regarding the number of cows that are dept at the dairy, how often the cows are milked, and milk production per cow. DeRuyter says that dairymen from California have settled into the area.

Employees, shift schedules, disease prevention, and the changes DeRuyter has seen in the dairy industry in his lifetime are discussed. He discusses the future of dairying, the resurgence in the demand for butter, and other environmental issues.

TAPE ONE, SIDE B: Blank?