



# Brijbasi Spirit

Weekly Journal of

## *New Vrindaban*

### COMMUNITY PROJECT OF ISKCON

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS INC.

FOUNDER — ACARYA, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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HARE KRSNA, HARE KRSNA, KRSNA KRSNA, HARE HARE / HARE RAMA, HARE RAMA, RAMA RAMA, HARE HARE

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This week The Brijabasi Spirit has all kinds of nectarean items. We have the second and final installment of the BTG reprint that portrays New Vrindaban a few years ago and includes a number of letters from Srila Prabhupada on the development of New Vrindaban. Also there is nectar from His Holiness Brahmananda Swami about what's going on in India with ISKCON and His Divine Grace. Plus all the other myriad articles and stories by the Prabhus here in New Vrindaban.

Hope this issue meets all the Brijabasis in their best serving mood and full Krsna Consciousness.

Your eternal servants,  
the staff

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DEAR GODBROTHERS,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All Glories to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada! All Glories to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Candra and to His Holiness Kirtanananda Maharaja, who is showing us by his superexcellent example how to perform devotional service.

#### VAISNAVA CALENDAR

Dec. 25, Wed. : Moksada-ekadasi (fasting from grains and beans)  
Dec. 26, Thur.: SR. 6:20. Ekadasi-parana-- before 9:51 am (breaking the Ekadasi fast)

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# NEW VRINDABAN PERSPECTIVE

The second and final part to NEW VRINDAVANA: THE WEST'S FIRST KRSNA CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY by Hayagriva dasa Adhikari.

From the beginning, as Srila Prabhupada suggested, the program at New Vrindavana is geared to enable the student to progress along the path of devotional service; so there is work going on all the time. And the program is sufficiently diversified to accomodate a variety of talents, dovetailing them in Krsna's service.

As in the many transcendentalist farms in 19th century America, the concept of life at New Vrindavana is that of plain living and high thinking.

## NOT MUCH MODERNIZED

"Vrindavana does not require to be modernized because Krsna's Vrindavana is a transcendental village. They completely depend on nature's beauty and nature's protection. The community in which Krsna preferred to belong was the vaisya (agricultural) community because Nanda Maharaja happened to be a vaisya king, or landholder, and his main business was cow protection. It is understood that he had 900,000 cows, and Krsna and Balarama used to take charge of them along with His many cowherd boy friends. Every day, in the morning, He used to go out with His friends and cows into the pasturing grounds. So, if you seriously want to convert this new spot into New Vrindavana, I shall advise you not to make it very much modernized. But as you are American boys, you must make it just suitable to your minimum needs. Nor should you make it too much luxurious as generally Europeans and Americans are accustomed. Better to live there without modern amenities and to live a natural healthy life for executing Krsna consciousness. It may be an ideal village where the residents will have plain living and high thinking. For plain living we must have sufficient land for raising crops, and pasturing grounds for the cows. If there are sufficient grains and production of milk, then the whole economic problem is

solved. You do not require any machines, cinema, hotels, slaughterhouses, brothels, night-clubs--all these modern amenities. People in the spell of maya are trying to squeeze out gross pleasure from the senses, which is not possible to derive to our heart's content. Therefore we are confused and baffled in our attempt to eschew eternal pleasure from gross matter. Actually, joyful life is on the spiritual platform; therefore we should try to save our valuable time from material activities and engage them in Krsna consciousness. But at the same time, because we have to keep our body and soul together to execute our mission, we must have sufficient (not extravagant) food to eat, and that will be supplied by grains, fruits and milk.

"The difficulty is that the people in this country want to continue their practice of sense gratification, and at the same time they want to become transcendently (spiritually) advanced. This is quite contradictory. One can advance in transcendental life by the process of negating the general practice of materialistic life. The exact adjustment is in Vaisnava philosophy, which is called yukta-vairagya. This means that we should simply accept the bare necessities of our material part of life, and try at the same time for spiritual advancement. This should be the motto of New Vrindavana, if you at all develop it to the perfectional stage."

(Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 6/14/68)

Regarding New Vrindavana's cow protection program, Srila Prabhupada writes:

"We must have sufficient pasturing ground to feed the animals all year. We have to maintain the animals throughout their lives. We must not make any program for selling them to the slaughterhouses. That is the way of cow protection. Krsna by His practical example taught us to give all protection to the cows, and that should be the main business of New Vrindavana. Vrindavana is also known as Gokula. Go means cows, and kula means congregation. Therefore the special



feature of New Vrndavana will be cow protection, and by doing so, we shall not be the losers. In India, of course, a cow is protected, and the cowherdsmen derive sufficient profit by such protection. Cow dung is used for fuel. Cow dung dried in the sunshine is kept in stock for utilization as fuel in the villages. They get wheat and other cereals produced from the field. There is milk and vegetables, and the fuel is cow dung, and thus they are self-sufficient, independent, in every village. There are hand weavers for the cloth. And the country oil-mill (consisting of a bull walking in a circle around two big grinding stones, attached with yoke) grinds the oil seeds into oil. The whole idea is that people residing in New Vrndavana may not have to search for work outside. Arrangements should be such that the residents will be self-satisfied. That will make an ideal asrama. I do not know whether these ideals can be given practical shape, but I think that people may be happy in any place with land and cows without endeavoring for so-called amenities of modern life--which simply increase anxieties for maintenance and proper equipment. The less we are anxious for maintaining our body and soul together, the more we become favorable for advancing in Krsna consciousness." (Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 6/14/68)

### CONSTRUCTING TEMPLES

As for the development of buildings, Srila Prabhupada has given specific instructions for temples and living quarters. At present New Vrndavana includes 133 acres (more land will be available in the future) of pasture, forest, ponds, waterfalls, mountains and streams, so there are varied settings for numerous buildings. Srila Prabhupada advises:

"Concentrate on one temple, and then we shall extend one after another. Immediately the scheme should be to have a temple in the center and residential quarters for the brahmacaris or grhasthas surrounding it. Let us go ahead with that plan at first.

"Also you will be pleased to note that I've asked Goursundar to make a layout of the whole land, and I shall place seven different temples in different situations, as prototype of Vrndavana. There will be

seven principle temples, namely, Govinda, Gopinatha, Madana-Mohana, Syamasundara, Radha-Ramana, Radha-Damodara, and Gokulananda. Of course in Vrndavana there are about, more or less, big and small, 5,000 temples, that is a far distant scheme. But immediately we shall take up constructing at least seven temples in different places, meadows and hills. So I am trying to make a plan out of the description of the plot of our land. And the hilly portions may be named Govardhana. On Govardhana-side, the pasturing grounds for the cows may be allotted."

(Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 8/23/68)

New Vrndavana is a means for the sincere participants to please the Spiritual Master by progress in Krsna consciousness, and when the Spiritual Master is pleased, Lord Krsna is pleased. Srila Prabhupada writes:

"Now we can work with great enthusiasm for constructing a New Vrndavana in the United States of America. People who came from Europe to this part of the world named so many new provinces, just like New England, New Amsterdam, New York, so I also came to this part of the world to preach Krsna consciousness, and by His grace and by your endeavor, New Vrndavana is being constructed. That is my great happiness. Our sincere endeavor in the service of the Lord, and the Lords's assistants, to make our progressive march successful, are two important things to be followed in the spiritual advancement of life. I think it was Krsna's desire that this New Vrndavana scheme should be taken up by us, and now He has given us a great opportunity to serve Him in this scheme. So let us do it sincerely, and all other help will come automatically. I am very glad to notice in Kirtanananda's letter that he has realized more and more that the function of New Vrndavana is nothing physical or bodily, but purely spiritual and for the glorification of the supreme Lord, Sri Hari. If we actually keep this view before us, certainly we shall be successful in our progressive march."

(Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 8/23/68)

Another important project in New Vrndavana is the development of a school, grades one through twelve, where children from the urban centers can come to learn reading, writing, mathematics, the basic sciences and Krsna consciousness. At present children are being individually tutored, and official

State approval is impending the construction of a schoolhouse to meet building regulations. "So you have now taken charge of the sunrise of New Vrndavana," Srila Prabhupada writes. "Our program there is to construct seven temples. One, Rupanuga Vidyapatha, is to be a school for educating brahmanas and Vaisnavas. We have enough technological and other types of educational institutions; there are none where actual brahmanas and Vaisnavas are produced. So we will have to establish an educational institution for that purpose in New Vrndavana." (Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 1/12/68)

As soon as buildings are constructed, the school program can be swiftly executed; "I am encouraged to know that you are very enthusiastic about our projects for developing New Vrndavana. So far as the school goes, we have many qualified teachers, and they are all enthusiastic about going there and beginning their teaching work. The only thing is that there is as of yet no place to accomodate these teachers. So as soon as these facilities are constructed, we can at once start at full force in setting up our Krsna consciousness school program." (Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 12/25/69)

In May and June, 1969, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada stayed in New Vrndavana for six weeks and gave specific directions for construction and general management. After his visit, he wrote: "I am always thinking of your New Vrndavana. The first thing I find is the taste of the milk. The milk which we are taking here is not at all comparable with New Vrndavana milk. Anyway, there must be a gulf of difference between city life and country life. As poet Cowper said, 'Country is made by God, and city is made by man.' Therefore my special request is that you should try to maintain as many cows as possible in your New Vrndavana. Regarding duties, the men should be engaged in producing vegetables, tilling the field, taking care of the animals, house construction, etc., and the women shall do the indoor activities: taking care of the children, keeping the temple and kitchen very clean, cooking and churning butter. If they cooperate with the boys, then surely very quickly New Vrndavana will develop as nicely as possible." (Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 6/24/69)

In August, 1970, New Vrndavana held its first annual Janmastami celebration, a three day celebration of Sri Krsna's birth, and hundreds of devotees from as far away as Australia attended. Srila Prabhupada, who was in India at the time, sent a Janmastami message, exhorting those interested in transcendental communal living to complete developing New Vrndavana into a village "one mile long and one mile wide." "Regarding Janmastami arrangement, it is going on nicely, and that is very encouraging. We have started New Vrndavana in America, and it must be finished in the American way. In Vrndavana there are so many temples, they say 5,000, or in Vrndavana every home, every cottage is a temple. As far as possible, try to develop New Vrndavana on this standard. In the coming meeting of Janmastami, amongst other business you must have a resolution to finish the developement of New Vrndavana in the right sense of the term." (Srila Prabhupada, Letter, 8/20/70)

Whoever is interested in helping--in whatever way--with this challenging project is requested to write: President, New Vrndavana, R.D. 1, Moundsville, West Virginia 26041.

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jivanchavo bhagavatanghri-renum  
na jatu martyo' bhilabheta yas tu  
sri visnu padya manu jas tulasyah  
sva san chavo yas tu na veda gandham

Translation: The person who has not at any time received the dust of the feet of a pure devotee of the Lord upon his head is certainly a dead body. And the person who has never experienced the flavor of the tulasi leaves from the lotus feet of the Lord is a dead body, although breathing. (SB 2:3:23)

Every day the caranamrtam offered to Srila Prabhupada has tulasi leaves from the Lotus Feet of Vrndavana Candra as well as Radha Kunda water. Tulasi leaves from the Lotus Feet of Vrndavana Nath and Radha Kunda water are also in the caranamrtam at Vrindaban Farm. Hari Bol!

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## WOOD

First off let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus-like feet of Romharsan dasa and his rough and tough wood crew, including Bhavisiyat dasa, and Uttama dasa, at Bahulaban, and Gadai dasa, Krspamaya dasa and Bhakta Rick at Vrindaban. Certainly they are the "burning core" of New Vrindaban community, without whom there would be no offerings for the Deities, or warm devotees to serve Them. Romharsan was asked by the editor if he had his In the Woods yet, and our wood dept. supervisor and servant extradinaire simply said, "You'll just have to tell them I'm busy cuttin' wood."

A plan is being considered to haul dead wood from the gulleys and other 'inaccessible' areas, by using a horse or ox-drawn wagon and a gas-powered winch. This would necessitate having logging roads built along and through these areas. A forest ranger is being contacted for advice on making logging roads through the gullies, etc. Said Kirtanananda Swami, "I'd like to set up a road between Vrindaban and Guruban."

At this time all the dead locust has been used up and the cherry may last for 2 winters. The problem we are having right now is the availability of dead, dried out wood. Romharsan was thinking that we should start thinking about replanting, but Kirtanananda Maharaja said that you can't replant until you've thinned out the permanent woodland areas. Right now our objective is to clear as much land as possible for crops and pastures. Between 300 and 400 acres will be cleared in the next 4 to 5 years. Samba dasa and his bulldozer has already knocked down enough timber to last us a few years, and it just needs a summer to dry. So it is obvious that our land clearing will far exceed our wood demand in the next few years.

Kirtanananda Maharaja explained that this year we'll simply have to go out and collect whatever wood we can--this will be the last year that such a haphazard arrangement will have to be made. After this winter there will be more than enough downed timber for the hungry wood stoves and boilers of New Vrindaban. This year we simply

have to depend on Krsna to protect us.

Maharaja related how during the first year he was here, at Vrindaban, it was during the Christmas season, that he was left all alone here--everyone else had left. There was no firewood and not only that but a big snowstorm had come. He thought, "What am I going to do now?" The next morning someone came and the first thing he said was, "I want to go out and get some firewood." Said Maharaja: "I just knew that it was Krsna providing."

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## NANDAGRAM

For the past few months, Ajeya dasa Brahmachari has been taking care of the cows at Nandagram farm. Every day Ajeya makes the trek from Vrindaban to Nandagram, and after finishing his service there, proceeds to Bahulaban or comes back to Vrindaban, depending on what else needs to be done, usually in the way of construction.

Presently there are 4 mothers, 12 heifers, and 4 oxen staying at Nandagram dhama. While there, Ajeya rounds the cows up, ties up the oxen to discourage disagreements during feeding time, carries and puts out the grain, and puts out the hay. He also has built 8 feeder bins, which need constant maintenance due to the exuberant nature of the young heifers. He remarked that this was very nectarean service that was certainly fixing him up in devotional attitude.

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## JARASANDHA DHAMA OCCUPIED

Vahna dasa and his wife, Hladini devi dasi, have finally moved into their home, Jarasandha dhama (so-named because it is a pre-fab structure that was delivered in two parts and joined together). Work still remains to be done on it, especially on the basement.

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## CONSTRUCTION

This last week Somadas dasa has been working by himself at the marble shop. He's building tables for the marble polisher and 10 horsepower marble-cutting saw.

These tables will be huge--the one for the polisher measuring 6' x 10' and for the saw measuring 6' x 13'! While polishing and cutting the marble, a constant stream of water is required so the tables will also have drains and hollowed-out pits under them. These pits will catch the run-off water and marble dust. The marble dust will settle out and such items as ceramics, pottery, etc. can be made out of it.

Meanwhile, Gostavihari dasa, Tejamaya dasa and Tapanacarya dasa Prabhus are finishing up the roofing and putting plastic over the windows at Srila Prabhupada's Palace. Also Gostavihari is putting in plumbing at Madhuban temple. The temple has an outside well, but no running water inside.

Sunday (today) members of the construction crew will put back the beds and stove in Kirtanananda Maharaja's cabin at Vrindaban, so the brahmacaris will once again be able to relish his association--perhaps this evening?

Work on Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Nath's new marble altar has temporarily been halted until the other services are gotten organized and prepared for properly.

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### SRIMAN ADI PATI SURVEYING NEW VRINDABAN

His Grace Adi Pati dasa Adhikari, long-time New Vrindaban resident, has been engaged by Kirtanananda Maharaja to survey the boundaries of all of New Vrindaban's land. After doing this he is to mark the boundary lines out by placing white-painted symbols on trees. This last week, Friday, Vrindaban Farm had the chance to relish Adi Vaisnavabrahmnical association. Adi also collected 10 lbs. of pure honey from a nearby honey bee hive for the pleasure of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Nath.

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## WHEAT STORY

Wheat is known as the staple grain in the diets of the inhabitants of North America, and in this respect New Vrindaban is no exception. Every day the Deities are offered so many nice preparations, many of which are made from whole wheat flour, and the devotees partake of these remnants. Oftentimes the devotee cereal in the morning is rolled wheat, and every day the devotees eat the wonderful diet of dahl (soup) and capatis made from whole wheat flour.

Currently we have 20 barrels full of "wheat berries", the grain from which the whole wheat flour is ground in our grist mill. Parambrahma dasa Brahmachari grinds approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  barrels of the whole wheat grain into flour in a week. This means our supply should last us for more than 4 months. Our own whole wheat crop won't mature until next summer, from which time New Vrindaban will subsist on its own whole wheat, another step towards self-sufficiency.

Also for the time being we are no longer buying white flour. All of the Deity preparations that require white flour will be made with whole wheat that has been finely sifted. This fine sifting takes a large amount of the hull and bran out--it won't be real white, but it will be nice.

One other thing in the wheat department is the growing of wheat sprouts. These wheat sprouts, grown by Bhakta Carlos, take only 3 to 5 days to germinate, at which time they are harvested, offered, and served to the devotees at lunch prasadam. These wheat sprouts, grown from the 'wheat berries', are high in vitamins C & E and are very healthy, especially for this time of the cold winter season.

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# OCEAN OF NECTAR

The following letter is from a newsletter in which His Holiness Brahmananda Swami relates much of the nectar happening in India.

25/10/74

## MAYAPUR

Here at Sridham Mayapur Srila Prabhupada gave further impetus to the main temple project. It will be a 30 story skyscraper temple based on the following verse of Brahma Samhita: "goloka-namni nija-dhamni tale ca tasya devi-mahesa-hari-dhamasu tesu tesu / te te prabhava-nicaya vihitas ca yesu govindam adbh-purusam tam aham bhajami" 5:43.

There will be the main temple that will extend upwards the full 30 stories, as well as different levels depicted in doll tableaux, first the material world, devi dham; then mahesh daham, then vaikuntha dham, and finally goloka vrindaban. Already a competent engineering firm in Calcutta, which is the only firm in India to use an IBM computer in its calculations, has been contacted for making the foundation. "It will not be difficult," assured Srila Prabhupada. He further revealed, "I have named this temple Sri Mayapur Chandradoya Mandir, the Rising Moon of Mayapur. Now make it rise, bigger and bigger until it becomes the full moon. And this moonshine will be spread all over the world. All over India they will come to see. From all over the world they will come...Krsna will supply the money. Don't bother. The money will come either locally or from USA."

When informed that the Government here will pay 2/3 of the cost for road and bridge development if 1/3 is put up locally, Prabhupada said we should immediately inform them that he will put up 1 crore (Dollars 1 million), and they can give 2 crores to develop the entire Mayapur area. He wants roads, parks, gardens, like the descriptions of Dwaraka in the KRSNA BOOK. Prabhupada personally surveyed the sites for a large lake as well as the second Residential building. He called for a wall with a large front gate to be built. Work on a spacious kitchen complex near the Bhaktisiddhanta Road is progressing, but Prabhupada ordered that a second story should be added so that women and householders can live there and that the kitchen operation in the present Residential building be moved there so that additional guest rooms can be added in the present kitchen and women's quarters. A Dollar 25,000.00 Prasadam Distribution Pavillion attached to the new kitchen complex will also be built. Gargamuni Swami has pledged half the cost, and Hansadutta Prabhu has sent Dollars 4,000.00 from Germany and promises more. 1,000 people will be able to be served prasad at one sitting.

Turning to philosophy, Prabhupada had some things to say about his godbrothers. "He is just sitting on Caitanya Mahaprabhu's birthplace waiting for people to come and give money. He has taken that now this is his own hereditary property. He has taken it that he and Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur were associated together in an enterprise, and now that the senior partner is gone, it is his property.

"We should make a scheme so that everybody will come here and not there. We are not competing with Yoga Pith but with the proprietor of Yoga Pith. Actually the birthplace of the Lord is not as important as the place of His activities. Kurukshetra is more important than Mathura, because the whole world knows the Bhagavad-gita. It is because of the activities of the Lord that people take interest in His birthplace. The "karma" is more important than the "janma." Even when Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu was present people went to see him at Jagannath Puri, but they did not come to His

BIRTHPLACE, BECAUSE His activity was more important than His birthplace. To His birthplace we offer our namaskars, but from the place of His activities we get inspiration. And, what was the Lord's activity at Puri? It was preaching. Our temple must be active with preaching and not a dead place."

It was pointed out to Srila Prabhupada that of all the temples in Mayapur our Mangala Arotrika at 4:15 a.m. is the first of the day and that at Caitanya Math it is suspected to take place after sunrise. When asked if he wanted to see the new temple for Bhaktivinode Thakur that has been constructed near the entrance at Yoga Pith, Prabhupada replied, "I do not want to see how he has made Bhaktivinode Thakur the gatekeeper."

Within our movement Mayapur temple is the first. "Nowhere do we have such a nice temple in such an open place," Prabhupada remarked one morning on a walk. In Bombay a shipment of 2,000 kilos of Australian ghee has been sent by Madhudvisa Maharaja. It will be sold to the Indian temples and used for the festival for the opening of the Vrindaban temple to be held after the Gour Purnima festival in April. For the Mayapur festival ghee will be supplied by each and every devotee who comes. Everyone should bring one tin of ghee. It can be brought for personal use.

I mentioned to His Divine Grace that air fares will be increased next year due to the petrol shortage, and this might affect the number of devotees who attend the Gour Purnima festival. Prabhupada asked me, "How much foodstuffs have you eaten in your whole life?" Quite a lot I had to admit, not understanding why he asked this question. "And what is the cost of all those foodstuffs?" That I could not say. "So, do you stop eating because there is so much cost? No. You go on eating and whatever is the cost, you spend. The principle is that if you have got money, then you can spend, but if you do not have money, then you cannot spend." So as many as possible should surely come if the money is there.

One evening Srila Prabhupada revealed what he said was his theory, that the moon is covered with ice, to explain why the moonshine is so pleasant. Moonrays are very soothing, and we find in many places descriptions of the pleasing effect of the moon, "hitai-pada-kamala, koti candra-susitala, ye chayaya jagat judaya." This is because the moon must be covered with ice.

In the morning after his lecture from the Prayers of Queen Kunti in Srimad Bhagavatam, Srila Prabhupada takes great pleasure in the kirtan with the devotees singing and dancing very nicely. The large temple area affords ample space for everyone to take part in the dancing, and as we move to and fro up and down the temple Prabhupada pelts us with handfuls of flowers. Afterwards he circumambulates the Deity house of Radha Madhava three times, each time ringing the temple bells three times and turning around completely in front of the Deities.

On October 30 Prabhupada will start for Bombay. There on Hare Krsna Land he will stay in a flat that has been newly constructed for him. There is one report that the land there is now worth one crore, whereas we paid only 14½ lakhs for it.

More in my next. I hope this meets you in good health.

Your servant,  
Brahmananda Swami  
Personal Secretary

N.B. Srila Prabhupada's tentative plans are to remain in India through the April temple opening in Vrindaban, and then start for the USA.



## MADHUBAN DIARY

Madhuban Temple--in spite of having so many mothers, real mothers, nurses, wives of brahmanas, and scriptures--has been missing one very important mother, Mother Cow. This week we have been blessed with the appearance of nine mothers. True, they are all heifers old enough to be bred, therefore none give milk--even so their presence in the pasture brings peace and serenity to the mind. The purity of their association is understandable only by experience. (Also the question, "Is ox dung as pure as cow dung?" need not trouble anyone here who wants to purify something. We have a ready supply of cow dung.)

So far we have 9 of them, one jersey Dudy, 4 holsteins and 4 Brown Swiss, and oh yes--the one with the ring in his nose--the one who stands outside the barn all day and doesn't go in unless all the mothers are down at the ghat. His name is Suka the ox. He was here before them and was rather attached to his privacy.

And even more exciting, there is a real, milk producing mother on her way. Mother Yasoda is now Vahna's cow. As soon as a shed is made she can come up and Mother Hladini is going to take care of her and vice versa.

All Glories to New Vrindaban Cow Protection!

P.S. In an old newspaper article we were given the distinction of being the only cow preserve in the Western world!

--- Mother Kunti

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## WHAT WATTAGE???

New Vrindaban community has set aside in storage somewhere a 30,000 watt generator. Gajendra dasa will be seeing to its re-procurement and preparation. Right now it is gasoline operated (fueled), but that can always be converted to being methane fueled, using methane produced from our cow dung. If we have a power failure, it will be used to run the silo and other emergency equipment.

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## MAINTENANCE

A lot of time was spent this week scheming and planning. The marble shop is nearing the final stages and all that huge machinery requires a lot of electrical power and equipment to drive it. Not only the marble shop and the rest of the new building, but the new greenhouse, the forge, and the shoe repair shop are all waiting for electrical power. How to supply all these demands efficiently and safely takes a bit of consideration. So it appears that we'll soon be expanding our electrical service to a 400 ampere capacity which will require a big heavy-duty main switch about half the size of a door and wires about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.

The old barn was partially rewired to accommodate 4 branch circuits, one for the new loafing shed which should be wired by Sunday. The lower part of the barn will also be rewired this week as at present it poses a serious fire and shock hazard.

Some preliminary plans were also made for the electrical installation at Srila Prabhupada's Palace; a couple of town runs were made for supplies, and some plans were made with the wood crew for setting up a portable winch for hauling in wood. Gradually all the hazardous and obsolete wiring is being replaced with new circuit and the unsightly mess of wires overhead between the house and the barn at Bahulaban is disappearing.

As far as water, heat, electricity and general maintenance are concerned, it was an easy week with no major problems. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Begging to remain as a lowly servant in Vrindaban.

--- Gajendra dasa

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## FROM THE SWAMI

After hearing of an incident of negligence on the part of one of the devotees, Kirtanananda Swami had this to say: We are not here to become farmers, etc., we are here to develop principles. It is not so much that this happened and it may cost us \$30 now, but in the future it may cost \$300 or \$3000. We must learn how to take care of Krsna's energy here or how will we take care of it in Krsna-Loka? So that means you can't go!

\* \* \*

## DEVOTION

The Brijabasi Spirit is beginning a regular column on devotional practices, giving them more illumination from scriptural reference for the benefit of our devotional service.

## EKADASI

In previous ages Ekadasi, which comes twice a month on the eleventh day of the moon, both waning and waxing, was a time when people would fast from all foodstuffs and would take no rest. However, Lord Caitanya, even from His childhood, introduced the system of fasting from grains and beans on Ekadasi. As a young child the Lord fell down at the feet of His Mother and beseeched her not to eat grains on Ekadasi day.

Srila Jiva Goswami, in his Bhakti-sandarbha, quotes from the Skanda Purana, which admonishes that a person who eats grain on Ekadasi becomes a murderer of his mother, father, brother and spiritual master, and even if he is elevated to a Vainkuntha planet in the Spiritual Sky, he falls down. It is strictly forbidden for one to accept any kind of grain on Ekadasi, even if it is maha prasadam that has been offered to Vismu.

Srila Rupa Goswami in his Bhakti-rasamrta-sindhu lists fasting on Ekadasi as one of the devotional principles to be carried out by Vaisnavas. It is also said in the Brahma-vaivarta Purana that one who observes fasting on Ekadasi day is freed from all kinds of reactions to sinful activities and advances in pious life. Srila Prabhupada, commenting on this in Nectar of Devotion, elaborates that the basic principle is not to fast, but to increase one's faith and love for Govinda, or Krsna. The real reason for fasting on Ekadasi is to minimize the demands of the body and to engage our time in the service of the Lord by chanting or performing similar service. The best thing to do on fasting days is to remember the pastimes of Govinda and to hear His holy name constantly. Srila Prabhupada also says that ecstatic love for Krsna is aroused on the days of Ekadasi, which are festive days in connection with Krsna, and on which the devotees remain fasting throughout the night and continually chant the glories of the Lord.

## LOCAL TSKP

Advaitacarya dasa, Madhava Gosha dasa and Kiranasa dasa and Mother Lakhima went out on Sankirtan last week for 2 days. They left New Vrindaban early Monday morning for Pittsburgh and came back late Tuesday night.

Upon arriving in Pittsburgh they first went to the temple to meet Kuladri dasa. He took the party downtown to distribute Srila Prabhupada's literature. Kuladri knew a man there who sold flowers on the street, and who let them store literature there.

Kiranasa commented that everyone was in such a mad rush for sense gratification, going so fast, that they had to endeavor greatly to get their attention.

On Thursday Madhava Gosha dasa and Bhakta Nick went out on Travelling Sankirtan in service to Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Vrndavana Candra. More on their activities next issue.

...and from Dharmatma dasa's TSKP...

Our morning schedule now is rise at 4:00 A.M. (we stay up late usually) after six hours sleep at the most. Shower and chant japa, a fifteen minute walk outside (to keep us awake), Bhagavatam class for over an hour, then arotrika. We have learned so far 35 Bhagavad-gita slokas, Sanskrit and English. Also we are sewing handkerchiefs for Their Lordships during class. We are so fortunate to be in Their service. You are so merciful Maharaja, engaging us rascals, who only desire to enjoy sense gratification. We beg to remain in your service eternally.

Your worthless servants,  
The Vrndavana Mothers  
and Dharmatma dasa  
N.V. TSKP

\* \* \*



# COW PROFILE

## MOTHER LAXSMI

Mother Laxsmi is one of the most distinctive looking cows in the herd. She is our only white Brown Swiss. When she first came here she had two elegant horns and looked just like one of the cows pictured in Srila Prabhupada's KRSNA BOOK. She's one of the original 4 Swiss heifers who came here early in 1973. Immediately captivated by her outward beauty, I considered her to be the nicest.

But--as we all know--things are not always what they externally appear to be. Quickly it was discovered that it was quite dangerous to try feeding her. In those days we didn't have the new inverted-V stalls and the cows in that way had to be approached from behind. As soon as you got close enough to her head, Laxsmi was capable of lodging a horn in your face with a quick jerk of the head. Actually there was no shelter other than Krsna. You could never tell when she might attempt to horn you. And when she made her move for you, you couldn't get away fast enough. Therefore one had to engage his mind in thoughts of the Supreme Lord, and then get away fast.

Everyone was figuring she would mellow out when she came fresh. The two premier milkers of the time--Devaki and Parambrahma--were selected as her steady milkers. But milking Laxsmi turned out to be quite an unwanted ordeal. She kicked viciously. Generally when a cow kicks, she'll knock over the bucket which is right in front of her feet. But Laxsmi wasn't concerned about the bucket--she kicked right out at the milker. Sometimes Laxsmi kicked Devaki in the chest, sometimes she'd get Parambrahma in the knee, sometimes she'd kick both back feet out together, upsetting both the milkers along with the bucket. Soon it was decided not to milk her sitting down. Devaki milker out of a half-crouch, ready to run at any moment. But it was still too much. Devaki handed her over to the exclusive care of Parambrahma.

He'd hardly been in New Vrindaban for 6 months, had been milking for only about 4 of them, and now he had to face the ornriest cow anywhere, not once, but twice daily. Parambrahma says that he would get up in the morning and be feeling fine for a moment or two--and then he'd remember he had to milk Laxsmi. All during the morning program the idea would hover in the back of his head. At breakfast his appetite would diminish. Finally he'd face his girl, intent on getting a bucket of milk out of her without getting it knocked over. She'd kick and Parambrahma would pick up the bucket and run. She'd throw a series of kicks so it would be impossible to milk at all. Parambrahma would try to quiet her down. He'd dodge, take a kick in the shin. The bucket would slowly fill after many interruptions. She'd settle down, the trouble would be almost over. Parambrahma would start to relax. Suddenly Laxsmi would jump, literally leap 4 feet over to her right, knocking over the bucket and sending Parambrahma flying across the room with a bruised head, milk splattering in all directions. Just another memory to make it harder to get up the next morning.

Of course now we know how to tie a cow's legs up so can't kick. But where would Parambrahma be now today without all that austerity?

Anyhow, Laxsmi put out 2 fine heifers in 2 years: Laksmana up at Madhuban and Laxsmiji over at Nandagram. She got her horns removed last winter, which has made a lot gentler mother out of her, and she has mellowed out a whole lot. Amburish and Ganendra never have to tie her legs up--she is content to stand still and give her milk to Krsna. See what a little devotional service does for someone?

When she's fresh, Laxsmi gives about 55 pounds (about 6-7 gallons) a day. She's nice and steady but I still wouldn't lean up against her, she doesn't like that. I just kind of let her do her service and stay out of her way. All she wants to see is me coming by with the grain.

-- Taru dasa

This is when Parambrahma became a man.

# COWS

"Requested by Lord Krsna, Uddhava immediately left on His chariot and carried the message to Gokula. He approached Vrndavana at sunset, when the cows were returning home from the pasturing ground. Uddhava and his chariot were covered by the dust raised by the hooves of the cows. He saw bulls running after the cows for mating; other cows, with overladen milkbags, were running after the calves to fill them with milk. Uddhava saw that the entire land of Vrndavana was filled with white cows and their calves. Cows were running here and there all over Gokula, and he could hear the sound of milking. Every residential house in Vrndavana was decorated for the worship of the sun god and the fire god for the reception of guests, cows, and brahmanas and demigods. Every home was illuminated with light and incense arranged for sanctification. All over Vrndavana there were nice flower garlands, flying birds and the humming sound of the bees. The lakes were filled with lotus flowers and with ducks and swans."

---KRSNA BOOK

It's been a little rough trying to see those fatty white milkbags on the cows this week. Due to insufficient bedding at the loafing shed, with all the cows sporting there, a great amount of cow dung and urine along with mud have combined to almost cover up their milkbags. Whenever the cows sit down in this they get a fresh coat sometimes  $3/4$  of an inch thick. Usually you wipe a cow down in about 2 or 3 minutes and then she's ready to milk. But with the cows being so filled with mud it would sometimes take 10 minutes to wipe some of them. So for a while now the loafing shed will undergo some reconditioning until it is properly ready for full time residence by the Surabhis. Yesterday a thick layer of used bedding from outside the old barn was taken over to the loafing shed and spread to make a thick base of bedding to help alleviate this. All the manure hay outside the old barn and tons of stover (corn stalks chopped up) will complete the floor. Then the haylage feed bunk must be raised. Also a rain gutter along the roof will be installed to decrease the mud water getting

in. Until all this is completed the cows are staying in the barn and we request that any spare moments you have, maybe you can come to the barn and brush a cow down real good.

With the help of a block and tackle Mother Rocana was up on her feet nearly every day this week. She would be pulled up by the hip with an implement brought over by Rex Woodruff. After 30 minutes it was taken off and she stood on her own power for usually another hour before she sat down. She appeared to be improving each day until Friday. We couldn't get her up at all then and it seemed that the reason might be that being on concrete, even though bedding is supplied, it was hard for her to raise, hitting her knees on the floor and slipping. So yesterday she was taken by sled over to the new barn being the first cow to officially take up residence there. Hopefully this surrounding will be more conducive to her improvement. Keep an eye on her when you pass by and please report anything strange you may see. She likes devotees to brush her and stroke her head also.

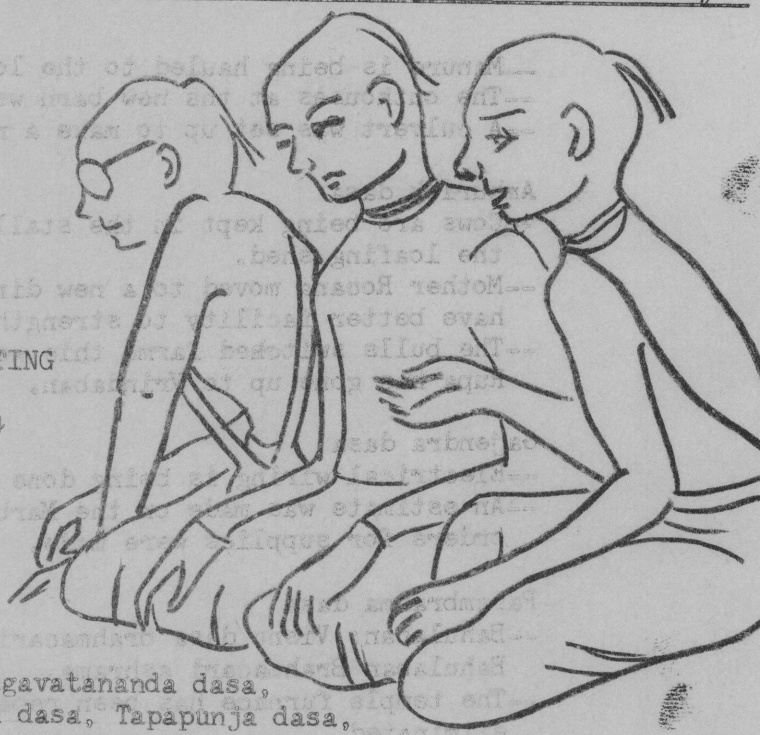
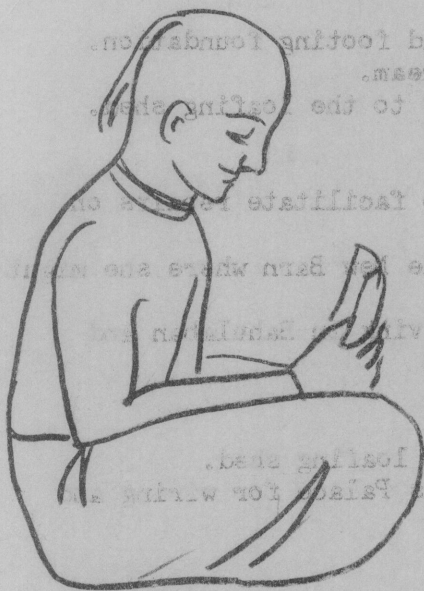
The unloader for the small silo arrived and was installed this week. We will be feeding high-moisture corn out of it to all the cows to greatly reduce the laxsmi being spent for grain. By the way "Big Blue" and "Little Blue" don't seem quite appropriate names for the silos in Vrndavana. Let's see if we can give them some transcendental names. Think about it and offer your suggestions.

Sanatan, Mother Surabhi's latest calf, contracted scours (a severe kind of diarrhoea) this week for the second time. He was unable to overcome the disease and he died on Thursday. More intensive care is to be taken in the future for sick calves to help prevent this.

Rohini and Rati were bred artificially this week by other bulls, while Bela from Vrndavana came down and spent the night with Rupa at Bahulaban. The next day Rupa and Prajapati changed abodes as Rupa is now at Vrindaban and Prajapati is at Bahulaban. We'll probably use Prajapati on some of the Brown Swiss heifers due to come in heat in the future.

(Continued after Board Minutes)





# NEW VRINDABAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes for 12/22/74

ATTENDANCE: Kirtanananda Swami, Kuladri dasa, Bhagavatananda dasa, Adi Pati dasa, Kasyapa dasa, Amburish dasa, Tapapunja dasa, Parambrahma dasa. Late: Gajendra dasa and Bhagavanacarya dasa.

## DEPARTMENTS:

Adi Pati dasa & Tapapunja dasa

- Greenhouse beds for flowers and vegetables are being constructed by three gardeners and also the drainage system is being completed.
- The drainage from the new building is flooding some bulb beds.
- 65 red pickle barrels have been purchased. Anyone needing them should see Tapapunja dasa.
- Bee hives at Vrindaban were winterized and a little honey extracted.
- The complete New Vrindaban land survey is now begun at Vrindaban Farm.
- Vehicle dept.: Both Datsuns were tuned up and many flats fixed and unused vehicles were moved temporarily to Guruban.

Bhagavanacarya dasa

- Hooked up the water line to the hemispheric Cooker.
- The bhoga cupboard has been "rat-proofed"; no one could stick their hand in now.
- Sheetrock and insulation installation is being finished up at the New Barn.
- The new bhoga room is being completed.
- New guard routine and emergency procedure has been posted and is now in effect.
- A new maha cabinet is to be built in the prasadam room closet.

Kuladri dasa

- The plumbing is being done at Madhuban by Kuladri and Gostavihari and new sinks will be installed in the Pujari room.
- Kitchen cleanliness needs to be improved a great deal--offerings might be cut in half to accomplish this much needed cleanliness.

--Bhagavatananda dasa

- The Marble Shop is nearly completed; electricity is needed!
- Prabhupada's Palace roof has been completed, the windows are being sealed up, and the interior construction is ready to begin.

Kasyapa dasa

- Bhima is loaded and sent back to the factory.
- The equipment hauling trailer is near completion.

(Continued next page)

- Manure is being hauled to the loafing shed to make solid footing foundation.
- The outhouses at the new barn were moved across the stream.
- A culvert was set up to make a new road from the silo's to the loafing shed.

#### Amburish dasa

- Cows are being kept in the stall barn for a few days to facilitate repairs on the loafing shed.
- Mother Rocana moved to a new dirt floor box stall at the New Barn where she might have better facility to strengthen her legs.
- The bulls switched farms this week. Prajapati is now living in Bahulaban and Rupa has gone up to Vrindaban.

#### Gajendra dasa

- Electrical wiring is being done on the Old Barn and the loafing shed.
- An estimate was made on the Marble Shop and Prabhupada's Palace for wiring and orders for supplies were made.

#### Parambrahma dasa

- Bahulaban: Visnu dasa brahmacari has begun a little painting studio in the Bahulaban Brahmacari ashrama.
- The temple furnace has been repaired and all excess smoke should be heretofore eliminated.
- Tulasi devi's greenhouse has been insulated and plastic put up.
- Sudanu dasa built a heat record board.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- The New Barn water pipe from the reservoir needs to be buried immediately.
- Residents of the New Barn apartments should remember that those screens they are taking out of their windows and are leaving to lay around to be lost or destroyed will be very valuable in July and August when the flies need to be kept out. So please find your screens if you have removed them and store them nicely for the warm summer months.
- Plans are being made to concrete the driveways, parking lots, steps, walkways and other paths around the Bahulaban temple for this spring and summer.

Meeting adjourned.

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## COWS (Continued)---

Please, please prabhus, every day some-one comes to the barn and borrows a shovel, or a broom or a pitch fork but they aren't returned. Thus a search has to be made when it's time to clean the barn, making it difficult to finish cleaning duties. Please return anything you may have taken from the barn and before anything else is taken it must be authorized by a cowherd boy. Hari Bol.

Here are this week's statistics:

<u>cow</u>	<u>amt. of milk</u>
Satyabhama	219.8 lbs.
Dvaraka	116.2
Ambika	137.0
Sarasvati	213.2
Rukmini	124.1
Laxsmi	182.2
Bhadra	183.4
Yasoda	89.9
Parvati	212.9
Cintamani	238.0
Rati	191.8
Pritha	209.6
Goloka	116.0
Iravati	216.1
Rohini	150.0
Bhumi	87.4
Basya	220.6
Gopipriya	163.2
Pankaja	127.4
Surabhi	390.6
Kunti	64.1
total	3,653.7 lbs.

Daily production:

Dec. 14	534.6 lbs.
15	490.0
16	547.0
17	520.5
18	509.6
19	520.4
20	531.6

Daily average: 521.9 lbs.

Daily average per cow: 24.8 lbs.

All Glories to Krsna's Cows!

-- Amburish dasa

## IN THE WOODS

Hari Bull Prabhus. Hope your all ingaged in Krsna's service nicely. It's been a pretty heavy week for the wood crue. I know some of you have made a few comments about the wood this week but please try to understand, we in the wood crue are not as perfect as we would like to be. But by following Srila Prabhupad's instructions we're getting there. But even then there is no garantie that Krsna will give you all the wood you desire. Always comming up to me complaining and bickering won't make you happy but by remembering Krsna you'll be happy. I was going to tell you a story about the horse that slid over the bank and into the mud hole while the other horse stood there watching. But I'm late getting my article in this week so I'll tell you next week. Hari Boll.

Your servant in the woods,  
Romharsan dasa

Printed as submitted by Romharsan dasa.

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Yasoda	89.9
Parvati	212.9
Cintamani	238.0
Rati	191.8
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Goloka	116.0
Iravati	216.1
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