

"THESE PEACHES LOCAL?"

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MASON ROAD at HUMM ROAD
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PH. (419) 588-2858
OPEN 9 A.M.-6 P.M. DAILY

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One of the first thoughts shared by visitors to the farm each year pose the above question. It comes from the surprise of having peaches at all because of meandering weather patterns and surprise at having peaches early, especially this year. Bill picked the first peach June 29, more than two weeks ahead of any previous year. The first smell of ripe peaches can lift a barn to new heights. We give thanks.

The other glories of summer also have filled our lives and lifted our spirits. Having heard the wren, walked through the quiet of morning, and shared a leisure breakfast, how can we long for more? Emerson says, "The happiest man is he who learns from nature the lesson of worship."

Ben (12 years) and Adrienne (9 years) are maturing, but bed-time stories, cuddly things, and needs for hugs keep them close. Both did well in school, doing more than was expected of them. There are no prouder parents than us. Jackie found her year of teaching middle school in Vermilion a refreshing one and anticipates another.

Yet, we push the structure of the school season aside for a brief time to dwell on the rich excitement of "vacation" before it fades like a tan. Baseball seems to fill many an evening, but other issues are just as vital. Ben's scouring the countryside for "bugs" for a 4-H project. Adrienne has taken flight into the quarry for the first time as the dog days have gripped us early. As a swimming retreat, it has never been more popular.

Despite the lack of rain, fruit crops appear to be fairly good. Because of a December cold snap, the peaches will be somewhat fewer than last year. Apples are variable in number with Red Delicious looking the best. Since the season is upon us, keep the following in mind:

June 30	Peaches begin
July 25-30	Red Havens begin
July 25	Summer apples (Paula Red)
July 30-Aug. 5	Nectarines begin
Aug. 5	Gala apple
Aug. 20-Sept. 10	Plums
Sept. 1-10	Last of peaches
Sept. 10-20	Fall apples and Pick Your Own begins

Hope to see you this summer!

CALVIN AND HOBBS



BY BILL WATTERSON

THE GAMMIES

Bill, Jackie
Ben
Adrienne