



John W. (Red) McFarlane, director of the Pennsylvania Aeronautics Commission, is shown here explaining to Keystone State Flying Farmers current problems in agricultural aviation. Mr. McFarlane was one of several speakers addressing the group as it met Farm Show Week at Harrisburg airport. Further details on the Flying Farmer meeting will be found in this issue. (Lancaster Farming Photo).

Dairymen Oppose Closing Hospital Farms in State

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, following their annual meeting at the State Farm Show, announced adoption of a resolution

against the "announced intention" of the Secretary of Welfare to dissolve operation of the farms at mental hospitals in the State. In a resolution the association declared the farms have been operated for many years and represent investments of millions of dollars in dairy herds, other livestock, and equipment. They said "we firmly believe that the operation of these farms has provided not only food at a saving of taxpayers' money, but also therapeutic benefits to the inmates."

The association pointed to the fact that the practice of operating such farms at similar institutions in the great majority of states "would indicate the soundness of such operations."

The resolution said "we urge Governor George M. Leader to halt such action until thorough and complete studies can be made by competent parties."

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From Years Ago: Telephone Coverage In Lancaster County Is Reviewed

Southern and Southeastern Lancaster County's telephone picture, as projected currently by the Commonwealth Telephone Company, is the start of the construction at Quarryville of a new, modern building to house offices, field and installation equipment, and service supplies and facilities. To this, add conversion to the dial system - a system already enjoyed by farmers and others in this section.

Fifty years ago, the farmers' interests were also a prompting factor when additional poles and wires were being hooked up to bring more residents of the river hills and nearby into telephonic communication with the rest of

County History

Mom and pop always like to talk about the "good old days." Some of these may be specifically, numerically, 25 or 50 years ago. In addition to "50 Years Ago This Week on Lancaster Farms," Lancaster Farming today offers the first in a series of stories that are undated, but highlight some of the days that were.

Writer of this column is Charles Slentz of Quarryville, who has checked files from years back to select interesting items to recall here. History is interesting, most interesting when local.

The world The then Southern Telephone and Telegraph Company (now, as Pennsylvania Community Telephone Company, a subsidiary of Commonwealth), had at that time "extended its line from Fishing Creek to Fite's Eddy, Hess' Mill to Hensel, via Chestnut Level." Quoting further from the press of January, 1906, "The poles have been planted and two wires strung the entire length except at one point near Hess' Mill where the wires will be attached to the poles of the long distance line to top of hill east of Chestnut Level, to Hensel exchange."

Early in the year 1912, The Southern Telephone and Telegraph Company initiated progress that brought to rural dwellers in the Gap community much coveted phone service improvements. We're reminded, for example, that the Company "is developing new business in and around Gap." The news paragraph anticipated that "the new exchange will be completed by the middle of this month" (January).

Post Office At Buck

Folks living in a rather far-reaching area served by the United States government through the post office at Buck, came an innovation two weeks after New Year's, fifty one years ago. In our gleaning from old files, we are apprised that "Saturday, January 14, 1905, Buck Post Office, in East Drumore township, will cease to exist." Reading further, "The office has not had the attention it should have had in past months on account of the postmaster being unable to be there. The patrons of Buck office are making arrangements to be furnished with their mail through rural carriers."

Again progress was initiated for some farmers and good neighbors in our county through a daily means of communication (the mail) being brought right to their own back yards. Of course after that, not having to stop by the mail, people in their travels sometimes did "pass the Buck," thereby doing the very thing that the present Musser enterprises in this the Biggest Little Town in the U. S. A., insist should not be done.

Shredders From Strasburg

Late in the year 1911, from Strasburg township came this: "Jacob Weaver, our machinist has built 17 shredders this fall, some of them going quite a distance." We learn that Mr. Weaver

was the father of Rev. Clyde W. Weaver, who resides on Miller Street, Strasburg. We also learn the shredders in question were fodder, and it is believed that some of them are still giving giving service - still shredding, for instance, on several local Amish farms. Mr. Weaver who operated a blacksmith and machine shop in the early part of the century purchased the patents on this equipment from the original builder who couldn't make the grade financially.

Still more improvements for farmers (this time in the territory around Quarryville), according to this word of news at the turn of the year 1903-04: "A new cob breaker and grain elevator have been placed in J. F. Weaver's Mill here . . . making one of the best and most up-to-date chopping plants in this section."

And while on mills, modernizing to give greater service to farmers was possibly responsible for a project that brought "up to snuff" a grist and flour mill down near the Maryland line. The story, as of mid-January, 1912, was: "Mrs. Annie E. Wood is about to have a saw and cider mill installed on her mill property at Pleasant Grove. The machinery came last week. The grist and flour mill was recently overhauled. A concrete penstock was one of the improvements. It will be a thoroughly up to date plant when completed."

Mills Grind Fine

And ever, the grind is on! Processing foods for man, milling grain for chickens and all fowls, grinding and mixing making for stockmen's needs; the mills grind exceedingly fine. Thinking about chicken feed calls to mind specific egg production worth passing on to you. It's a laying record made in January, 1912, up around the north central part of

the county and involved less than a dozen hens. Read it for yourself: "The eleven Rhode Island Red pullets, owned and raised by William S Shiffer, of Manheim, made a marvelous record in producing eggs last week. They laid a total of fifty eggs for the week, an average of a little better than seven eggs a day. The pullets' production for the previous 9 weeks was away above the average (Four of the hens were hatched April 4, 1911 - the bal-

ance on May 15). . . . They were carefully tended, but no special effort was made to force the laying."

Because memories of Christmas and New Year turkeys still pleasantly linger, we may well mention one heavy holiday turkey sale which took place long enough before the days of super markets, frozen foods, and fowl raised in wire-floor pens (Yuletide season, 1911, to be exact). Turning to today as Hessdale, the following is brought to our attention: "Messrs. C. B. Herr & Son handled 500 turkeys over the holidays and had calls for many more."

The knife was probably not the ultimate fate of this turkey which made the front page day after New Year's, 1912, for here we have doings of a pet - a pet belonging to one "Frank Eby, the fourteen year old son of Phares Eby, of Paradise." Continuing, Frank "has a turkey gobbler that is the pride of the village. His name is Tom; he is eighteen months old and weighs twenty-one pounds. Frank has harness for him and drives him around hitched to a wagon."

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