

## Father-Son Farming Foursome



Mention the name Ernie Pyle, and you immediately follow through with the query to associate the famed war-time correspondent. But here is Ernest Pyle, R1 Oxford, with four of his seven sons, photographed by Lancaster Farming at the recent Father-Son Banquet at Mt. Hope Methodist Church.

"Yes, I'm a distant cousin to Ernie Pyle," the southeastern Lancaster Countian replied.

Left to right: Mr. Pyle, Robert Stevens, 11, pride and joy of this farm family; Horace Walter Pyle, Jerry Minshall Pyle, and Theodore Bond Pyle. Needless to say, even with three sons missing, the Pyles took top honors for family attendance at the banquet.

The Pyles — in addition to the seven sons there is a daughter, Doris Virginia — farm 180 acres near Union Presbyterian

Church. Has ancestry traces back to some of the original Pennsylvania Quaker families, and is directly associated with the branch that moved to Arizona, from whence the famed, well-loved wartime correspondent came. Mr. Pyle represented the Rev Glenn Knecht at the banquet. Host pastor at the banquet, attended by 110, was the Rev. Delmar Probst.

Few among us are smart enough to admit we don't know enough about a certain subject to advise a mature opinion on it.

## Hydroponics On Market; Tomato Flavor Debated Pro and Con Here

(Continued from Page One) produce little. Hydroponics came into being. Chemicals were added to the water as needed; should a plant show a deficiency of one, the flow of that chemical would be increased.

**Growing Seasons Cut** — Growing periods were drastically reduced by hydroponics. Ninety-day wonders became old-age members of the hydroponics set. Thirty-day crops were not unusual, some in less time.

According to Paul Scheid, who operates one of the vegetable stands in Lancaster Central Market, the bulk of the hydroponic tomatoes reaching Lancaster come from Cowan Hydroponic Farms, Inc. at Kendall, Fla., Dade County — the same county as Miami. Prices at wholesale are quite close between the hydroponic-grown and the regular garden grown varieties. Cubans may sell for \$3.25 a box, hydroponic, or hydro-organic grown, tomatoes may bring \$3.75. Common grades, of course, run much lower. On the other hand, the hydroponic-grown tomatoes run much larger than vine-grown. Hydroponics ship better, and arrive in a much better condition; the skin, in Mr. Scheid's words, is oily, smooth — alive, in contrast to the vine-grows that arrive somewhat soft, somewhat lifeless, skins dry.

As a rule, hydroponic grown tomatoes are supported by trellises, several feet high. Larger vines result, and a larger fruit also. The bulk of those received in Lancaster are of the three-inch variety, some larger.

Mineral enriched, nutrition fed — leads us all back to the plight of one western farmer, who in paying his annual fertilizer bill began to wonder if he too were not growing a couple hundred acres of corn hydroponically, feeding necessary chemicals to growing grains in a worn-out, semi-sterile soil.

**For flavor, we'll still take the Lancaster County variety, warmed by a summer sun, or chilled, but advocates assert in hydroponic-grown tomatoes there is less acid, a better flavor.**

Hydroponics, tank farming, water gardening, whatever you may call it, has spread far from the islands of the South Pacific. It's invading the South wholesale, where tillable land may be at a premium. It turns a city lot into a 40-acre field production-wise. But most of all, today it is helping supply foodstuffs on islands in the Bahama chain, the Greater and Lesser Antilles, where prior to this time imports of almost 100 per cent of the foodstuffs was necessary. In this airborne age, even meats are being flown in with fresh vegetables to Nassau and other cities on sandy islands that can't grow a field crop, but may produce a "tank crop."

Some day the Lancaster County vegetable grower may control his growing and marketing more closely through a modified type of hydroponics, overcoming drought and heat like that which put a deep dent in last summer's crop.

## New York January Milk Price \$4.07

A uniform price of \$4.07 cwt for January milk deliveries to the New York metropolitan area was announced this week. The January producer butterfat differential was set at 5.4 for each tenth of a pound of fat above or below the standard 3.5 per cent. January records in production were set, and only four times previous in any month has consumption of fluid milk been exceeded.

The total of 645,858,741 lbs of milk was 7.5 per cent higher than the previous January. Fluid milk consumption was up 1.6 per cent to 275,355,267 lbs.

## Eastern States Exchange Meet On March 2, 3

Many farmers from this area will leave Thursday, March 1, to attend the 38th annual meeting of their cooperative, the Eastern States Farmers' Exchange at West Springfield, Mass., March 2-3.

Local persons attending are: Paul L. Howard, mgr. of Quarryville whse. and Claude I. Herr, prominent poultryman of Quarryville, RFD 1, Pa.

J. Kenneth Stern, president of the American Institute of Cooperation, will be the principal evening speaker. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and was employed for 12 years by Eastern States Farmers' Exchange, nine years as a fieldman and three as director of public relations. He became president of the American Institute of Cooperation in 1950.

Julian B. Thayer, prominent dairyman and poultryman of Rockfall, Connecticut, will preside at the annual meeting. Members attending will hear reports on the 1955 operations and will elect officers and directors for the coming year. Advance registrations indicate an attendance of more than 1000 farmers from nine northeastern states.

Eastern States Farmers' Exchange is one of the largest processors and distributors of such farm supplies as feeds, fertilizers and seeds in the Northeast. It is a non-profit cooperative, owned and controlled by the farmers it serves.

## Gerald Rohrer Tops Countywide Tomato Contest

Producing 5.8 tons of tomatoes per acre that graded 68 per cent No 1, Gerald C. Rohrer of the Manor Chapter of the Future Farmers of America, placed first in Lancaster Countywide competition sponsored by the Campbell Soup Co.

A resident of Smoketown, he received a 21-jewel watch. This is the fourth time in ten years the Manor Chapter has placed first. Howard P. Siglin is chapter advisor.

On the banquet program at the Landisville Fire Hall, were Associate County Agent Harry S. Sloat, speaking on "Better Production of Tomatoes;" H. R. Collard, who heads the Campbell Soup Co. agricultural department; James Woodford, youth representative; Wayne Randwerk, assistant division manager; and Dr. Donald Bradley of the agricultural department.

The Manor Chapter received a trophy for completing four years of entry and three youths received cups for four years of competition, three for three years of competition.

## Greiders Score Lead Over All In State Eggs

Greider, Leghorn Farm, Mount Joy, is leading all competition in the 25th Pennsylvania Egg Test, according to the State Department of Agriculture, with a White Leghorn hen

Her record, from Oct 1 to Jan. 31, is 121 eggs and 129 points in egg tests, a point equal to one two-ounce egg. She is competing with more than 1000 other layers from all over the United States.

Standing in tenth place is another Greider hen, and in pen tests Greider stands second with 1385 eggs, trailing the leader by but six points.

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