

● **Christmas Trees**
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leys had when they graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 1931.

Joseph Lesley, a student in forestry, heard one of his professors say the Christmas tree business, just then beginning to attract a few growers, was a coming industry. "I guess Joe caught fire."

Mrs. Les'ey said over a cup of coffee during a break in the manufacturing of Cone wreaths. "When we graduated we started looking for land near Philadelphia. We looked farther and farther away from the city until we found this place."

Fifty acres of evergreens on the banks of the Chester city water company's lake in Colerain township provides a



MAKING CHRISTMAS WREATHS is spare time work for Mrs. Joseph Lesley, left, and Mrs. Hugh Les'ey, right, as Karen Lesley looks on. The wreaths under construction are made almost entirely of pine cones. Mrs. Lesley has been making green wreaths for several years, but this is the first season for the cone models. The cone wreaths take about an hour and a half to complete while either of the ladies can turn out about four green ones per hour. Karen enjoys helping mother and grandmother while her brother helps deliver the Christmas trees to the stores.

—L.F. Photo



ALL OTHER WORK ON THE LESLEY FARM comes to a halt, or takes place, when Christmas tree harvest has come. The trees are sawed with a short and piled near the driveway to await collection by wagon. After getting a sp help maintain the verdant green color trees will be loaded on a truck for market background is the Octorara lake of the Chester city water company. Trees on the side are from six to 10 years old and will soon be cut clear to make room for a planting.

picturesque setting for the ancient stone house nestled into the hillside and remodeled to preserve its charm while supplying the comforts of modern living.

In addition to the trees at home the Lesleys have another 60 acre plantation in Little Britain township

where many of their market trees were cut this year.

But Christmas trees aren't the only business on the farm. A flock of 13,000 laying hens require attention at times when the tree business is not in its busiest season. To further balance out the work load, a broiler house

with room for 22,000 stands empty from fall after Christmas.

The poultry enterprise given a big boost a years ago when the Lesley son, Hugh, graduated from Penn State with

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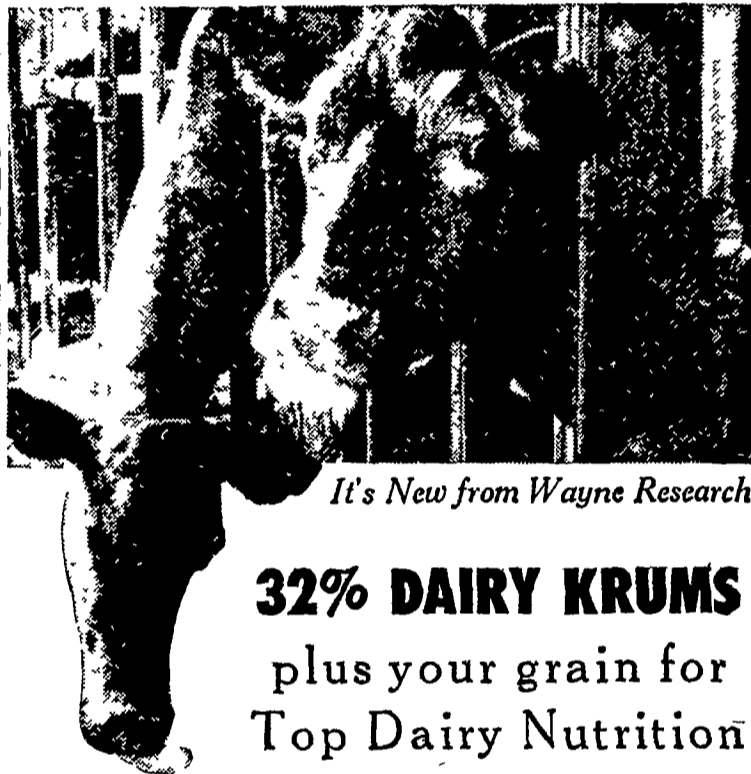
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