

● **Tobacco**

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indicated that most of the crops in several parts of the county were under contract. Heaviest bidding began in the areas of highest rainfall. Some sections of the county saw no buyers at all on Tuesday.

Reports indicated that farmers apparently took the offered bids, mostly 28 and 18, with no hesitation. There were no reports of bids for "through" stoppel crops.

The price this week compared with a 30 and 20 opening day bid last year. After the initial buying session last year the price dropped quickly to an average of only 23½ cents a pound.

While some of the areas of good rainfall were reported to be "cleaned up" by Thursday, top crops went first with some of the farmer-buyers seeking only quality leaf.

American was reported bidding some crops on a sliding scale, offering 28 and 18 for top crops down to 25 and 15 for lower quality leaf. Farmers said however that most of the purchases were at the top figure.

Consolidated long a price leader had a full complement of buyers in the field at 28 and 18 but the bids were reported to be very selective.

Farmers said P. Lullard, also a price setter, was concentrating on quality.

Two of the big county firms, Bayuk Cigars Inc. and General Cigar Co. Inc. had not entered the buying arena by Thursday.

Meanwhile the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's tobacco cooperative announced it would announce its advance price Feb. 5. It would start to receive tobacco from members on Feb. 6.

Tobacco received by the newly-formed cooperative will be graded by a federal marketing official, said Mark Hess, director.

There was some market activity on 1962-crop tobacco, but bids were nominal, farmers said.

There is an estimated 200 acres of 1962-crop leaf still in first hands.

● **Mt. Joy Farmers**

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of the organization is good. He told members that the cooperative has retired revolving fund certificates every three years and "paid out some cash each year."

The financial report was not released but Lewis Bivler, assistant treasurer, reported operating costs three per cent below the previous year. Members passed a resolution to redeem \$30,000 worth of revolving fund certificates issued in 1960.

In his report on the Metropolitan Bargaining Agency, Risser said the agency has a net value of \$422,407.06 with an income of close to a half million dollars on a three cents per CWT basis. He added that the agency, composed of 80 federal cooperatives, has held hearings to justify the fourth cent which it levied will boost income some \$18,000 per year.

He reported that the agency's plant at Port Palm purchased last year has been renovated with government loans of about \$1¼ million. The plant now, he said, has a capacity of about five times that of the Mount Joy plant.

Members returned Abner Risser and Jacob Schock to the board of directors for three year terms.

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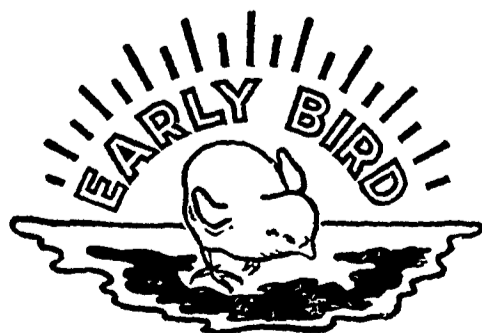
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