

# Reflections

(From the files of Lancaster Farming)

## One Year Ago

May, 1965

**Gingerich Named SWCD Secretary** — At their regular monthly meeting this week (May 15), directors of the Lancaster County Soil & Water Conservation District named Garland Gingerich to replace retiring district secretary Henry Givler. Gingerich is vocational agriculture teacher at Penn Manor High School.

**DHIA Observes Barn Remodeling on County Tour** — Approximately 40 county dairy farmers and other interested persons joined a four-farm tour, sponsored by the Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement Assn., to observe barn remodeling jobs.

The group, under the leadership of DHIA adviser Victor Plastow, associate county agent, and Roger Grout, Penn State extension engineer, visited two farms using free stall housing, and two with comfort stalls.

They also saw such labor-saving items in use as augmented bunk feeders, liquid manure handling equipment, and homemade manure scraping devices.

**New Pa. Agriculture Building Dedicated** — The new Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture building was officially opened this week (May 8) when Governor Scranton cut the ribbon from the seat of a tractor in a dedication ceremony.

According to agriculture secretary Leland H. Bull, the new building has been in use since last December, and has enabled his department to expand its various services. For example, he said, an increasing number of farm organizations have shown interest in

using the conference room facilities. Meetings and conferences in the building have averaged nearly one a day, Bull added.

Funds for the \$2.9-million, four-story structure were authorized by the 1959 State Legislature.

**Tobacco Grown Under Plastic Planted May 12** — A New Holland area farmer, Ben F. Martin, transplanted 2,000 plants on May 12 and 3,000 more plants three days later. This would seem to be one of the earliest tobacco plantings in the county this year.

Martin, a steer, broiler, and crop farmer, raises eight acres of tobacco each year. This year he planted the long-season Penn Bel-69 variety under plastic, following recommendations of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Field Research Station.

He planted his seedbeds on March 16, and was no sooner finished than a 5-inch snow blanketed the beds, providing all the moisture he found he needed for the next four or five weeks.

Martin said the reason he wanted to have his tobacco crop ready early was for better utilization of available labor in the fall.

**Shuman Hits Federal Farm Legislation at PFA Meet** — Speaking to 200 members of the Pennsylvania Farmers Assn. at a meeting near Harrisburg this week (May 29), Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, labeled current farm programs the "same old junk."

"Another 25 years under the sort of farm programs we have now, and we won't need a million farmers, as President Johnson suggests; 100,000 will be too many because we'll have priced most farm

commodities right out of the market," Shuman said.

He said that current Administration thinking on farm legislation seems designed to put a premium on inefficiency. "The proposed graduated payments to farmers will be used as a wedge," Shuman explained. "The man producing smaller amounts, as with rice and wool, would receive higher payments than the larger producer. With this approach it won't take long to raise food prices to consumers," he predicted.

**DHIA Vote Tester Pay Raise; Support F & H Fund** — Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement Assn. directors voted to raise the pay of association testers by five cents per cow at a regular meeting held this week (May 29) at the Farm Bureau Bldg.

The approved raise was the first for the testers in five years, and followed last year's move to allow one week's vacation time each year.

The board also voted a pledge of \$200 for its 483-member association to the Lancaster County Farm & Home Foundation Fund. It was felt that even though many association members were supporting the Fund individually, the association would have many occasions to use the facilities of the proposed Farm & Home Center, and should, therefore, support it as an organization.

In other business, the directors elected Curtis Akers, Quarryville R1, as secretary, replacing Clair Griffiths who recently resigned.

**USDA To Terminate Milk Order No. 4** — The United States Department of Agriculture this week (May 22) announced it is considering termination of the Delaware Valley Federal milk marketing order, which sets minimum prices paid to farmers for milk distributed in the Philadelphia - Wilmington - southern New Jersey areas.

The reason given for this action was the belief by USDA that the present order may no longer carry out the original intent, as illustrated by the recently revealed widespread action of undercutting

established minimum order prices.

## Five Years Ago

May, 1961

**Pequea FFA Elects Eby** — John W. Eby, Jr., Gordonville R1, was elected president of the Pequea Valley Chapter of Future Farmers of America at a recent meeting in the high school.

Glen E. Esbenschade, Paradise R1, was chosen chapter vice president. Other officers were: Benjamin L. Clark, secretary; Dale B. Hostetter, treasurer; Richard S. King, reporter; Donald H. Ranck, sentinel; Lester O. Houck, chaplain.

**County Corn Demonstration Plots Planted** — The Lancaster County corn demonstration plots were planted this week (May 20) on the Lime Spring Farm, Running Pump Rd., Lancaster R1, and on the farm of Glen Wissler, Ephrata R1.

The plots, called by Penn State agronomists "the most significant corn demonstration plots in the state," have been planted each year since 1943. Resistance to disease, insect damage, wind, drought, and wet weather, as well as yield on the 30 commercial and experimental varieties, will be compared.

**Vo-Ag Teacher Joins Eastern High School Staff** — R Gene Daugherty, formerly of

Jefferson County, has joined the faculty of Eastern Lancaster County High School as teacher in the vocational agriculture department.

Daugherty will assist the present teacher, Robert D. Herr, by teaching one of the four high school classes, and will spend the rest of his time with the young farmer program.

**NEPPCO Presents Record Plan to Local Poultrymen** — The Northeastern Poultry Producers Council (NEPPCO) told poultrymen this week (May 27) at the Lancaster County Poultry Center of a new system of record keeping being offered to egg producers by NEPPCO.

Alfred Van Wagenen, director of research for NEPPCO, told county poultrymen, feed dealers, and university extension personnel the fundamental purpose of the program is to establish a uniform language which will give comparable data for flocks in any area.

Under the proposed program, the poultryman would keep pen records on forms supplied by NEPPCO. At the end of each four-week record period, the data would be mailed to NEPPCO for processing on electronic equipment.

Van Wagenen reported the program had been in development for 18 months. At present, there are 80 poultrymen cooperating in Maine, where

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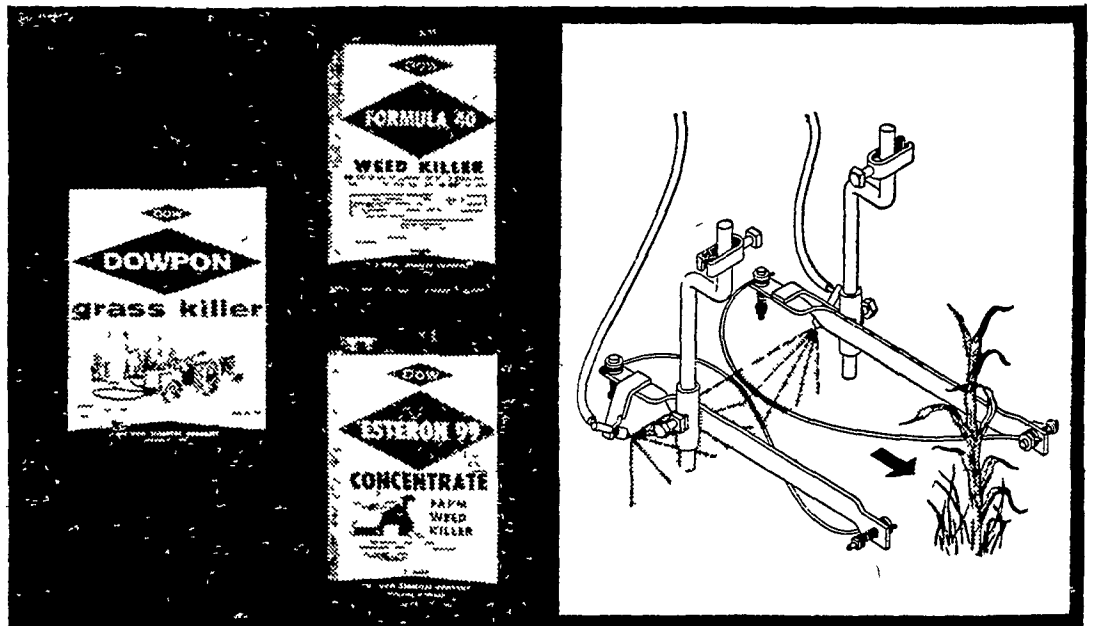
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