

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

Last week's 13th annual Pennsylvania Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Show at Harrisburg's Farm Show Building was dramatic evidence indeed of both the increased demands for modern camp sites and steps now being taken within the state to meet it.

Thousands of Pennsylvanians wandered through the huge exhibition hall inspecting more than 150 different mobile homes, plus an additional 275 travel and tent trailers designed for family camping in both public and private campgrounds throughout the land.

One of the fastest growing of all recreation industries—i.e., a 32 percent gain in 1968 alone—family camping already has exerted a marked influence on the lives of the great masses of people who otherwise would not be able to afford vacations in Penn's Woods. And there is

every evidence of much more to come.

Last year, for example, more than one million family campers checked into camp sites in Pennsylvania's State Parks alone between the opening of trout season in mid-April to the end of the hunting season in December.

This summer, thanks to the far-sighted policies of our Department of Forests and Waters, campers will find more than 5,000 individual camp sites located in 43 State Parks from which to choose—an increase of some 2,000 over the past four years, 1,214 this year alone.

Already, 350 new camp sites are being put to good use at Gifford Pinchot State Park in York County, and another 427 sites at Pymatuning State Park, in Crawford County, will be dedicated this week. In addition, some 437 will be ready for use at Prince Gallitzin State Park in

Cambria County later this spring.

Another 171 sites are under construction at Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset County; while an additional 1,854 are under design at eight other State Parks: Cook Forest, Clarion County; Elk, Elk County; French Creek, Berks County; Greenwood Furnace, Huntingdon County; Hickory Run, Carbon County; Locust Lake, Schuylkill County; Promised Land, Pike County; and Ohioyle in Fayette County.

All of these areas will be modern in all respects for the central shower houses and trailer sanitary disposal facilities.

In the development of a State Park, Pennsylvania's policy is to provide recreational facilities for the greatest number of users. Each also provides facilities for picnicking, fishing, swimming, boating, hiking and, in some areas, self-guided nature trails for their educational value.

While the Department of Forests and Waters supports private enterprise in the development of lodges and cabins adjacent to or within State Parks—the latter of a long-term basis—the Department does not support construc-

tion of so-called "vacation villages" at State expense.

Its opposition is based on four distinct reasons 1. The plan would weaken the economic structure created by private developers and operators who have invested millions of dollars on private land, in local and State taxes and in local goods and labor. 2. State financed construction would represent an additional tax burden for the citizen.

3 Presently, our limited State Park operational budgets would be adversely affected as a result of "carrying" such high-cost, sophisticated facilities. Consequently, the operations and maintenance of such accommodations and the existing State Park system would deteriorate 4 Because of the seasonal nature of outdoor recreation, lodge and cabin accommodations would have to be priced to "carry" low income periods. Therefore, so-called self-sustaining operations would necessitate high prices and virtually eliminate the opportunity

Pork Is Pretty

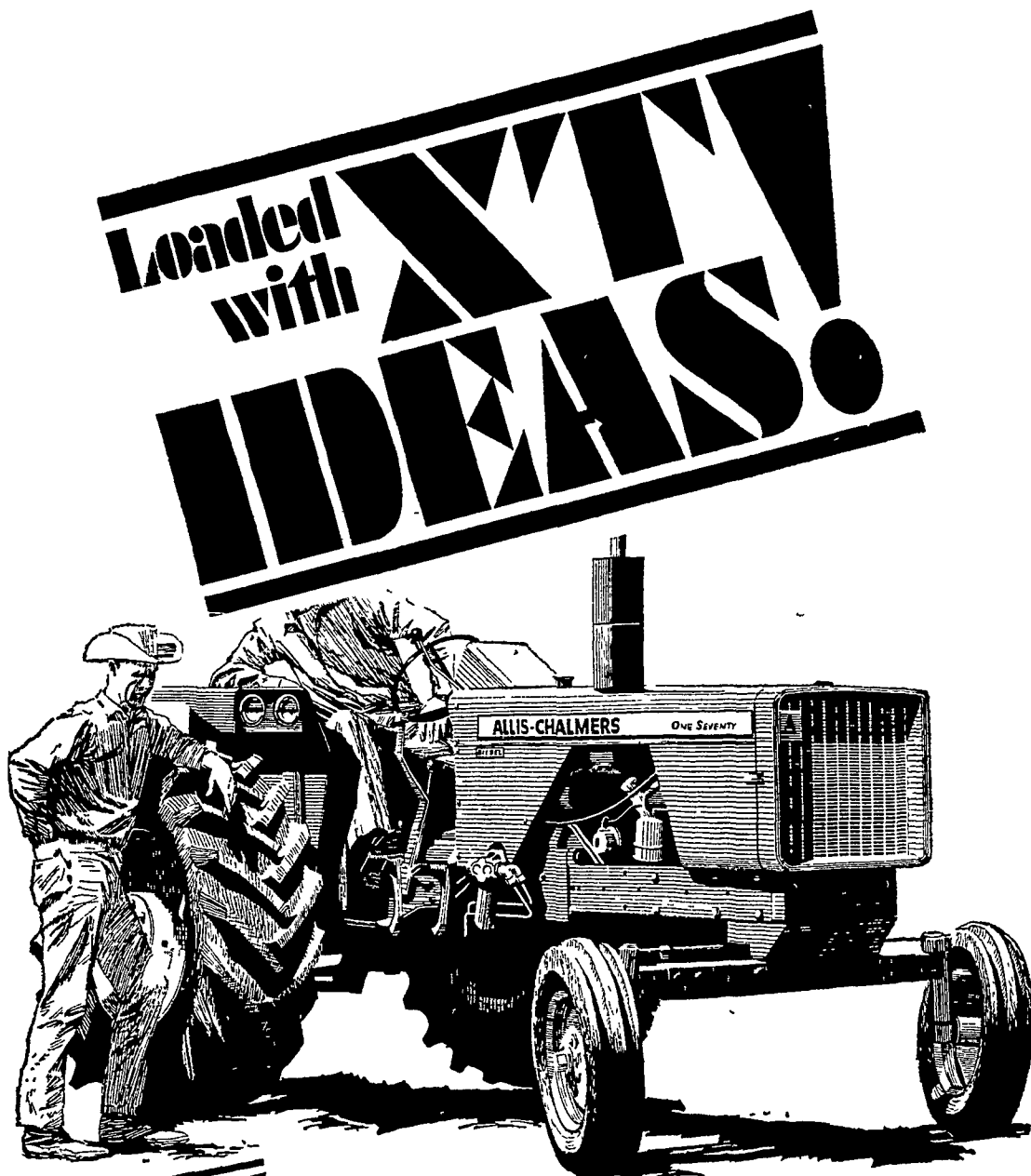
Pork hogged the limelight at the House of Representatives restaurant the other day on "Hogs Are Beautiful Day" sponsored by three Midwestern Congressmen

Reps Fred Schwengel (R. Iowa), Edward J. Derwinski (R. Ill.) and Henry Reuss (D. Wis.) explained that they wanted to "correct an unfavorable image of the poor maligned hog" Printed cards at each table carried the message about porcine pulchritude

The menu was liberally larded with such dishes as "Schwengel Pork Chops," "Derwinski Polish Sausage" and "Reuss Knockwurst"

for all citizens to enjoy these facilities.

In my view, it is better by far to concentrate on providing facilities for the masses rather than for those who already can afford more luxurious vacations in existing resort hotels



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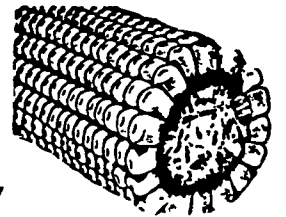
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