

Charlie Cowan Is Honored by Pa. Dairymen's Association

Several hundred dairymen and allied businessmen from all over Pennsylvania turned out for a dual celebration in conjunction with the Farm Show this week in Harrisburg at the new Penn Harris Motor Inn.

There was the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association 100-year celebration. And there was the banquet for Charles E. Cowan, who has recently retired after 45 years of service to the Dairymen's Association.

His service to the Association included 30 continuous years as secretary-treasurer.

Cowan was also a fieldman for Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative for 45 years. He and Mrs. Cowan live at 2025 Bloomingdale Avenue, Lancaster.

During the program, Cowan presented a financial report for the Association, showing it started 1970 with a balance of \$2,534 and ended with \$6,424.

Later, various Association members recalled the many years, particularly during the 1940's and the 1950's, when the treasury was quite poor and often ended the year owing Cowan sums ranging from \$200 to \$1,000. Cowan, according to the reports, took the money out of his own pocket to keep the organization he served for so many years solvent.

After much build-up about how Cowan had spent so many years and so much effort to keep the organization financially healthy, the organization pre-



This candid shot catches Cowan, right, just as Lancaster County's Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, Miss Marilyn Krantz, pins

a flower on his lapel. Joe S. Taylor, chairman, Penn State Dairy Science Extension, enjoys the action. L. F. Photo

sented Cowan and his wife a \$1,000 check to help the couple with some travelling they are planning.

The \$1,000 was, banquet officials reported, one of the few details about the event that was a surprise to Cowan. Even so, it was noted, there was some difficulty in getting a blank check from the secretary-treas-

urer in advance of the meeting.

Among those participating in the program honoring Cowan was the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess from Lancaster County, Miss Marilyn Krantz. She pinned a flower on him.

Thomas H. Patton, director of the Penn State Extension Service, said, "Men like Charlie Cowan have been the foundation stones of the organization (Dairymen's Association)."

But by no means all the praise was presented in a serious manner. Besides much joking about Cowan's abilities as a treasurer, Robert C. McKinley, who was master of ceremonies, and Harry Kaufmann presented "The Charles E. Cowan Story." It was a musical comedy with wholesale substitution of words in well known songs to depict various stages of Cowan's life. Lines like "Charlie Cowan's on his way. You better be sanitary," a supposed refrain of dairymen when Cowan began inspecting their operations. And "Cows all will say, 'I wonder what's become of Charlie,'" since Cowan, through his efforts, according to the song, was a great friend of the cows and would be missed by them.

But there was also a more serious note inside the cover of the banquet booklet: "The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association dedicates its 1971 annual banquet to a man who has spent his life in unparalleled service for the benefit of the Pennsylvania dairy industry."

He also received a week's supply of milk from Queen Dairy, one quart at a time as he stood on the podium before hundreds of Association members, and a large plaque noting his years of service.

In brief remarks, Cowan cited the need for the continued efforts of many, including various

associations, educators and government leaders, to keep the dairy industry strong. He called for continued cooperation in the dairy industry in the future.

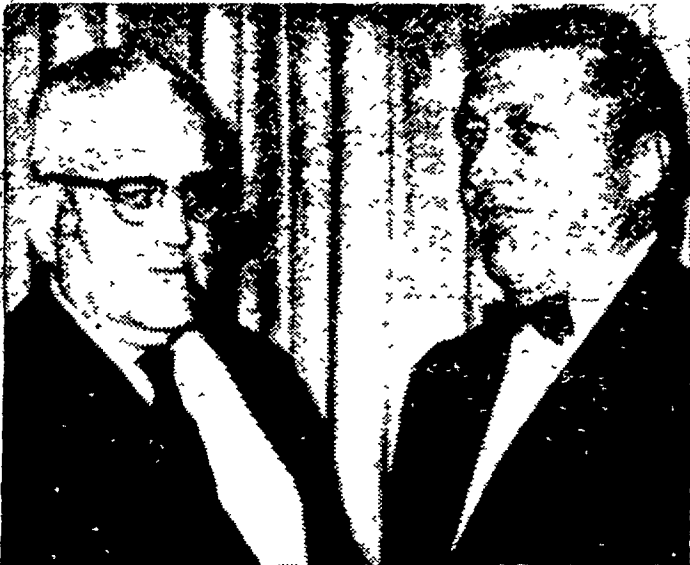
Of the 45 years, he said simply "It hasn't seemed very long" (Note: And Cowan didn't look nearly 70 years old).

Also on the program, besides McKinley, Kaufmann, Patton and Miss Krantz, were Joe S. Taylor, chairman, Penn State Dairy Science Extension, who was credited with organizing the program to honor Cowan and who presented a rundown of the 100 year history of the organization. Association President Clyde S. Robinson presided.

Leand H. Bull, outgoing Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, called attention to problems created by change from a rural to an urban state, cited progress in cattle tuberculosis and brucellosis control, called attention to the need to research waste disposal, and showed slides of the proposed new Farm Show building.

William H. Gregory, Sullivan County agricultural agent, was named winner of the 1970 Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association Award of \$100 and plaque "for valuable and noteworthy contributions to the Commonwealth's dairy industry."

And Elvin Hess Jr., Strasburg, was re-elected to a second three-year term as an Association director.



Among those at the meeting to honor Cowan were J. Lin Huber, Franklin County, chairman of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, and A. G. Slocum, a new member of the Milk Marketing Board from Wyoming County. L. F. Photo



Charlie Cowan, left, stabs the air to emphasize a point to James E. Honan, general manager, Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative, during an informal chat just before the banquet honoring him started. Mrs. Cowan observes. L. F. Photo



Cowan adjusts the load to make room for more, as five of seven quarts of Queen Dairy milk were bestowed on him this week. L. F. Photo



Among those participating in the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association banquet this week in Harrisburg to honor Charlie Cowan were: Elvin Hess Jr.,

who was re-elected as Association director; Cowan, with the plaque he received; Mrs. Cowan, and Joe S. Taylor, chairman, Penn State Dairy Science Extension. L. F. Photo