

# Pa. Grange Acts on 100 Resolutions

The Pennsylvania State Grange recently has headed into its centennial year following the 99th annual session at Somerset where action on some 100 resolutions reaffirmed established policies and charted some new guidelines for the state's oldest continuously active farm family fraternity.

Joining the grange official family was Herald Pentz, Rockton, Clearfield County, who was named to the finance committee. The only other election was that of Peter Karenbauer, Chicora, Butler county, who starts a new term on the executive committee. Both will serve for three years.

Pentz a year ago was named 1970 "Grange of the Year", a title that this year went to Mrs. Allen D. Grove, Entriiken, Huntingdon County. She received a \$50 check and plaque from the Farmers and Traders Insurance Company, co-sponsor of the contest with the Grange.

Another award of \$200 from the National Grange Mutual Insurance Co., co-sponsor with the Grange of a civic-oriented "Pride in Pennsylvania" contest went of Mahoning Grange 1732, Indiana county.

Two family musical groups and three Lehigh county girls who were best of show in talent competition are representing Pennsylvania in national competition at the 105th National Grange convention November 8-16 at Charleston, W. Va. The family groups are the Sorg sister, Mamie, Ann and Amy, St. Marys, Elk County, vocal winners, and Mrs. Henry C. Shankweiler with two sons, David and Mark, Schnecksville, instrumentalists. Margie Bachman, Coplay; Pamela Peters, Schnecksville, and Andrea Schmidt, Neffs, comprise the Lehigh group.

Mercer County successfully

defended its state youth ritual championship by defeating a Chester-Delaware county team in exemplifying a model grange meeting. The Mercer team was coached by Robert E. Steese, Grove City, state grange gatekeeper.

A. Wayne Readinger, state master, termed the four-day session "one of the best" in recent years. He said total attendance came near to 2,000 to equal previous highs for these events.

He announced next years' 100th meeting will be held at Williamsport where Grange work in Pennsylvania started in 1871 in the establishment of Eagle Grange at nearby Montgomery.

National Master John W. Scott, Washington, immediate past Pennsylvania master, complimented the Grange for an "excellent convention program." He urged the Grange to key its activities to changing needs, but to "hold fast to the principles" which have made the Patrons of Husbandry a distinctive and world-renowned farm-oriented organization.

Added national flavor was provided in the dispatch of a telegram to President Nixon asking him to release immediately all unallocated funds remaining from 1971 appropriation, and also those for 1972, to the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP), formerly ASCS.

A resolution that passed unanimously said this program, directed mainly to soil conservation, has been of proven benefit to farmers and that its continuance is vitally needed by American agriculture.

Appropriate national legislation was urged to correct excessive over-production of feed-grains, especially corn which now is facing its largest carry-

over in 17 years, a situation the convention termed a "certain depressant on prices" with a resulting reduction in farm income.

Asserting that real estate bears a disproportionately heavy tax burden over that collected from other sources, the convention urged a more equitable levy on all sources of tax income.

Earning power rather than fair market value was asked as a criteria for taxing farm land and open space land. When land in these categories is diverted to other use, taxes would be assessed at a pre-arranged formula.

Legislation pending in Congress and in the State Legislature, commonly known as the Agriculture Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971, was given a flat "no" by the delegate body. Generally it was regarded as unwieldy, inoperable, technically unsound and particularly unfair to the new or small producer. Instead the Grange voted to support legislation for extending the authority of Federal marketing orders and agreements to all commodities.

Under dairying the convention voted in favor of electronic milk testing and opposed any effort to weaken the Milk Marketing Board. It endorsed a proposed referendum for advertising milk, opposed any cut in milk for school lunches and for military personnel, urged that all jug milk operations be placed under the jurisdiction of the Milk Marketing Board, and called upon its own members to help control pollution. An amendment to the milk sanitation law was urged to make all inspections a state function but in conformity with U.S. public health regulations.

Continued cabinet status for

the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the secretary directly responsible to the President, rather than have it split up among other departments, got vigorous support.

To make the Pennsylvania Farm Show available to more visitors, the convention asked that its closing be extended from Friday till Saturday at 4 p.m.

A renewed request was made for establishment of a veterinary school at Pennsylvania State University.

Inclusions of "areas of agribusiness" in vocational agriculture was favored to strengthen that program.

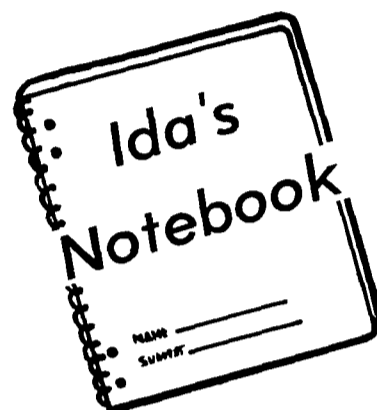
State testing of all truck scales to capacity was sought to assure accurate weight, also a required

special test and licensing of persons who drive trucks of over 30,00 pounds gross weight.

Opposition was renewed to hand gun control, to proposed "land grab" legislation giving the state right to take land in fee simple, and to the taking of "extensive agricultural land for recreation projects."

Under another resolution welfare payments would be denied to anyone refusing work for which he is qualified, even though he may dislike such employment.

Low rear bumpers for trucks as protection for automobiles was voted and a stand was taken against making the Pennsylvania Turnpike a free highway.



Ida Risser

This year I have put off digging my 100 foot row of sweet potatoes in hope of getting dry weather. It seems I'll have to take them out and clean off the mud. Seeing how many tubers each plant gives is a pleasant surprise and I enjoy filling the baskets for winter each Fall.

My pumpkins have the longest necks this year and I'm glad my children like fried pumpkin rings. There will be an ample supply for pies all winter.

x x x

My husband just came into the kitchen to tell me of an unusual bird he saw on the Conestoga. He was checking on two cows that are about to freshen when he heard a noise and flapping wings as a wild goose took off upstream. We often see wild ducks, but not wild geese.

This year we saw quite a few foxes which we felt would keep down the pheasant population. However, there are many around and when I saw three in the meadow, I managed to shoot one of them from the porch.

x x x

About this time of year, in times gone by, tramps would try to find a warm place for the

Winter and head for the County Home.

During the Summer they did odd jobs or mostly just begged for a living. There was one fellow who slept in our tobacco stripping room for several weeks. They were always asked to "hand over" their matches before sleeping in the barn.

One day a tramp was given a sauerkraut dinner which apparently wasn't to his liking. So, he scraped it under the milk pail on the bench and handed back a clean plate with a big "thank you". Even though my mother watched for him to return, needless to say, he never did.

### Clean Clothing for Sales

When donating clothing for rummage sales, the resale value is enhanced if the garments are freshly laundered and pressed, reminds Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, extension clothing specialist at The Pennsylvania State University. It's also helpful to prospective buyers to have the size and washing instructions noted on a slip of paper pinned to the garment

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