

Stehman Recognized at Conservation Banquet

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June, 1963, as assistant State Conservationist, and was appointed to the position of State Conservationist in May, 1968. His duties include responsibility for Soil Conservation Service operations including technical assistance to 65 Soil and Water Districts, 27 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention projects, and two Resource Conservation and Development projects.

In comments made by Davis, he told the group we should have pride on the conservation accomplishments made in Lan-



Aaron Stauffer, chairman of the Soil Conservation District directors, served as toastmaster at the annual banquet at the Farm and Home Center Thursday night.

caster County. He said we have a responsibility to keep up with the times, and the Conservation Service and other cooperating agencies are going to be working longer and harder to accomplish this task.

In the last 10 years, reported Davis, the state has lost 60,000 acres of land to urban development. For the first time, urban dwellers outnumber farm populace.

He mentioned that no longer are conservationists strictly farm oriented. There is a real need for all segments of society to be aware of conservation. Natural resources need to be protected. We now need to be concerned about pollution, solid waste disposal, and dozens of other problems which exist here and now, and on into the future.

Davis said the Soil and Water Conservation Service is a technical arm. The work will have to be continued with and through the local Districts.

The accomplishments gained in conservation are mostly a volunteer proposition, said Davis. It takes dedication and salesmanship — teamwork — to carry out the job.

Davis reported that in Pennsylvania, of 6.1 million acres of



Henry Hackman, District executive secretary, left, and Amos Funk, center, received engraved watches from Abe Dombach, chairman of the County Commissioners, at the annual Soil and Water

Conservation District banquet at the Farm and Home Center Thursday night, in appreciation for having each served 20 years in District affairs.

cropland, over 4 million acres need conservation practices. The soil losses could be reduced by about 18 million tons a year in Pennsylvania alone.

There are over 600,000 acres of farm roads, mine strip areas, farmsteads, and other areas which need conservation practices. This would reduce sedimentation runoff by 2.4 million tons per year, Davis continued.

The untreated areas, primarily soil and sediment, are a threat to our rivers and streams. Most of the mineral nutrients attach themselves to the soil which in

turn gets carried into streams and pollutes with phosphorus, pesticides, and other elements, in this manner.

In final statements, Davis said, "I believe conservation is

National Defense of the most important kind." He charged all to support the conservation movement. Conservation will allow us to grow strong and really be the "home of the free."

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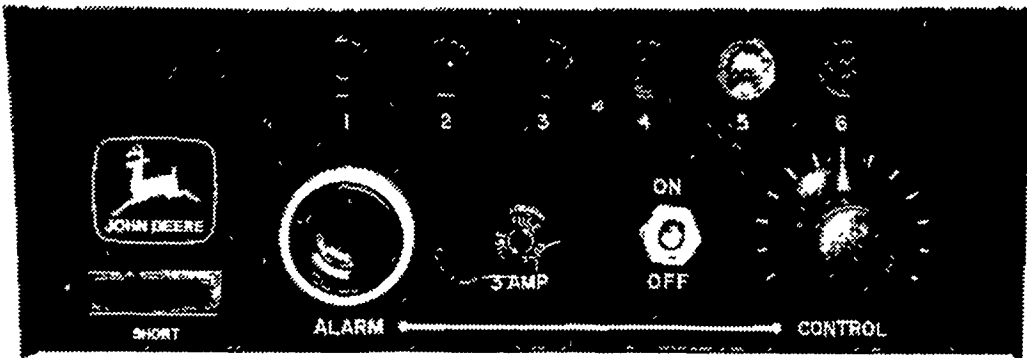
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