



Demonstrating the art of making a cheese ball won Martha Gregory the right to compete at the regional 4-H Demonstration Contest on July 17.

Ephrata

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stone arch affair, has much less carrying capacity than the new one which is nearing completion. The old bridge, however, was lower at the ends. When the creek flooded, water went around the bridge, spilling onto an open flood plain which lies south of the bridge site.

The parties responsible for the bridge and affected by the floods have been pointing accusatory fingers at each other. The real culprit, though, appears to be the state. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources told the County

engineers that the bridge should have a carrying capacity of 5000 cubic feet of water per second. Huth engineers, designers of the bridge, drew their plans for a bridge with 7500 cubic feet per second capacity, or half again as much as DER said they should have.

The state also specified the construction of the approaches leading up to the bridge. Constructing approaches is the responsibility of the Ephrata Township Board of Supervisors. The supervisors recognized the potential flooding threat, but were compelled to follow the state's recommendations or risk losing state construction funds.

After the July 3 flood, which came just one day after the farmers called on the con-

Tires Are Minimized As Accident Factors

A new federal government study has found that passenger car tires are "not significant factors in traffic accidents."

The new findings were contained in a report to Congress by U. S. Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats on the entire federal auto safety testing program. The Comptroller General heads the General Accounting Office, Congress' watchdog over federal spending.

In the fiscal years 1970-72, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spent a total of \$4.8 million on compliance testing, the report noted. More than half of this, \$2.5 million, went for tire testing, compared to \$1.4 million for vehicle testing, and \$913,943 for other equipment.

"Available accident data and information from tire studies indicate that disabled passenger vehicle tires are not significant factors in traffic accidents, and that the Safety Administration's relative degree of emphasis on tire testing, in terms of its total enforcement program, is more than warranted," the report declared.

The GAO report cited accident data provided by the National Bureau of Standards, the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University, and the Highway Safety Research Institute at the University of Michigan, to back up its statements on tire safety.

servationists, the approaches to the as yet unopened bridge were reportedly eroded away to the blacktop portion of the road surface. Officials from the county and the township are expected to confer on the problem, with an eye to somehow opening up the old flood plain.

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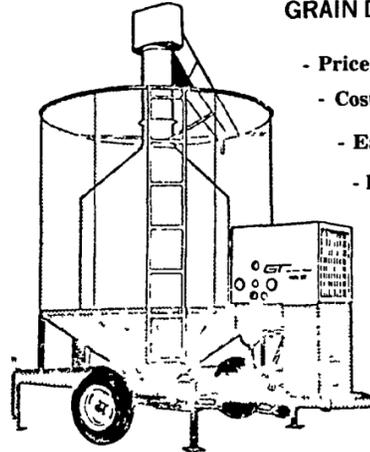
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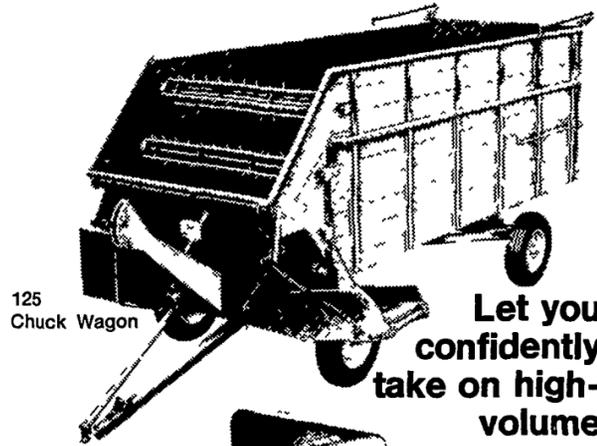
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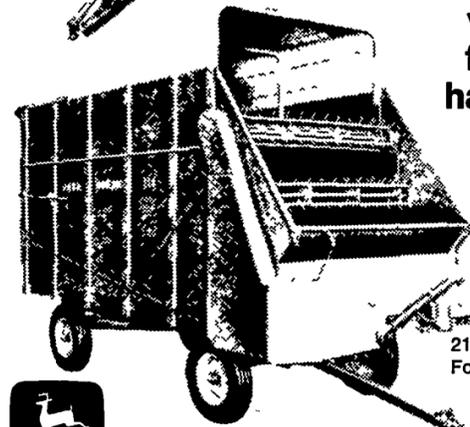
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