

Grange Meets in Reading

(Continued From Page 20(need major breakthroughs in production technology.

"I hope we do not delay until the situation is highly critical." Rep. H. Francis Kennedy (R-Butler), chairman of the Agriculture and Dairy Committee of the State House of Representatives, echoed Dr. Larsons's concern with the world food supply.

"National security could be threatened by failure to supply enough food for domestic and world demands," Kennedy warned the Grangers.

He also said, "One of the single most significant problems in this country today is the proper use of land, and particularly saving farm land from speculators or those who wish to build more commercial enterprises."

"The buying public wants to be assured that supplies are great enough to cover their needs," Kennedy declared. "Others worry whether we will have a surplus large enough to care for those in need."

"Our concern is whether we can continue to meet the intense demands at home and abroad. Should we falter and become increasingly dependent upon foreign agriculture, we decrease our national security and abandon our self-reliance."

A. Wayne Readinger of Fleetwood, State Grange master, declared that "tax relief for many farmers is a must if agriculture is to continue."

In his report to the convention, Readinger reviewed accomplishments of the past year, and also focused attention on the pressure to increase food production. "At no time in the history of this nation has so much attention been paid to the importance of agriculture and food," he declared. Domestic demand is "extremely strong", he added, "At the same time, there is an upsurge in worldwide demand for food as more people become more affluent."

John W. Scott, national Grange master, expressed the opinion that a serious shortage of milk could develop in the United States in the near future. Consumers, he said, will have to face the possibility of paying more for milk, "as they do now for meat."

State Senator Michael A. O'Pake presented State Grange Master Readinger with a citation honoring the Pennsylvania State Grange in its 100th anniversary year. The citation was adopted unanimously by the State Senate. The Pennsylvania State Grange was cited for the greatest increase in membership - 1906 new members in the past year - in the 20-state area served by the National Grange Mutual Insurance Company. O. Walker Shannon, regional agency manager, presented awards to 106 subordinate, or local, Granges for successful participation in the membership development program. Virginville Grange 1832, of Berks County, was tops in the state with an increase of 130 members.

Melody Sharp, Canonsburg RD1, won the best of show honors and first place in the instrumental competition in the convention's talent contest. She played a French horn and will represent Pennsylvania in the competition at the national Grange convention at Lincoln, Nebr., next month. Runner up and first place winner in square dancing was a Lehigh-Northampton county group composed of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gehringer, Breiningsville RD1; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Horning, 229 N. 39th St., Allentown; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Miller, New Tripoli RD2, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hausman, Orefield RD2.

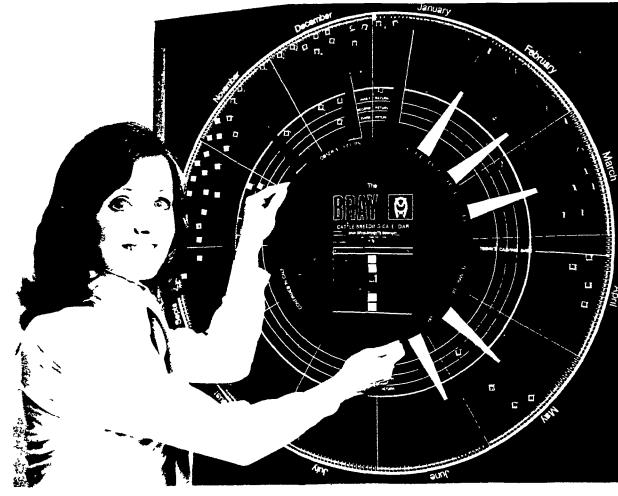
First place winner in the vocal competition was James Schlegel, Hamburg RD2. Other first place winners were: Frances Merkel, Leesport RD1, who gave a reading, and a quartet from Washington County. It was composed of Candy Crist, Washington, Aleta Starkey, Huston, Shirley Engle, Canonsburg RD1, and Helen Weaver, McDonald RD4.

Two Berks County family groups also won top honors in the talent contest and will represent the state in competition at the National Grange convention next month in Lincoln, Nebr. First place in the vocal contest went to Doris, Susie and Artie Kissling and Ruth, Sally, Lisa, Shere and Danny Steinhauer, of Lessport. Winners in the instrumental competition were J. Edward Snyder and his daughters, Sandra, Janice and Donna, of Reading RD3.

Top honors in the youth ritual and Grange procedure contest went to a team from Washington County. Runnerup honors went to the team from Mercer County.

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