

350 Attend 14th Ag-Industry Fete

"The American farmer will not be able to subsidize cheap food," Donald Hershey, a dairy farmer from Manheim, told the annual Chamber of Commerce Agriculture - Industry banquet on Tuesday night at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. "A farmer can have half a million dollars invested in his land and equipment, and he can work 12- to 14-hour days and still make less than 10 percent on his investment. We have problems when things are like this, and I think the

American people and the government will have to realize that farmers must be fairly compensated for their work and their investment." Hershey told the audience of 350 that even though Americans are paying 17.5 percent of their incomes for food - up from 15.5 percent a year ago - they're still paying proportionately less for food than citizens of many other countries. "The Japanese pay 50 percent of their incomes for food, and some areas go as high as 60 to 70 percent," he said.

Hershey, president of the Lancaster County Farmers Association, also spoke about the increased production over the years from county farms, but lamented the fact that there are fewer and fewer farms each year. "I used to spear tobacco and combine wheat where Park City stands today," he said. "Thirty years ago, we had 500,000 acres of tillable soil in this county. Now we're down to 320,000 acres. If it doesn't stop we eventually won't have any farms left."

R. Wesley Shope, outgoing president of the Chamber, preceded Hershey on the speaker's platform. He told the audience that he and other Chamber members are concerned about the disappearance of farmland in Lancaster County. He added that the chamber has created a land use committee to counsel other Chamber officials.

In remarks at the close of the meeting, County Agricultural Agent Max Smith told the audience he was pleased to hear of the Chamber's concern over open space, and noted his particular pleasure at the genesis of the land use committee.

Featured speaker for the evening was William Porter, who will manage the new W. K. Kellogg cereal plant in Lancaster. Porter told the audience the plant would be well underway in no more than a year. He explained that a temporary halt had been called to the project because of soaring interest rates and building costs.

Porter also said after the meeting that even though the plant will use cereal grains in the manufacturing process, Kellogg will not likely be a good market for local grains. Most of the products that will be produced in the plant will be partially processed at a Midwest mill before being shipped East.



William Porter, general manager of the new W. K. Kellogg plant in Lancaster, told the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce 14th Annual Agriculture-Industry Banquet that his plant would be well underway in another year.

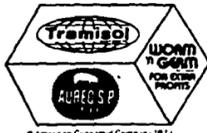
I REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS

From Jim Ritchie, San Francisco, California: I remember when Harry Truman became President. Not many people thought he could handle the job. But he sure proved to be up to the task — and in a hurry. He didn't fool around even though FDR had left him in the dark on a lot of important issues. Old Harry soon made important appointments in the cabinet and in embassies throughout the world. He made some key judicial appointments, too. He had a lot of problems to deal with.

For instance the war was just over with and he had demobilization to contend with. "Send the boys home," was heard throughout the land. The army's plans were too slow to suit the voters. And as a result of a lot of pressures our ground forces were quickly dismantled. We looked weak to the communists but our economy held fast. Veterans received top priority for jobs and especially in schools. And then Dewey came along and everybody thought Truman would get beat — except Harry himself. He "Poured it on," though, and "Gave it to 'em," and was elected in a big surprise.

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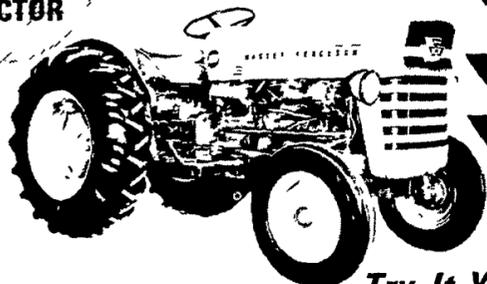
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