

## Farm Women Hold 56th Convention

by Melissa Piper

The first two days of Farm Show week proved to be both busy and interesting for the nearly 500 women who gathered in Harrisburg for the 56th Annual State Farm Women Convention.

The event, which included both business sessions and informal get togethers brought together farm women from all over the State.

Monday morning's program got underway at 10:00 a.m. in the Forum Education Building near the Capital in Harrisburg.

On hand for the opening event was James McHale the secretary of agriculture for the Commonwealth.

Special guests included farm women from other states who were interested in organizing farm women societies that have proved so successful in Pennsylvania.

Presiding at Monday's meeting was the state president, Mrs. S. Lee Richards from Fulton County. She was assisted by the first state vice-president, Mrs. Lois Erb of Harrisburg.

Included in the business of the opening session, were the reports by the County presidents on the work their societies had been involved in throughout the previous year.

Recognized as the outstanding Farm Women Society member of the year was Mrs. Mary Dennis of Adams County.

Following a noon adjournment, a Monday afternoon session was conducted also at the Forum Building.

The program included a fashion show entitled "Sew A Long Dress" which proved quite successful as many farm women displayed their stitching talents for most of the afternoon.

Keynote speaker for the afternoon session was Mrs. Marianne Fisher of Willow Grove followed by musical entertainment.

Presentation of the annual safety awards concluded the meeting, with Lancaster County's poster entry taking first place honors.

The poster depicted a girl who had placed a rocking chair on top of a pile of books to reach for an electrical outlet.

The poster proved so effective, many pleasing comments were given to the Lancaster County delegation.

Although a brewing snow storm settled on the area in late afternoon, the farm women trekked to the Penn Harris Motor Inn for the annual banquet, on Monday evening.

Mrs. John Hess, the State's second vice president and resident of Lancaster County, along with Mrs. Carl Johnson, the president of the Lancaster County Farm Women Society served as hostesses for the Coffee-Tea Hour which proceeded the banquet.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the banquet was Mrs. Wilber Erb, the State's first vice-president, with Mrs. Richard Cline, the State Chaplin, giving the invocation.

Keynote speaker for the event was Mrs. Jane Alexander, Deputy Secretary for the Department of Agriculture.



Mrs. S. Lee Richards (left) president of the State Farm Women Society and her first vice-president Mrs. Wilber Erb, Harrisburg RD1, pose for a picture before beginning the Tuesday morning's business session.

Mrs. Alexander brought greetings from the Department and stressed a continuation of the fine work the societies have been involved in.

The Red Lion Trumpet Troubadours of Red Lion, York County, provided the musical entertainment for the evening's event.

Although many of the women were late in getting home as the weather had made road conditions slippery, many cheerfully returned to Harrisburg on Tuesday morning for the closing business session of the Convention.

Annual reports and business matters were discussed by the delegates before electing new directors for the coming year.

Mrs. Richard Cline gave the morning devotions by reading Psalms 25 and speaking on the important women of the Bible.

Mrs. Cline explained that farm women are often faced with problems and disappointments, however, as the women of older times faced their problems with faith so also should the farm woman of today take her worries with an ever growing faith.

"We should keep the business like manners of Lydia, the responsibility of Deborah and the humbleness of Mary," Mrs. Cline added.

Most of the Tuesday session was devoted to discussing business matters and the election of officers and directors.

Mrs. S. Lee Richards gave the closing thoughts before adjourning the 56th annual convention.

### Lancaster Represented

Nearly 100 members of Farm Women Societies in Lancaster County attended the convention and its activities. Mrs. Carl Johnson of Quarryville and Mrs. Sadie Greenleaf of New Oxford were special guests to the Governor's preview held on Sunday. The ladies reported that they had been given special passes by Mrs. Jane Alexander and had attended the affair as representatives of the Farm Women.

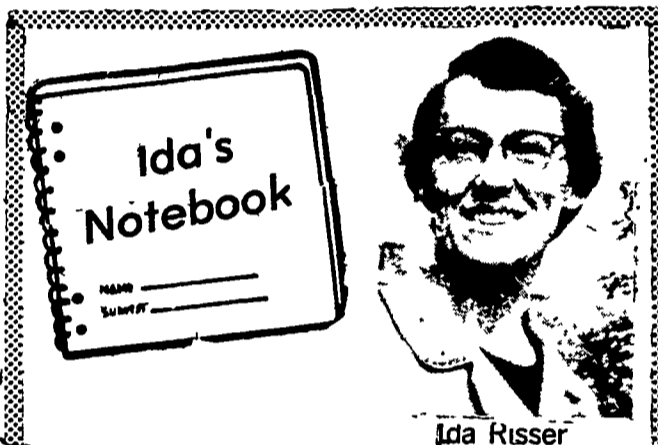
In her county president's report, Mrs. Carl Johnson relayed some of the activities that the farm women of Lancaster County had been involved in during the past year.

She reported that along with their monthly meetings, the ladies had participated in many workshops that included flower arranging and egg decorating. The societies have also taken part in raising funds for scholarships and service by helping in food stands at the County Fairs and by individual methods.

Lancaster County has had established Farm Women Societies since it was organized in January of 1917. There are presently 31 societies scattered throughout the county from Quarryville to Lititz. Although each group holds their own meetings and outings, many join together for

special activities and parties. Along with their own service work, they join in giving money to a special county project that is adopted each year, and to the memorial scholarship fund, statewide scholarship that is given annually to young women interested in pursuing a career in home-economics.

Joyce Groff of Quarryville and Robin White of East Petersburg both in Lancaster County, were 1974 recipients of the Memorial Scholarship that is in honor of the Farm Women Society founder, Mrs. Frank Black



Ida Russer

Winter is a time when we concentrate on hearty dishes to warm the body and the soul. There is a bit more time to prepare different and complicated foods.

Over the years, our eating habits have changed somewhat and salads and thin soups have replaced more nourishing food. No longer do we have shoo-fly pie for breakfast and fried potatoes and pork every night for supper. Some folks don't work as hard physical labor, as their grandmothers did and therefore it is probably good that they do eat lighter.

The old hand-written notebook of recipes which my grandmother gave my mother contained notes for making pies, cinnamon flop cake and saffron potatoes plus rivels and dumplings. We grew our own saffron plants with purplish flowers and dried the orange stigmas

for use in filling and other dishes where a yellow color was desired. Herbs added a special something to our abundant supply of dried corn and beans.

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We are tearing down a tobacco shed which was built over 100 years ago. Apparently many people are watching with various interests in mind. Someone asked for the lightening rods, another for some old boards and yet another for a chair board and hooks.

But there is another kind of person who watches and then takes what he wants--unobserved. One ornament on the roof was broken, the oiler was removed from an antique air compressor and Philip brought home an old drill with huge wooden wheels before they also "walked away" or should I say "rolled away."

## Timely Reminders

### Launder Ironing Board Cover

Cotton ironing board covers are popular. When treated with silicon or a non-stick surface they become smoother and more scorch- and water-resistant. Certain synthetic fabrics have been specially developed to withstand temperatures up to 600 degrees F. But no matter what type of ironing board cover you buy, Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, Extension clothing and textiles specialist at The Pennsylvania State University, reminds you to keep it clean. Some may be wiped clean, others may be machine-laundered, so check the manufacturer's instructions.

It doesn't make sense to iron clean clothes on a soiled surface.

### After School Snacks

If your children are tired of the same old snacks after school, they'll enjoy cubes of cheese speared with wooden picks, ready and waiting in the refrigerator. Extension specialists at The Pennsylvania State University suggest you team the cheese with apples, bananas, grapes, pickles or olives for variety.

### Fish

A good rule to remember The smaller the fish, the hotter the grill should be. Also, grease the grill prior to cooking. If that fish breaks or sticks to the grill when you turn or take it up—the grill wasn't hot enough.



Mrs. Clair Buterbaugh, Clymer RD2, reads portions of the minutes to a crowd of farm women during their convention activities.