

Agri-Loan directors meeting Thursday at the Hamilton Club, Lancaster, were, front row, left to right: Noah Kreider, Herman Stebbins, John Biechler, Edwin

Wallis, Jr., Paul Whipple, (back row) Spencer G. Hall, Amos Funk, John Cope, Harry Wallick, Donald Horn, George Morrison, Jr., Edward Wagmon.

## Fifth anniversary marked

LANCASTER — At a luncheon Thursday at the Hamilton Club, directors and officers of Commonwealth National Bank's wholly-owned subsidiary, the

Commonwealth National Agri-Loan Corp., gathered to mark the Corporation's fifth anniversary of service to agriculture throughout central Pennsylvania.

Since its formation in June of 1970, the Agri-Loan Corp. has grown to its present level of \$8,131,000 in farm loans outstanding. During the past year, farm loans through the

Corporation increased \$2,605,000 or 47.1 per cent over the June 30, 1974 total of \$5,526,000.

Robert P. Bucher, manager of the bank's Agri-Loan Corporation, and Commonwealth Bank's chief agricultural loan officer, stated that the bank's total growth in agricultural loans, including Agri-Loan Corporation loans, has rapidly increased over the past five years from \$11,486,000 in June 1970 to its present level of \$25,773,000. Bucher attributes this accelerated growth not only to the efforts of the bank's agricultural staff, but also to the formation of the Corporation itself as an alternative source of lendable funds during periods of so called "tight money," and the quality and diversity of agriculture in south central Pennsylvania.

## Shopping bag items increase

HARRISBURG — Conducting its own survey of supermarkets, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture reported an average price increase of 29 cents for 15 "shopping bag" items in the Commonwealth from May to June.

The department's Consumer Services Division in the Bureau of Rural Affairs in a survey of rural and urban supermarkets throughout the Commonwealth found the shopping bag list had increased in price from \$9.05 to \$9.34. The sharp rise followed five straight months of steadily declining averages.

The survey also indicated the gap in retail prices

between urban and rural stores widened in the past month. The 15 shopping bag items averaged prices that were seven percent more expensive in rural stores than in urban stores, an increase of one percent over the previous month.

"Our survey shows the inflation affecting retail food prices is not over," commented Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale. "It also shows that rural communities continue to take the brunt of the inflation."

The 15 shopping bag items included, potatoes, cabbage, canned peaches, fresh pears, canned corn, sugar, shortening, coffee, bread, corn flakes, whole chicken, a dozen large eggs, ground beef, American cheese and four rolls of toilet paper.

One pound of ground beef increased from an average of 96 cents to \$1.07. Potatoes rose from nine cents a pound to 13 cents. Sugar dropped in price from 39 cents to 33 cents a pound. Eggs also

dropped from 75 cents to 71 cents a dozen. Cabbage, peaches, pears, corn, shortening, corn flakes, chicken and American cheese were other items that increased in price.

In a breakdown of regions, the northeastern section of the Commonwealth was the most expensive with a shopping bag price average of \$9.77. The southeastern central region had the lowest cost average of \$8.96.

### GULP!

Little Willie tugged at his mother's apron strings. "Ma, didn't I hear you tell Aunt Mary I have your eyes and daddy's nose?" "Yes you heard correctly," replied the indulgent mother. "Well look at me now," said Willie pointing to his right hand. "I've got Grandpa's teeth, too!"

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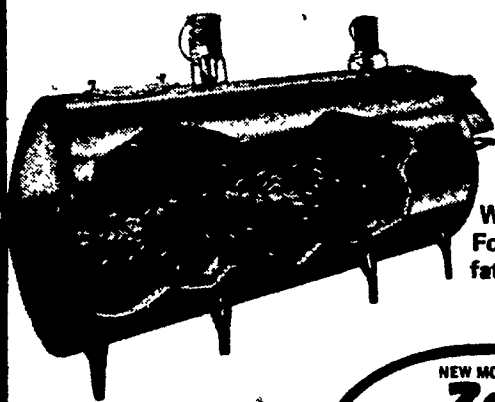
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