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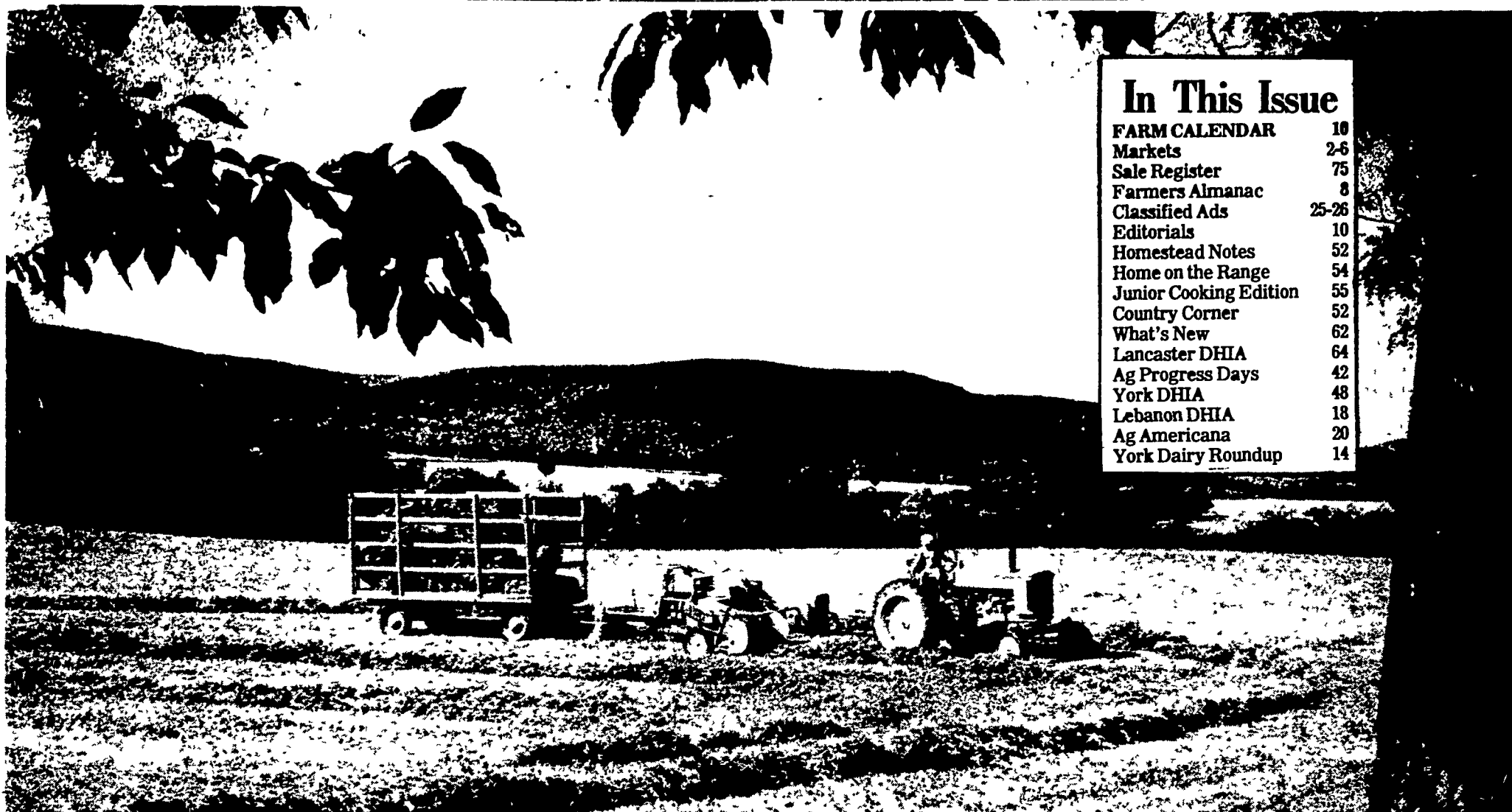
Lancaster Farming

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A summer afternoon in a hayfield near Hamburg, northern Berks County

Lancaster Farming Photo
by Dieter Krieg

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Potato market 'very active'

By Dieter Krieg
MANHEIM — Like many other potato growers across the country, Noah Kreider and Sons grew less of the crop this year than in previous years. But their reason for cutting back may not be the same as for most others.

Potato acreage was cut back much more than expected for 1975, according to government crop statisticians, because of the big supplies and low prices which occurred last season. Although the Kreiders were by no means immune to these marketing developments, their choice to cut back was made primarily because of extra land being needed to meet the feed requirements of their dairy herd.

Noah Kreider, Jr., who with his father, and brother, Richard, operates the 1,000-acre agricultural enterprise, says this year's potato crop is about the same as last year's. They have been harvesting some of the earlier varieties since early August, and expect to continue the digging until mid October. The family has 300 acres planted in Superior, Norchip, and Katahdin spuds, most of which are used for potato chips.

Kreider's receipts thus far show a slightly lower price

for potatoes than what was being paid last year, and like in most other farm operations, this is occurring at a time when production costs are multiplying. "Labor, machines,

chemicals, and fuel are especially high," Kreider said.

In spite of the poorer economic conditions, the Kreiders are planning to stay in the potato business,

mainly because they are set up for it with equipment. When Lancaster Farming visited the family's potato facilities earlier this month, a total of 20 people were employed on the harvesters

and grading machines, turning out as much as 125 tons of potatoes per day.

Giant potato digging machines, powered by some of the biggest two-wheel drive tractors on the market,

crawled across long, level fields, filling one of five bin wagons every 10 minutes. The crop was then hauled to the warehouse for cleaning, washing, grading, and loading. At times two loads were backed up to the conveyors at the same time. Electric motors whirred as potatoes tumbled and bounced on their way to the tractor and trailer waiting at the other end of the line. Washing was accomplished by way of an artificial created "stream," in which the churning action cleanses the crop of all soil. It takes about an hour and a half to load a tractor trailer which has a capacity of 25 tons.

Kreider reported this year's yield to be around 25 to 300 hundredweights per acre. That estimate may change since it was made fairly early in the season. He also noted that not every day comes with the good harvesting conditions he was experiencing in mid August. No serious problems were encountered in growing this year's crop, although it was a little dry, Kreider said. That is a situation which they can tolerate since all their potato acreage is set up to be irrigated if necessary. The Lancaster County grower sells most of his potatoes by contract and the

Witmer receives national honor

WILLOW STREET — Peter Witmer, the winner of the Dairy Shrine Club's 1975 Student Recognition Contest, hasn't always been sure about choosing a career on the farm.

"I have not always been completely positive that I wanted to continue in dairy farming," the young man said. Witmer explained that while in both high school and

college he was exposed to many different vocations, and with his father being a bank director, he at times thought maybe 'things were greener on the other side of the fence'. "But I have talked to a number of people who have left the farm for other lines of work ... and these people without fail have recommended staying on the farm if at all possible

and they wished they could go back."

Witmer, a 1974 graduate of Penn State University, has decided to stay on the farm. Looking back now, he said it was the weeks and months spent away at school which convinced him his best future is in the dairy business. He has also learned to appreciate a dairying career more than

he did before and looks to that business with enthusiasm and optimism.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Witmer, Willow Street, young Witmer will receive a \$500 cash award from the Dairy Shrine Club. He was selected by a panel of judges from a group of 32 outstanding dairy science

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Kauffman cow wins York show

By Dieter Krieg
YORK — For the second year in a row, a cow out of the Robert Kauffman herd, Elizabethtown, has won the grand champion banner at the Southcentral Championship Holstein Show held here on Thursday.

"Andfar Astronaut Cinderella," a three year old,

won over "Fought Land Eagle Ingra," an aged cow owned by Russell Kline, Denver. These two animals finished in the same order at the Lancaster County Open Holstein Show held at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion on July 31.

The premier breeder and exhibitor of the show was

George M. Knight, Woodbine. The York County breeder took first place in the best three females class, 100,000 pound class, dam-daughter pair, as well as several other categories.

The junior champion of the show was Cindy Knight's "Woodbine Elevation Florence." Taking reserve

junior champion honors was a heifer belonging to Russell Kline.

Kline also showed the winning bull of the show, which was judged by Maryland dairyman, William Hill, Jr. The reserve grand champion bull

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