

Kutztown student chosen for national FFA band



Kevin Hertzog

Kevin Hertzog, 18, son of Mrs. Jean Hertzog and the late Mr. Ernest Hertzog of Topton is one of 120 FFA members from across the nation selected to participate in the National FFA Band. Kevin was selected from over 500 applicants representing 44 states and will play the snare drum. After two days of intensive practice prior to the convention, the band is to perform during all but one session of the 48th National Convention of the Future Farmers of America, November 11-14, in Kansas City, Missouri. Kevin is a member of the Kutztown FFA Chapter where his advisors are Ben Newcomer

and Donald W. Reinert. He is also a member of the Brandywine Heights band under the direction of Phillip Forlano.

Often referred to as the "mail order band" because of the method of recruiting members, the National FFA Band was first organized in 1947. Since that time competition for the honor of playing in the band has steadily increased. Under the direction of Roger Heath, director of Virginia Tech Bands, the FFA Band has gained a reputation for its polished performances even though bandmen have only two days of practice together prior to their first performance.

"Bandmen are selected on the basis of tape recorded auditions or competitive auditions in their State FFA Band with supporting recommendations from their high school band directors," explains Heath who spends many hours during the summer selecting FFA members to fill the 120-piece band. In addition, all applicants are required to list their musical experience and activities such as solo and ensemble performances, special honors and special experience such as drum majoring or baton twirling.

FFA members who play in the band arrive in Kansas City two days before the convention starts so they can

begin practicing. "Although we send band members the most difficult music ahead of time, it still takes a lot of practice to get ready for our first performance on Wednesday morning," says Heath.

During the convention week the FFA Band will play at seven sessions. "We'll play a wide variety of music," says Heath "including marches, rock tunes, selection from Broadway musicals, serious music, and mood music. We'll also have some of the latest hits," adds Heath, who likes to "think

young" when planning music for the youthful convention crowd.

Although the FFA convention officially ends Friday evening the bandmen will not finish their week's work until noon Saturday at the conclusion of the American Royal Parade. Traditionally the FFA Band has been featured as the leading marching unit in the parade which signals the end of the National FFA Convention and the opening of the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show.

Livestock producers to meet

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Livestock Association will be held

Tuesday, (Nov. 11) at the Penn Ram Motor Inn, Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg. Scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m., the meeting will be followed by an awards banquet at 6:30. One of the features of this affair will be the selection of the "Livestock Man of the Year."

FFA chapter sponsors pumpkin contest

The Lower Dauphin FFA chapter sponsored a pumpkin contest for five elementary schools in the Lower Dauphin School District on Oct. 23.

The classes judged were (1) the largest in circumference (2) heaviest and (3) the most creatively decorated Jack-o-Lantern.

The seeds were distributed by the Lower Dauphin FFA to the elementary students in the spring.

The purpose of the project was to get the children interested in gardening and agriculture.

The Pennsylvania Livestock Association is one of the sponsors for the Keystone International Livestock Exposition which begins in Harrisburg today, (Saturday) and continues through this coming Friday. A list of events at the Keystone Exposition can be found elsewhere in today's issue of Lancaster Farming.

Hot to Cold

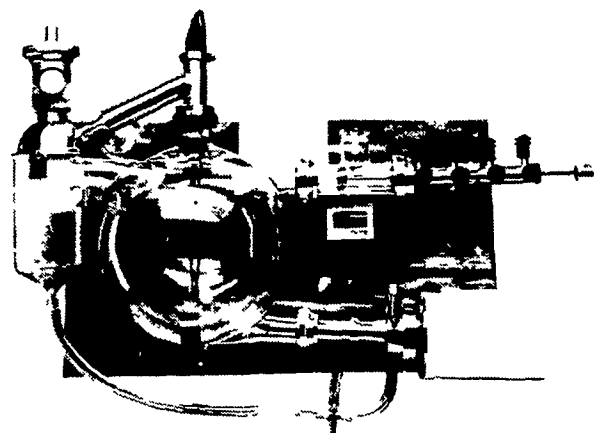
When hot food is ready to be frozen, it must be cooled quickly to stop the cooking, retard the growth of bacteria and to help retain the natural flavor, color, and texture of the food

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