

McHale joins 'Rural America'

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale today disclosed that he had been elected to a one-year term on the board of directors of Rural America, Inc., a Washington - based organization of a number of rural and agricultural groups.

"I am pleased at my selection to the board of this distinguished organization," said McHale. "My interest as Pennsylvania Secretary

of Agriculture has always been to help the forgotten rural communities, and Rural America, Inc., promises to be an effective lobbying force for all rural citizens."

There is no remuneration for board directors. Noting that his days as Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture are coming to a close, McHale said that his connection with Rural America, Inc., meant that much more to him.

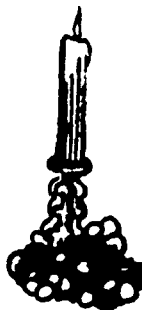
"This will enable me to keep my hand in the important work of helping rural Americans to get an even slice of the American pie, no matter what new position I take," said McHale.

Rural America was a co-sponsor of a National Conference on Rural America in Washington last April. Featured among many speakers at the four-day conference were Senators James Abourezk (D-S.D.), Dick Clark (D-Iowa), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), George McGovern (D-S.D.), and Representatives Mark Andrews (R-N.D.) and Bill Alexander (D-Ark.).

More than 1,000 people attended the conference, including McHale and members of his staff. Clay Cochrane, executive director of Rural Housing Alliance

and chairman of Rural America, Inc., informed McHale by letter that he was among nine members elected to an expanded board of directors.

Cochrane has described Rural America, Inc., as an "action-oriented research" group serving as a communication link between the remote rural citizen and Washington.



Thomasville 4-Hers honored at banquet

The Thomasville 4-H Community Club held their annual covered dish and Achievement Night recently at the 4-H Center near Bair.

Bonnie Wire and Kathy Uhl played french horns and Christmas Carols were led by Bonnie Wire, Kathy Uhl and Nancy Eisenhart. The American and 4-H pledges were led by Tommy Welsh and Christine Wolf. The blessing was given by Mrs. Harris Horn.

Plaques were given to these members: Leathercraft - Joey Welsh, Horticulture - James Roth, Vegetable Garden - Teresa Roser, Clothing - Katherine Uhl, Petroleum Power - Gary Welsh, Candlemaking - Beverly Eisenhart, Start With Small Change - Tina Barnhart, Tasty Snacks - Lori Hoke, Crochet - Sandra Eisenhart, Dairy - Tommy Welsh, Handyman - Roy Thompson, Bicycle - Jonathan Myers, Rifle - Jack Parr, Breads - Bonnie Wire, Health - Paul Myers III, Design With Lines - Tammy

Barnhart, Sheep - Nancy Eisenhart, Horse - Martha Uhl.

Members receiving pencil holders were: Kelly Rentzel, Karen Parr, Christine Wolf, Ned Rentzel, Christine Parr, Carol and Joanne Haskins, Tammy and Brenda Wetzel, Jodi Stare and Tim Eishenhart.

Cookie sale awards to the top three salesman were presented to: 1st Teresa Roser, 2nd Ned Rentzel and 3rd Nancy Eisenhart. Slides were shown to members of a trip to Massachusetts where the 4-H cookies are made and of Cape Cod, by Bonnie Wire and Kelly Rentzel.

Officers installed for the coming year were: President, Jack Parr; Vice Pres. Tommy Welsh, Secretary, Kathy Uhl; Treasurer, Paul Myers III; News Reporter, Jonathan Myers; Historian Kelly Rentzel and Tina Parr.

The evening closed with a friendship circle and singing Kum Ba Yau.

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