

## Executive order from Governor Shapp designated Ag. Dept. for rural trans.

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's rural transportation project, operating for more than a year in 23 counties, has shifted into the "coordinating" phase of the plan, according to Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture was relieved of its rural transportation program as of December 31.

The Agriculture Department in August, 1974, in an executive order from Gov. Milton J. Shapp, was designated the lead agency

in developing transportation in rural areas.

"We've demonstrated a definite need for transportation in isolated rural communities by operating our own dial-a-ride service," McHale explained. "Now we are in phase two in that we will coordinate the services of existing social agencies and private carriers."

The Bureau of Rural Affairs Transportation Division had operated the project in 23 counties using three dispatch offices and a fleet of vehicles. Passengers, most of them older citizens, would schedule rides to see their doctors, shop or visit social agencies. At the height of the pilot project about 44 vehicles were in use. The project was funded mainly through a contract with the Welfare Department.

According to H. Richard Hostetler, director of the Bureau of Rural Affairs, the new phase of the transportation project will not require drivers. As a result 47 employees of the project, including one coordinator and two dispatchers, are being severed from the project.

The dispatch offices will continue to function during the coordinating phase of the project, Hostetler explained.

"However," said Hostetler, "we were never meant to be a permanent provider of transportation. We showed there was a need for transportation systems in rural communities."

At the same time,

Hostetler noted, there was a wasteful inefficiency in the transportation that was being provided by various agencies. For example, one agency might run buses for the benefit of only the blind while another only transported the elderly. "In many cases, vehicles would travel the same route to pick up their special passengers and then remain idle the rest of the day," said Hostetler.

"We hope that in the coordinating phase of the project we can work with the different service agencies to avoid duplication of effort," said Hostetler.

"We will also work with the taxicab association to integrate private carrier services in our transportation plan," said Hostetler. He explained that people on welfare could receive tokens from their agencies which taxi companies could then redeem for cash at local banks.

"In areas where there are no private carriers, we will attempt to set up transportation authorities that will run vehicles. These are examples of the kind of work we will be doing in the coming year," said Hostetler.

### First Airline

A fleet of Zeppelins carried more than 34,000 passengers on approximately 1,500 flights—with no loss of life—in Germany during 1910 Service was halted at the start of World War I

## Milking school scheduled

MECHANICS GROVE - A milking school sponsored jointly by the Solanco Young Farmers and Lancaster County Extension Service will be held January 15 at the Solanco High School's agriculture room, beginning at 10 a.m.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting, which will last until 3:00 p.m., include: milking techniques, the milking machine, mastitis prevention and treatment, physiology of lactation and the anatomy and development of the udder. It is designed to improve a dairyman's milking ability,

therapy, production, and udder health of his cows.

Steve Spencer, from Penn State's dairy extension staff and Alan Bair of the County Extension office, will be spending some time at the clinic, according to William Fredd, head of the ag department at Solanco.

A registration fee of \$3.00 is required. Checks should be made out to Solanco Young Farmers and mailed to: Agricultural Department, Solanco Senior High School, Quarryville R2, Pa. 17566. It is also suggested that each registrant include a slip of paper with his name, address and phone number written on it.

## Horse census wanted

WASHINGTON - A national horse census to be taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was cited as a top need by the National Horse Industry Advisory Committee in a meeting here last month.

The group also recommended:

-A permanent "passport" system for more positive identification of horses.

-Passage of the vetoed Animal Health Research Act.

-More emphasis on horse research.

-Changes in the amended Horse Protection Act of 1970 to make it more "ac-

ceptable" to the horse industry.

The advisory committee also recommended strengthening the testing program for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) by requiring a 12-month test in states where there is less than five percent EIA reported and a six-month test in states where the incident is more than five percent.

## Promotion okayed

The egg referendum, HR 12000, became reality last month when 73 percent of the 2,160 egg producers voting elected to assess themselves up to five cents per case of eggs. The producers voting in favor represented 86 percent of the production involved in the balloting.

The money will be used for research and promotion and is expected to be instrumental in reversing the downward trend of egg consumption. Per capita egg consumption this year is expected to be about 275, compared to 287 last year and 402 in 1945.

A national Egg Board consisting of 18 members will be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to administer the program.

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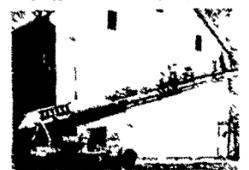
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