## 'Spirit of Red Fever' tour undertaken;

National machinery show, tractor pull and IHC factory seen



The spacious Kentucky Fairgrounds and Exposition Center hosted the National Farm Machinery Show earlier this month, tours to which were sponsored by International dealerships

throughout the Northeast. The C. B. Hoober dealership at Intercourse represented the Lancaster County area.

By DIETER KRIEG

LOUISVILLE - The Bicentennial Year may bring out slogans for "The Spirit of "76," and Valentine's Day may turn one's thoughts to big, red hearts, but for five days during mid-February the rage for thousands of people in this town was "The Spirit of Red Fever."

The International Harvester Company was sponsoring trips for interested parties from the Midwest and Northeast to see the National Farm Machinery Show, a National Invitational Tractor Pull, and IH's sprawling manufacturing facilities - all of which are located here near the home of the worldfamous Kentucky Derby.

With IH and 130 individual

travel arrangements, dealers, their employees and farmers, came to this northern Kentucky city in groups. Taking care of tour preparations for Lancaster County and some surrounding areas was the C.B. Hoober dealership of Intercourse which recently received the Company's 'XL' award for outstanding service and facilities.

Flying out of Harrisburg, the C.B. Hoober group arrived in Louisville by midmorning on Friday, Feb. 13. Representatives from International Harvester were on hand to familiarize visitors with itineraries and provide them with distinctive IH caps made exclusively for this occasion.

The first stop on the tour was IH's Louisville plant, dealerships taking care of sprawled out on 145 acres. of

which 38 are under roof. Employing 5,500 workers when operating at full capacity, the facility produces over 40 basic tractor models and a variety of other products such as gears and crankshafts for use in other tractors.

Friday evening found visitors dining in one of the exquisite dining rooms of the Executive Inn, followed by a turf-tearing and smokespouting tractor pulling contest in the large arena of the Kentucky Exposition Center. It was a National Invitational Pull to which

only top winners from all across the U.S. and Canada could come. Representing southeastern Pennsylvania was Mike Wright of New Freedom. A consistent winner at local pulls, the York Countian was entered in the 15,000 stock class. To the dismay of IH fans, particularly those from Pennsylvania, Wright's tractor engine gave out under the strain and had to be pulled off the track. It was not exactly an unusual occurrence as several other top drivers found themselves in the same predicament and



Machinery Show demonstrated the strength of some new tractor cabs on the market.

out of reach of the prize money and trophy. As the announcer said: "A tough break, but let's hear it for him anyway, because, you know, these drivers have to be good to make it to this pull in the first place."

The National Farm Machinery Show was an attraction for farmers from all over the East Coast as well as the Midwest. Held in huge exhibition halls which flank the large arena of the Kentucky Exposition Canter, the displays drew nothing but favorable comments

from Pennsylvania visitors who were amazed and impressed with the orderliness and spaciousness of it all. A larger and more recenly built structure than Pennsylvania's Farm Show Building, the facilities are still being expanded. Rows of equipment were lined up to allow ample room for visitors to pass by or browse around, while passageways were almost free of unsightly litter.

At the conclusion of the [Continued on Page 55]

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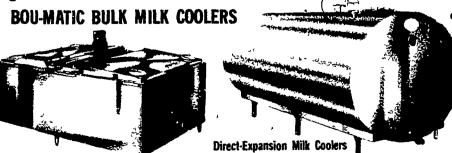


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