

Lancaster Farming

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Farmer fraternity made history

By DIETER KRIEG
CHRISTIANA — A unique farmers' group, the Octoraro Farmers Club, recently completed 120 years of existence and service to its community. It's unique for several reasons.

Dr. Jerome K. Pasto, now dean of resident education at Penn State, once remarked: "This is one of the oldest farmers' clubs in the country, and perhaps this, the Octoraro Farmers Club,

is the cradle of farmers clubs in the country. Pasto was present for the Club's 100th anniversary in 1956 and

made the remarks at that time.

To Harold Graham, a relatively new member who

moved into Lancaster County in 1963, the club is more than a fraternity. Aside from providing

fellowship and opportunity for learning, Graham regards the organization as being a nucleus of com-

munity history. He and his wife have both delighted in finding out more about their new surroundings by paging through Octoraro Farmers Club history.

The Club was once featured in an issue of THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, a national agricultural publication, which in itself indicates how unique the 120-year old club is. Although membership is presently not

Ten scholarships awarded

By MELISSA PIPER

LANCASTER — Ten youths representing several County high schools, were awarded \$400 scholarships by the Farm and Home Foundation during an acceptance program held here on Tuesday evening.

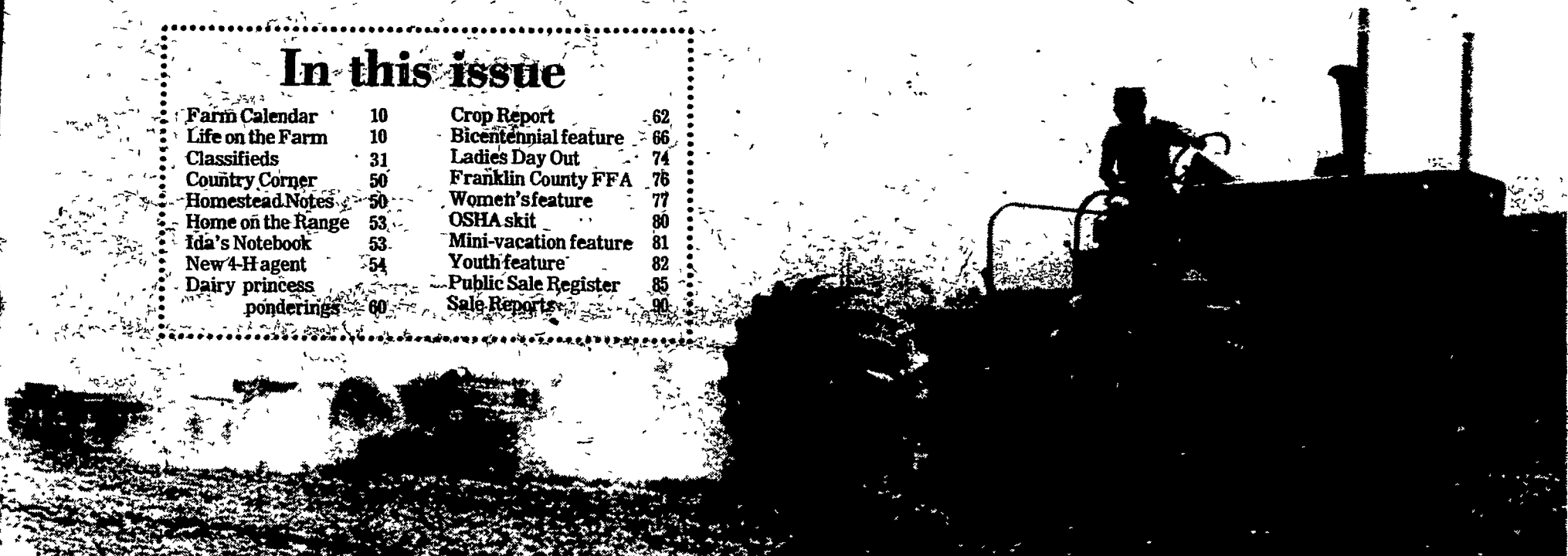
Eight of the scholarships were awarded to students for college educations in the fields of home economics and agriculture. These presentations come from an

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Lancaster Farming Photo by Dieter Krieg

Here's a typical as well as an atypical scene. It's the season for field work, that's true, but a large tractor such as this one owned by Elmer Hoover of Womelsdorf R1, is still a bit unusual in this part of the country. Hoover, who farms around a thousand acres in partnership with his brother, Paul, says he got the tractor above five years ago and is very happy he did. He can go

anywhere. It's being operated, above, by George Weaver. Powered by a Cummins V-8 diesel engine, the behemoth is pulling a 15-foot disk and more. "It saves a lot of work," says Hoover, who had 250 acres of corn planted on May 10 and another 300 to go.

Hot-rod tractors ready to go

By DIETER KRIEG
THE BUCK — Using three to four gallons of fuel to go a distance of 300 feet might sound like someone needs his engine tuned, but that couldn't be further from the truth. The sophisticated, precision-tuned, screaming engines found at a tractor pulling contest represent a height in mechanical ingenuity.

It involves taking an "ordinary" tractor engine and modifying it to develop up to 10 times as many horsepower. The result is that the tractor, equipped with over-sized tires, can tear up a 300-foot dirt track in 30 seconds, even though it is hitched up to a sled which weighs in excess of 20 tons.

One man who has won trophy after trophy at the Buck Tractor Pulls, Inc., here, is Mike Wright, a young farmer from York County who manages over

2,000 acres. His International tractor developed about 130 horsepower when he got it from the dealer. After

modification, it screams alive with close to 1,000 horsepower.

But it takes more than a

powerful engine to win at a tractor pull. Wide tires help; proper balance is imperative; and the driver's

skill frequently make the difference between placing first or second.

It has been estimated that

a tractor which has been modified for pulls, would be capable of shooting down the track at a speed of 60 miles an hour if it were not held back by the weight of the sled. Tractors in these pulling contests usually run out of traction, not out of power. To overcome the traction problem, competitors use wide tires, the treads of which have been ground to shape for maximum pull. Wright's tires are 30 inches wide — the most common width is 24.5 inches. They cost \$900 a piece.

Fuels aren't the ordinary kind either, and are often mixed like drinks. Elwood Flowers, a puller from Manheim, for example, burns a mixture of 99 per cent alcohol and one per cent water in his tractor — which develops about 820 horsepower at 8,000 rpm.

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Wheat trade found lucrative

By DIETER KRIEG

OXFORD — Farming's future all boils down to one thing, according to Wilmer Hostetter, Chester County dairyman and grain farmer. "If you can't make a profit, you can always sell your land for good money... then in the end, the consumer will have to pay more for food."

Explaining his opinion, Hostetter commented that most farm prices are favorable right now, and as long as they stay that way, and consumers are aware of the farmer's production costs, then the outlook is good. "I can't speak for the consumers, but I would hope

they're aware of our costs," he added.

As one who started farming on his own by leasing

and later purchasing a farm, Hostetter has had to look for opportunities to make progress. His father had a

Annual Dairy Issue deadline is June 1

On June 5, LANCASTER FARMING will recognize the area's dynamic dairy industry with its Annual Dairy Issue.

We extend a special invitation to dairy groups and organizations, as well as individuals, to submit articles and news on dairying for the Dairy Issue.

To be sure you make the Dairy Issue, please submit all advertising and editorial material by Tuesday, June 1. Call us at 717-394-3047 or 717-626-1164. Or write LANCASTER FARMING, Box 266, Lititz, Pa. 17543.