

Mike Hartman

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wasn't consumed out of sheer hunger pangs, but rather as a snack. "It's really good - better than chicken," he said repeatedly.

Hartman's interest in wildlife, plants, and the outdoors has been recognized many times. He has also been an able student and active member of the FFA organization. For these reasons he was recently given one more award to add to his growing collection.

The Kunzler FFA Scholarship, given by Kunzler Meats of Lancaster was won by Hartman earlier this month when he was picked from among other FFA applicants from all over Lancaster County. The

honor includes a payment of \$700 which will go directly to Penn State's Mont Alto campus where Hartman has already been accepted for the forestry program.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Hartman, Narvon R1, the award-winning youth is not from a farm. He says he has always been interested in the outdoors and therefore elected to take the vo-ag program at Garden Spot when he entered high school. "It had the most to offer for what I was interested in," he said with a smile.

Garden Spot's FFA curriculum is unique in that it has two divisions - the "regular" one and a separate chapter for environmental enthusiasts. Hartman chose the latter.

"Since then I've always wanted forestry as my main occupation," he remarked.

He has pursued his interests in more ways than one. Aside from learning all he can in the classroom (he's an A and B student), Hartman spends as much time as he can in the woods. Highly experienced at backpacking, he's walked roughly 500 miles of trails, including the full distance of both the Appalachian and Horseshoe trails in Pennsylvania. Most of the walking is done on weekends with a close friend, Dean Yount of Adamstown. They've covered as much as 45 miles in three days.

"We usually like to go for shorter distances to enjoy it more," the youth said in a tone which showed his enthusiasm. "There's an awful lot to see on the Appalachian trail . . . such as look-outs," he remarked.

From what Hartman has observed, quite a few Pennsylvanians apparently share his interest in Nature. He usually keeps a diary on his hikes and once counted 220 people on a 30-mile stretch of the Appalachian trail.

But there's a sad note in that account. Conditions at over-night rest stops become over-crowded, and worse yet, more and more vandalism is occurring. Hartman sees no cause for that and deplors those irresponsible actions.

Named as "Youth Conservationist of the Year" two years ago by the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs, Hartman is a sincere young man who is not afraid to work towards his goals. Nor is he bashful about sharing his enthusiasm with others.

In recent months Hartman



Mike Hartman, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Hartman Narvon R1, has been recognized many times for his work within the FFA. A senior at Garden Spot High School, the youth was recently given a \$700 scholarship from Kunzler

Meats, Lancaster. With wildlife, plants, and the outdoors being his major interests, Hartman plans to go to forestry school this Fall. He has already been accepted at Penn State's Mont Alto campus.

has been spending some time showing a slide program to elementary school children. The program, understandable enough, is about the Great Outdoors and features his own pictures of edible wild foods.

Asked how much he takes along while hiking the trails, Hartman responded curtly; "the minimum."

An interesting illustration of that is the fact that he doesn't even take a fishing pole. Once he simply took a pin, bent it, and attached it to a string he pulled out of his shirt. Surprisingly, he caught five trout!

Hartman's achievements and demonstrated abilities have earned him a second prize in the state for Outdoor Recreation Proficiency, and earlier this week he was named first-place winner in a state contest for Fish and Wildlife Management.

Employed at the Leola store of Stauffer's of Kissel Hill, Hartman finds his work both pleasant and fascinating. It all ties in with his major interests, since Stauffer's is a retail outlet for gardening and landscaping supplies. Hartman knows the shrubs, trees, and flowers like his own name. He's on duty in the nursery department from 1 to 9 p.m.

The young conservationist's other major money-earning activity is raising pheasants for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Now in his fourth year with that project, he raises 300 chicks annually. The state provides him with day-old chicks and feed, and from there on it's Hartman's duty to take care of them for the next three months.

Aside from his varied activities outside of school, Hartman is also active within his Grassland FFA Chapter, especially in programs which have an environmental or outdoor slant to them. He's served as president of the Environmental Chapter at the school and has been an advisor to both it and the

"regular" chapter. He's received his Red Rose Farmer Degree and was once named "Teen of the Week" by the Lancaster New Era.

Hartman's scholarship from Kunzler is based on grades, FFA leadership, and activities. His application, along with those from other Lancaster County FFA students, was chosen by a committee of Lancaster County vo-ag teachers who reviewed the entries.

Although Hartman's interests don't center a whole lot on meat and meat production - as one might assume they should since the scholarship is from a major meat packing firm - he's quite knowledgeable about meats as well. Last year he won first place in the County's FFA meat judging contest. How does Hartman explain that?

"Just studying," he said modestly.

FFA receives truck

The Manheim FFA was presented the free use of the 1976 Chevrolet pick-up truck for their school year by Sauder's Chevrolet in Manheim recently. The truck will be returned to the dealer next spring and is used for club activities and field trips. Larry Sauder, manager of the dealership presented the truck to Glenn Spangler, ag instructor and Earl Geib, president of the FFA.

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