

Lancaster Farming

Serving The Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania Areas

Vol. 21 No. 33

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 3, 1976

\$4.00 Per Year

Happy Birthday, America!



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The Bicentennial wagon train crosses the Susquehanna at Columbia on its way to Valley Forge.

Photo by Joanne Spahr

Bicentennial Wagon Train

Wagoneers have mixed feelings

By JOANNE SPAHR
MILLERSVILLE -- For the Bicentennial Wagon Train which left Texas on January 4 and camped at Circle M Ranch, Millersville, the trip has been a good, yet long one.

"Oh, I've made some history in this time, though," says Mrs. Hazel Bowen, of Antelope, Tex., one of the star attractions of the 60 wagon train. She is a 68-year-old grandmother and has been with the train since it started from Texas on January 4, and has driven and taken care of her horses by herself. Although she drives a Pennsylvania

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Barley is fair, wheat good, hay uncertain

By DIETER KRIEG

Barley harvest, for the most part, turned out to be only crop; wheat is looking good so far, and high quality hay may be scarce this winter if present weather patterns continue. That's the indication received here from millers and growers in three adjacent southeastern Pennsylvania counties.

Barley harvest has been all but completed, with yields not too impressive in most cases, but the quality was good. Growers in northern sections of Lancaster County report yields of around 35 to 40 bushels to the acre. Southern Lancaster County, on the other hand, is averaging close to 50 bushels per acre. York County yields lie in between 40 and 50 bushels per acre. The harvest has surprised a number of farmers and millers who were fooled by the short straw. "We

didn't expect this kind of a yield," said a Quarryville grain handler. Most of the barley he had taken in was of the Barsoy variety, which matures early but can be quite dirty.

The quality of the 1976 crop was described as nothing less

than "good" by everyone contacted this past week. A number of individuals even responded with an enthusiastic "very good." The test weight was around 45 to 46 pounds per bushel, and moisture ranged close to 13 per cent throughout most of the combining season.

Although most reports describe the barley harvest as "half a crop," the actual range reportedly encompasses yields of zero and on up to 100 bushels per acre. Some farmers lost entire fields to either freezing temperatures last Winter or severe storms last month. One Manheim area farmer claims yields of around 100 bushels per acre with his Barsoy.

Later variety barley is reported to be doing better as far as yields are concerned. Not only is the number of bushels per acre up, but the straw is longer too.

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NOTICE

Effective this month (July) the yearly subscription rate to Lancaster Farming will be \$4.00.

This change is necessary because of substantial increases in postage, newsprint and other production costs.