

# Manheim Fair bigger and better than ever

By JOANNE SPAHR  
**MANHEIM, Pa.** - They say curiosity killed the cat, but it surely didn't kill the Manheim Farm Show held last Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Instead, its effects were beneficial for this agricultural fair. "It was so crowded in here on opening night that you couldn't even see the exhibits right," commented one person manning a display in the new commercial building erected on Adele Avenue especially for this event.

Built to house the exhibits from what used to be called the Spahr building and also those in an exhibit tent, the new structure was a source of curiosity for many Fair goers.

"I think the exhibits are nicer this year because of all the room," noted Steve Snavelly, who was working at the Sportsmen's Association display.

This sentiment was echoed by many passersby, also. After years of crowded conditions in the former buildings, the spaciousness was welcomed.

Luke Bruckhart first vice president of the Fair Association, noted that the entries were up this year compared with other years.

"We had 960 people entering," he noted, "And I haven't even made an accurate count of the total exhibits."

The new building was not the only change in the Farm Show, however. The whole location was shifted to form an "L" shape near the High School, with the food stands and rides along Adele Avenue. The implement exhibits, however, were located on the football field quite a distance from the agricultural tents.

"There is talk of lighting the baseball field (beside Adele Avenue) until another year, and if that happens we might shift things around and bring the implements there," said Bruckhart. "Then we wouldn't be quite so scattered."

There are several other changes which are on the possibility list for next year.

"We found that our biggest problem right now is with traffic," said Mark Nestleroth, Manheim RS, the president of the Fair Association. "We really have a lot of congestion around the agriculture area." Despite the new diagonal parking created only about two weeks ago along Adele Avenue, and the use of both the pool and High School parking lots, a "bottleneck" was nevertheless created.

"Part of the parking problem was that people didn't use all of the facilities available," commented Bruckhart. "Much of the west side of the pool wasn't utilized."

Until next year, there are hopes of building some sort of drive around the building. This will require other rearranging and changing, so the hopes are just tentative at present. "We still have a few bugs to iron out," said Bruckhart. On the whole, however, both Nestleroth and Bruckhart were pleased with the turnout this year. Livestock, implement, and commercial displays all increased and the crowd turnout was one of the best in years.

"I think it's the biggest I've ever seen" commented Bruckhart.

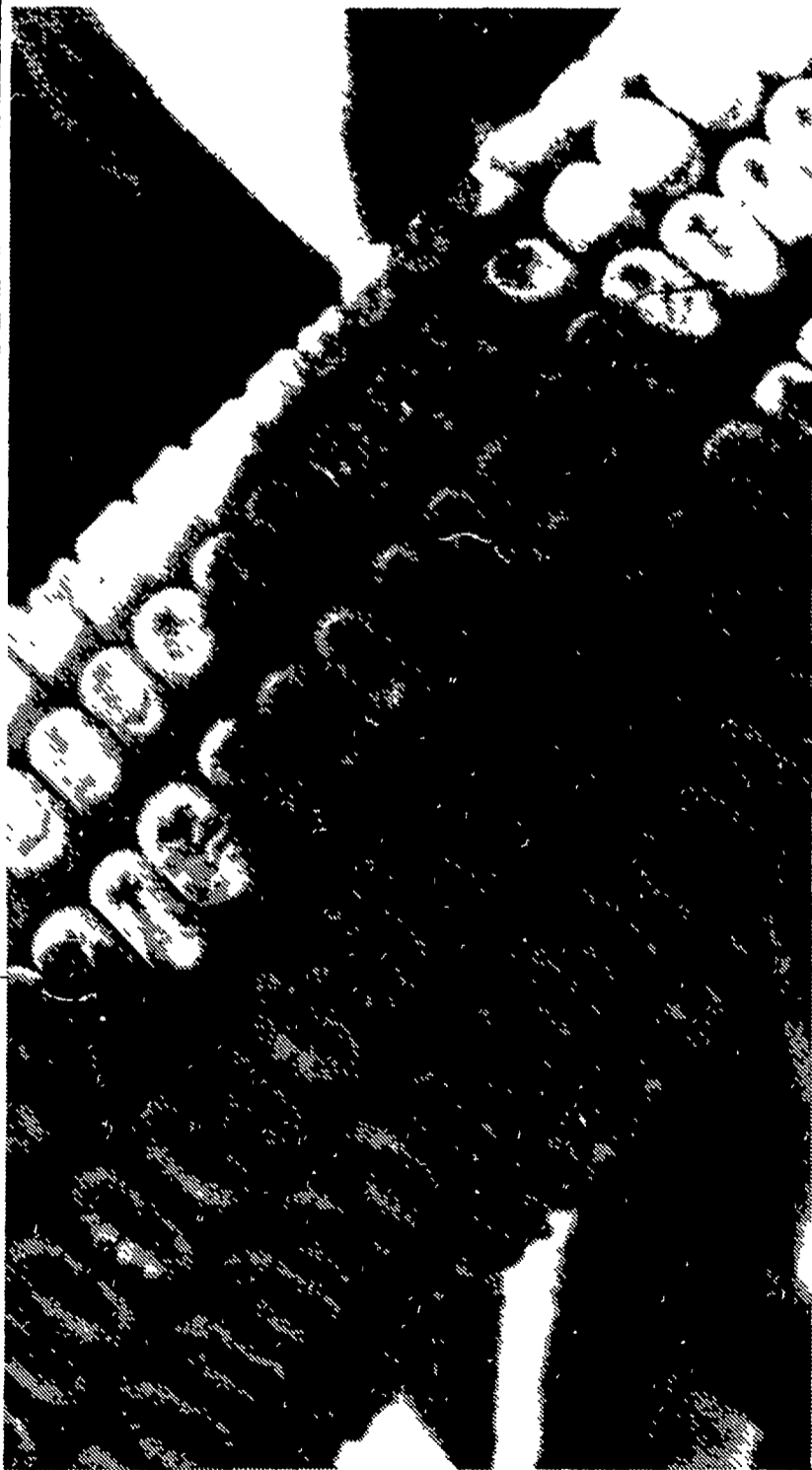
Nestleroth also likes the new location. "I think the atmosphere is better - you have the ag exhibits and beside them is the covered bridge and the woods, plus there is all the space for the rides," he noted.

Bruckhart capped it all by saying, "Even with the bugs, I'd say it was a real good year."



The agriculture exhibits of the Manheim Fair moved to a location beside the high school this year. Seen from a distance are the new commercial building and livestock tents clustered around it.

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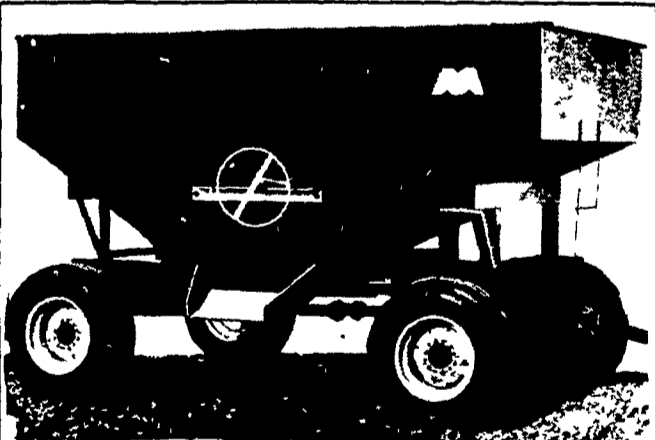
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