

Nat'l Grange gives scholarship to deaf student

By JOANNE SPAHR
LANCASTER, Pa. - Last week, Robert N. Collins, 423 N. Charlotte St., Lancaster, received a \$500 grant from the National Grange to help him complete his education at the Lancaster Theological Seminary where he is preparing for ordination in the Lutheran Church. The money he received will go toward a month-long seminar abroad which is a graduation requirement he must fulfill.

A graduate from Gallaudet College in Washington, D. C., the only liberal arts college in the world for the deaf, Collins is one of seven per cent of the national population who is deaf, and for this reason has played a unique roll in both the Pennsylvania and National Granges.

For five years now, the National Grange has been helping deaf organizations. Several years ago the Grange purchased specially

made telephones which work on a principle similar to a telegraph for this handicap. These phones were distributed mainly in the state of Arkansas. The Grange's most recent project is a songbook written for those who can hear but want to learn sign. It includes a complete set of sign language to go with each song, and may be the only one of its kind in the nation. That songbook was inspired by Collins at the Pennsylvania State Grange Leadership School held in Gettysburg in June.

At that conference, Collins, who is 80 per cent deaf but has a good speaking ability, was a guest lecturer for the Pa. group. Pennsylvania has been active in helping the deaf for three years. As Collins spoke, his wife Sarah, a teacher of the multiply handicapped deaf for the York-Lincoln Intermediate Unit, presented his speech in sign. At a

banquet she later taught the group songs in sign language.

This idea of teaching sign language through song was so well accepted, that the National Grange began working on the unique songbook which has recently been published.

William Steel, youth director for the National Grange, explains that the organization became interested in working with the deaf five years ago when the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf approached them for help. The Grange decided to help the cause and they have revealed that a large concentration of deaf are in rural areas.

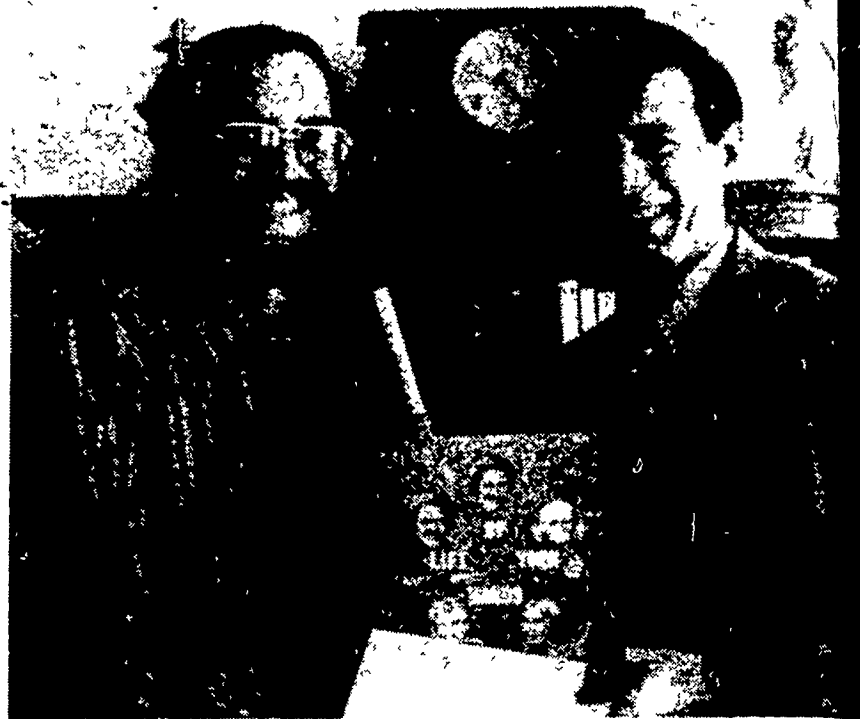
"Unfortunately, we don't know all the cases of farm families with this problem because they will often hide their children," Steel explained.

However, it was documented in a 1971 government national health survey that over 13 million people in the United States do have hearing impairments. A hearing impairment is a loss of hearing - no matter how slight or profound. And, nationally, about 1.7 million persons are profoundly deaf, or don't receive speech sounds clearly enough through hearing to develop language, even though they may be aware of loud and random voices.

The number of deaf and hearing impaired individuals in the state was close to 800 thousand in 1971 and at that time there were 80,946 deaf individuals in Pennsylvania.

To help the cause in the state, the Pennsylvania Grange has been giving contributions to deaf foundations since 1973.

That year a \$1087 check was presented to the Pennsylvania School of the Deaf at Germantown to purchase an impedance audiometer. A year later another \$1000 check was presented to the Pittsburgh Hearing and Speech Society for use at their own discretion.



Robert N. Collins, left, receives a \$500 check from William Steel, youth director for the National Grange. Collins, who is deaf, received the deaf scholarship grant from the National Grange to help fund a seminar abroad, which is a requirement of the

Lancaster Theological Seminary where he is preparing for ordination in the Lutheran Church. Collins is holding a one-of-a-kind songbook published by the National Grange which includes pictures of deaf people and sign language for the words to the

In 1975 the Grange purchased six hearing maintenance kits and presented them to the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13. These kits were for the use of technicians and have been used in 21 different school districts.

And, just this year the

group presented telecommunication devices to the Pittsburgh Hearing and Speech Center, Incorporated. Now, through a tie with the state organization, Bill Collins has received help to do his overseas seminar.

Future state support of the deaf is undecided at this

moment, since the board of directors must be cleared.

However, these projects, a deaf songbook, fairly strong, so are that funding made available to continue support of the cause.

Thomasville 4-H

THOMASVILLE, Pa. - On December 6 the Thomasville Community 4-H Club held its annual Achievement Night dinner for members and their families at the County 4-H center near Bair.

The club gave awards to the three highest cookie salesmen in the club. First place went to Kelly Rentzel; second to Tim Eisenhart; and third to Teresa Roser.

Installation of officers was performed by Jack Parr and Tommy Welsh. The officers for the upcoming year are Tommy Welsh, president; Bonnie Wire, vice president; Tina Parr, secretary; Joanne Haskins, assistant secretary; Jonathan Myers, treasurer; Kelly Rentzel, news reporter; Karen Parr, assistant news reporter; Nancy Eisenhart, song leader; Teresa Roser, assistant song leader; Tammy Wetzel, game leader; Joey Welsh, historian; and Roy Thompson, assistant historian.

Outstanding project work awards were presented to the following members: Dairy-Tommy Welsh, Rifle-Jack Parr, Vegetables-Teresa Roser, Foods-Michele Lau, Tractor-Jonathan Myers, Sewing-Joanne Haskins, Poultry-Roy Thompson, Knitting-Sandy Eisenhart, Automotive-Gary Welsh, Bicycle-Paul Myers, Horticulture-Nancy Eisenhart, Handyman-James Roth, Ceramics-Nancy Kulynych, Goat-Debbie Rodgers, Leathercraft-Joey Welsh, Sheep-Beverly Eisenhart, Photography-Bonnie Wire.

Other project award winners in various project areas are: Clothing-Tina Parr, Carol Haskins, Rabbit-Mike Welsh, Angela Kulynych, Foods-Kristine Sponseler, Dairy-Christine Wolf, Horticulture-Vicki Rauhauser, Handyman-

David Eshbach, Robert Haskins, Crocheting-Needlework-Lori Hoke.

The teen leaders are: First year-Nancy Eisenhart, Kelly Rentzel, Joey Welsh, and Jonathan Myers; Second year-Bonnie Wire, and Paul Myers, III; and Third year-Tim Eisenhart, Jack Parr, Jeff Roth, Tommy Welsh, and Gary Welsh.

An alumni pin was presented to Jeff Roth for his achievements and club work as a 4-H member. A letter opener was presented to Tim Eisenhart to signify that he has obtained the highest level of achievement in the 4-H program. A Special Friend of 4-H award was presented to Rodney Wire.

Mrs. Vicki Rhorbaugh presented Harris Horn with a special award for all the years of service to the Thomasville Community 4-H Club.

The evening ended with a friendship circle singing Kum-ba-ya led by Mrs. Harris Horn.

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