

Jimmy couldn't make the Blue Mt. FFA banquet



Mike Sinitsky (left), John Heim, (center), and Malcolm Eichert (right) won awards at the Blue Mountain FFA banquet for their first place winnings in the county project book contest. Both Mike and Malcolm went on to state competition where Malcolm won a silver medal, and Mike a bronze.

By JOANNE SPAHR SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, Pa.—Unfortunately for Jimmy Carter, he was busy last Tuesday evening. That was the night the Blue Mountain Future Farmers of America held their thirty-third annual parent and member banquet in the Blue Mountain High School

cafeteria. Although Jimmy was invited, he had to send his regrets through his director of scheduling, and in his place, the chapter read his letter to the 250 guests present. They now plan to frame the letter from Carter as a memento of this year's banquet. The reasoning behind inviting Carter is not

only that he is president, but that he was an outstanding member of the Future Farmers of America in his youth.

Blue Mountain is one of two FFA chapters in Schuylkill County, and at the present time, has 52 members. Their president is Mike Sinitsky; vice-president—Ed Gruver; reporter—Robert Sauers; treasurer—Kevin Shire; secretary—Eric Werner; chaplain—Brian Heim; conductor—Woodrow Seiders; and advisor—Blair Shaffer.

After the family-style banquet, an awards

presentation was held in the auditorium. This year four members of the community were made honorary members of the Blue Mountain chapter for their service to the group during the year. Norman Stein, Orwigsburg; Michael Sinitsky, Orwigsburg; and Robert Scharff, New Ringgold, were cited for donating tractors to the FFA for the tractor driving contest. John Joyce, Pottsville, was honored for donating apples with which the group made apple cider. Cider production is one of the main activities of the Blue Mountain chapter.

Also honored during the evening's activities were seven members in the FFA who have done outstanding work in the group. Mike Sinitsky, 550 Adamsdale Rd., Orwigsburg, the president of the chapter, and Malcolm Eicher - Orwigsburg R1, the group's 1976 Keystone Farmer, were recognized twice for record books. Mike took a first place in Livestock Production on the county level and a bronze in Three Enterprise Production on the state level. His projects are beef, dairy, and wheat.

Malcolm had a first placing on the county level in Ag Sales and Service, and a silver medal in state competition for Work Experience Off the Farm.

John Heim, New Ringgold R1, walked away with a plaque for his first place entry in the county record book contest, as well. His area was Ag Production.

On the state level, Glenn Kimmel, Auburn R1, won a



Glenn Kimmel, (left) a sophomore at Blue Mountain High School, and Kenny Hill, (right) a senior, took top placings in the state project book contest. Glenn took a silver for his Christmas tree project, and Ken won a bronze for trapping.

silver medal for Christmas Tree Production, and Kenny Hill, Schuylkill Haven R1, took a bronze medal for trapping.

Eichert. She received a floral centerpiece in honor of being the mother of the chapter's '76 Keystone Farmer.

The featured speaker for the evening was Herman Manbeck, State FFA Chaplain. Herman challenged the members to become very active in their organization—to "stand up and try," and encouraged the greenhands to keep involved in the FFA.

"FFA prepares you for your whole life," he exclaimed, and for this reason, active involvement is necessary.

After a few remarks from school administration members and James Shadle, from the department of ag education at Penn State, the banquet concluded.

One of three girls in the Blue Mountain FFA, Arlene Kreager, was also honored on Tuesday evening. She was recognized for her help during the citrus sales in which she sold 115 cases. Arlene is a graduate of Blue Mountain High School, and is presently working on her father's farm at Schuylkill Haven R2.

This year's Star Greenhand is Jim Stein, Orwigsburg R1. He was also one of the seven honored.

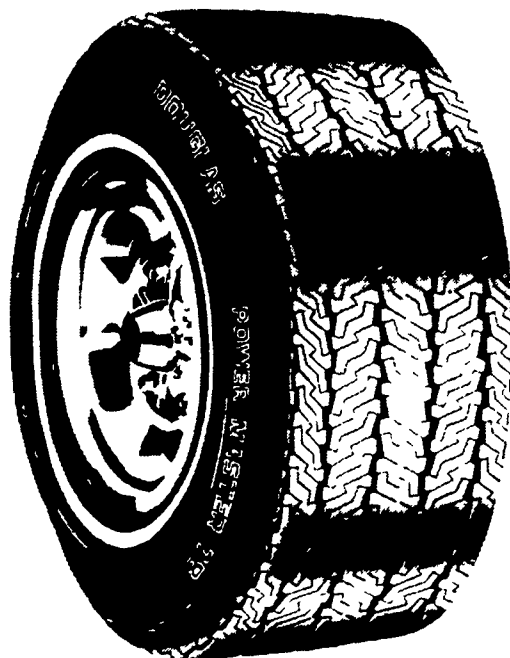
One other non-member to receive a gift of appreciation from the Blue Mountain Chapter was Mrs. Paul



Jim Stein was named Star Greenhand of the Blue Mountain FFA Chapter at their recent awards banquet, and Arlene Kreager received a plaque for her top salesmanship abilities in the chapter's citrus sales.

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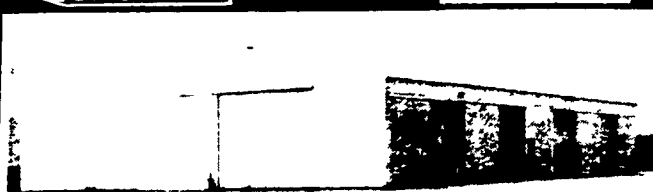
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