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John Purdy

Angus that won them a reserve grand championship in the State Farm Show. Paul Hefner, of Fairfield, exhibited his large Limousin bull. Not able to bring his bull as scheduled originally was Terry Shearer of Pigeon Hill Farm in Abbottstown.

Only in its third year of existence, the Adams County Beef Producers Association has become one of the most organized, active, and productive organizations of its kind. According to ACBPA treasurer, Don Lott, who served as master of ceremonies last Friday night, the association has reached several milestones in that short period of time.

Included among the achievements are the construction of a show barn at the South Mountain Fairgrounds, a Fall steer show and feeder calf sales which for two years in a row ranked as the highest indexing feeder calf sale in Pennsylvania.

Adams County is regarded as prime beef country in more ways than one. Of the 1500 farms in Adams County, close to two-thirds of them are involved in cattle raising. Beef production in the county ranks second only to fruit production, and it trails only Lancaster and York counties in a state-wide comparison of counties. According to Lott, the Adams County beef industry is worth some \$13 million annually. That includes operators who are either breeding, raising, or feeding beef cattle.

The progressive group credits much of its momentum to Frank Darcy, a towering man who is skilled in organizing promotional activities. Darcy had served as president of the organization since its formation in November of 1975, but stepped aside recently to let someone else steer the program. The group's new president is



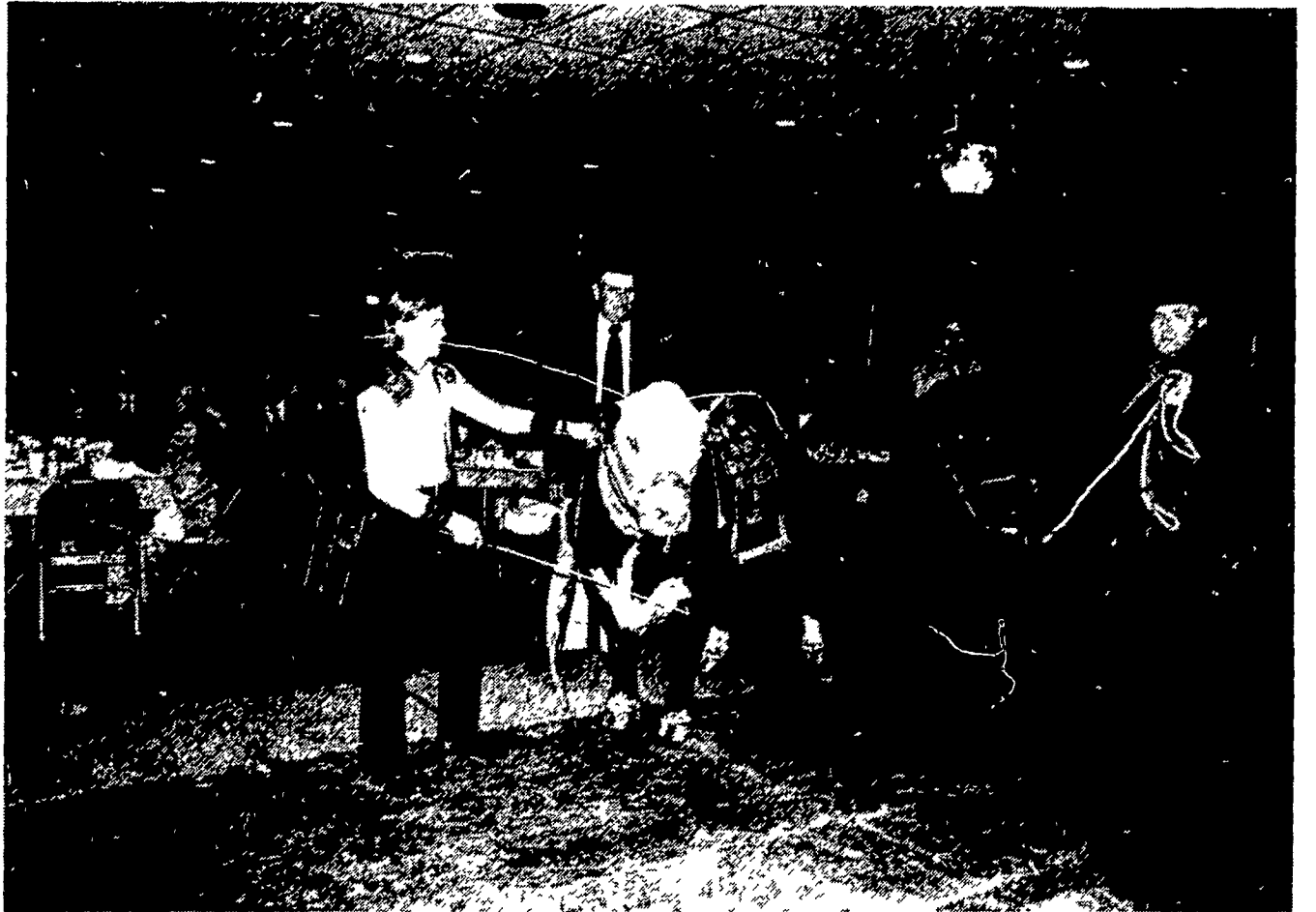
Frank Darcy

John Purdy of Gettysburg R2.

Both the present and previous president of the ACBPA are quick to point out that the momentum of their organization stems from the combined and sustained efforts of its members. "It isn't any one guy doing it all," Darcy emphasizes.

Darcy notes that the relatively small size of the organization is what makes it as effective as it is. A man who's quick to assess the situation and take action, Darcy believes good ideas and efforts could get sidetracked or lost if the promotional group becomes too large or is absorbed by a larger association. "It's all a matter of getting on the stick and doing something," the Adams County cattleman said.

Promotional efforts are



Adams County cattlemen brought their champion bulls into the ballroom of a restaurant last week when they held their second annual Beef Ball and Parade of Champions. The event was attended by cattlemen and townfolk who are in-

terested in learning more about the beef business. An estimated 200 people attended the event. The Polled Hereford and Black Angus champions above were shown by Frank Darcy, second from left, and Walter and William Dietz, right.

the key to better public relations and increased sales, Darcy and Purdy agree. The association's philosophy is one of self motivation and self help.

Waiting for someone else or the government to take over is definitely not the association's program. In that regard, they're not convinced that a farmer's

strike is a positive way to solve economic problems. Rather, the group believes in "beating the drum," watching the markets closely, and adjusting their herd

sizes to comply with marketing demands. According to Darcy and Purdy, efforts are beginning

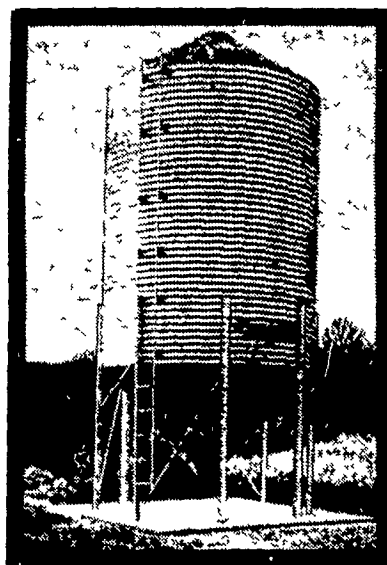
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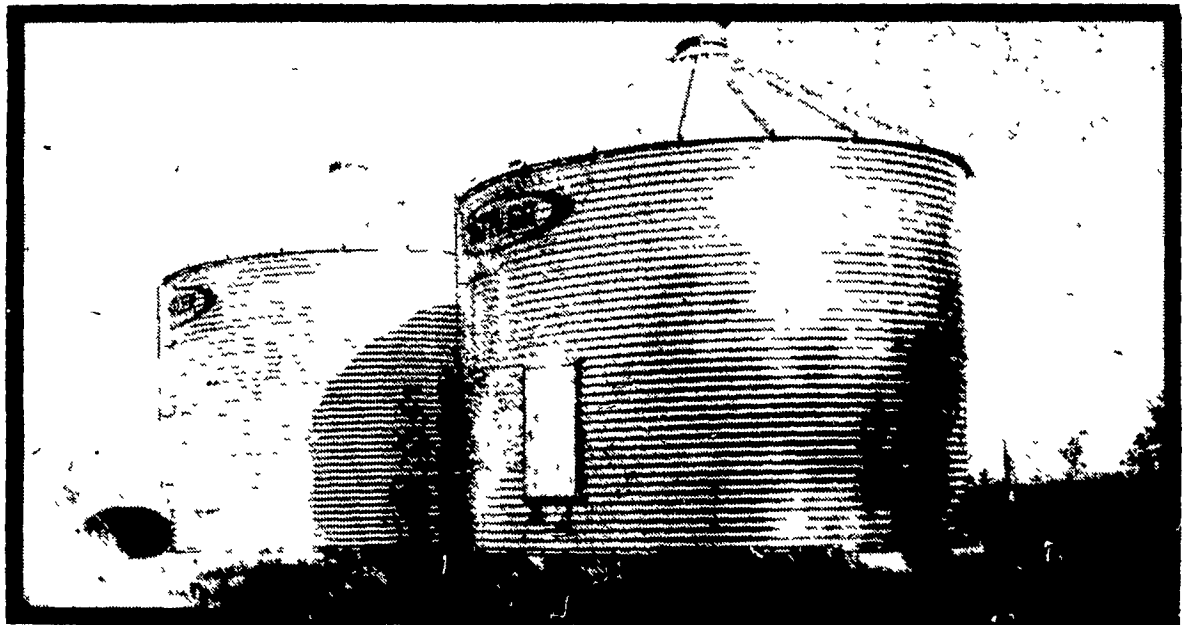
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