

## Fruit blossoming

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According to the fruit grower, the blossoms he has seen are good and should develop into fruit. For the most part, Adams County has not suffered much Winter kill damage, and has been free of most insect infestations and diseases. Unfortunately, orchardists in this county have unprecedented problems with damage from mice, rabbits, and deer.

"I wouldn't even want to put a figure on how much damage has been caused," he states, although he does estimate that the cost would be in the millions of dollars.

Some trees in Adams County have been damaged to the point that they will die and will have to be replaced. Following this, there is a four to seven year period until the trees are into production again.

"At this point we don't know which ones will die," Pitzer says, explaining that the worst damage, from the mice, is underground. Deer and rabbit destruction is above ground. This kind of damage only knocks production, Pitzer states, adding that the trees usually "return to production." Mice damage, however, is underground and actually kills the tree.

York County orchards report that that county's crop is "doing fine." Eugene Blevins, part owner and manager of Blevin's Fruit Farm, a family run corporation near Stewartstown, reported earlier this week that he was just starting to apply pink spray to his peaches.

Some varieties such as Blake, Jersey Queen, and Loring, he reports, have suffered Winter kill damage.

Blevin's Blake variety was nearly wiped out, with his Jersey Queens partially hurt and his Lorings damaged in spots throughout the orchard.

Other varieties such as Red Haven, Madison, Rioagem, Late Albertis, Redskin, Crest Haven, and many others came through the Winter with little problems.

"At this stage, it looks like we'll have a good crop," he states.

Mrs. Carlton Groff, of Groff's Orchard, Street Road, Kirkwood in southern Lancaster County, noted that their peaches were also hurt by Winter kill.

"Normally, ice is an incubator," she said, "but, this year, we think it may have smothered them out."

The cherries in the Groff Orchard, however, are in good shape for this season, and are almost in bloom. Although the weather thus far has been cool for pollination, forecasts have predicted a warming trend, a plus for orchardists.

"On the whole, the crop looks the same as last year," Mrs. Groff states, "And, last year was an excellent year."

Richard Haas, owner of Cherry Hill Orchards, New Danville Pike, Lancaster, reports that his plums and cherries are in "full bloom with his peaches coming on."

Although Haas states that it is too early to make a definite prediction for the future, at this point his crop looks like it will be good.

He also reports more rab-

bit damage than in other years, although he alleviates the problem by taking brush into his orchard and letting the rabbits eat the apple brush in place of the trees.

Shoemaker's Orchard in Northumberland County reports that their blossoms are not out as yet, and that they have had an unusually large amount of rabbit damage. They have already replaced the trees that were killed, however, and were unable to estimate the damage done.

Although reluctant to predict the coming season, Shoemakers reports that the fruit is coming along on schedule.

By JOANNE SPAHR  
UNIONVILLE — Mrs. John B. Hannum lowered herself into her comfortable office chair and smiled an inviting down-home "come in and sit awhile" smile. Her friendly eyes and her warm demeanor added their assent. Dressed in her flannel shirt, work pants, and work shoes with her short cropped brown hair doing just what it wanted to, it was hard to envision this country-looking lady for what she is—a belle of Philadelphia society.

But, it was more than easy to see why she has been termed the "grande dame" of fox hunting in Chester County, and why neighbors

speak with respect at the mention of her name.

Although for hunting season has been over for nearly four weeks, life hasn't stopped revolving around that sport for Mrs. Hannum, wife of United States Judge John B. Hannum. This distinguished lady is presently the master of private pack of foxhounds developed by her stepfather W. Plunket Stewart, who is remembered with reverence in the foxhunting world for his ability as a breeder of foxhounds, an outstanding organizer, and an authentic sportsman dedicated to improving the countryside.

According to Mrs. Hannum, as a young stockbroker

from Baltimore, Stewart was a guest of Charles Mathers hunting with his Brandywine Hounds in 1912 when they ran a fox into the Unionville area. The unusual beauty of the countryside so vividly impressed Stewart that he methodically put into effect a plan to purchase as much land as possible and to start his own pack of hounds there. This he accomplished efficiently and effectively, amassing about 5000 acres of farmland from Cochranville to Embreeville and below Unionville.

Then, in 1946 Lammont duPont, whose 5200 acres adjoined Stewart's to the West, decided he would sell

his Buck and Doe Run Valley Farms.

"Mother knew Mr. Robert Kleberg (owner of King Ranch in Texas), and she suggested that Mr. Stewart convince Mr. Kleberg to buy Buck and Doe Farms," states Mrs. Hannum. Their idea was to send King Ranch's Santa Gertrudis cattle up from Texas at their thinnest weight and fatten them for market.

As a trial, Kleberg sent 300 to 500 head to graze on the Stewart's land in the Summer of 1945, and the project was found to be "a great success" with the animals gaining two pounds per day. So, Kleberg decided to buy Buck and Doe Run

Valley Farms plus acreage. In the owned roughly 1/2 in the county.

Through the Stewarts, and death, the Hann sold off some of and friends have others. The culm been a giant jigsaw grassland which foxhunting. Mrs. estimates that now have rough acres of land in which is open for and owned by amiable to the spo

Various type: individuals own 1 mentioned acre included in the lis

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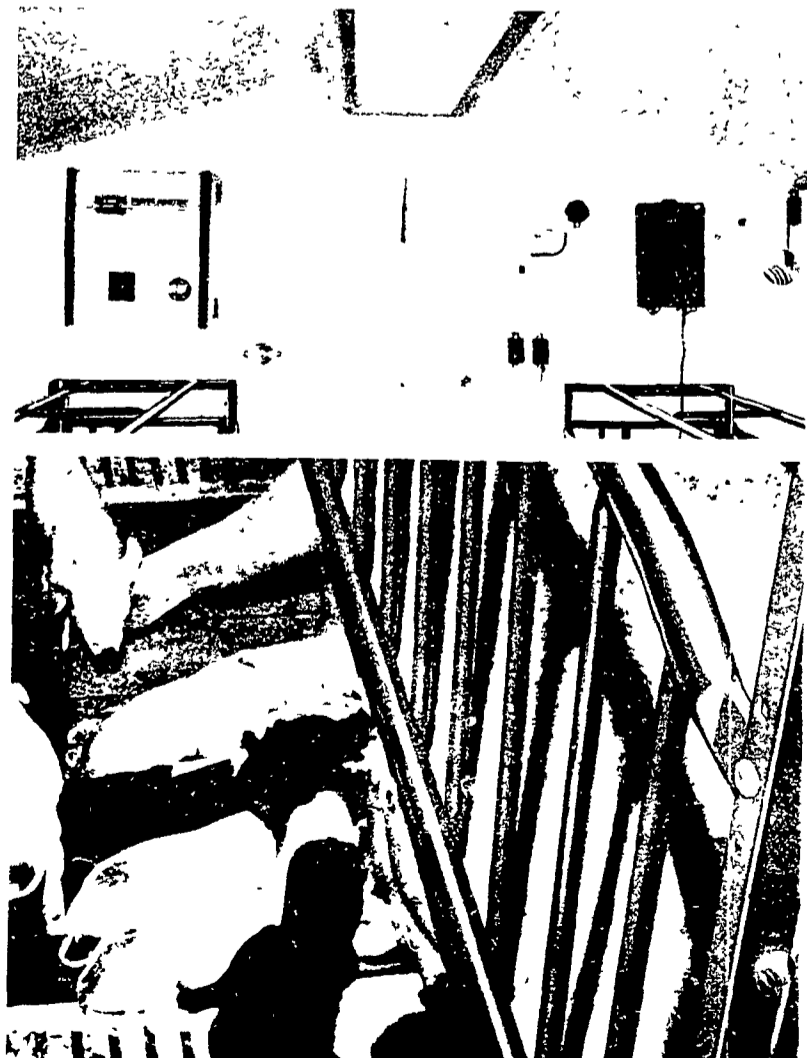
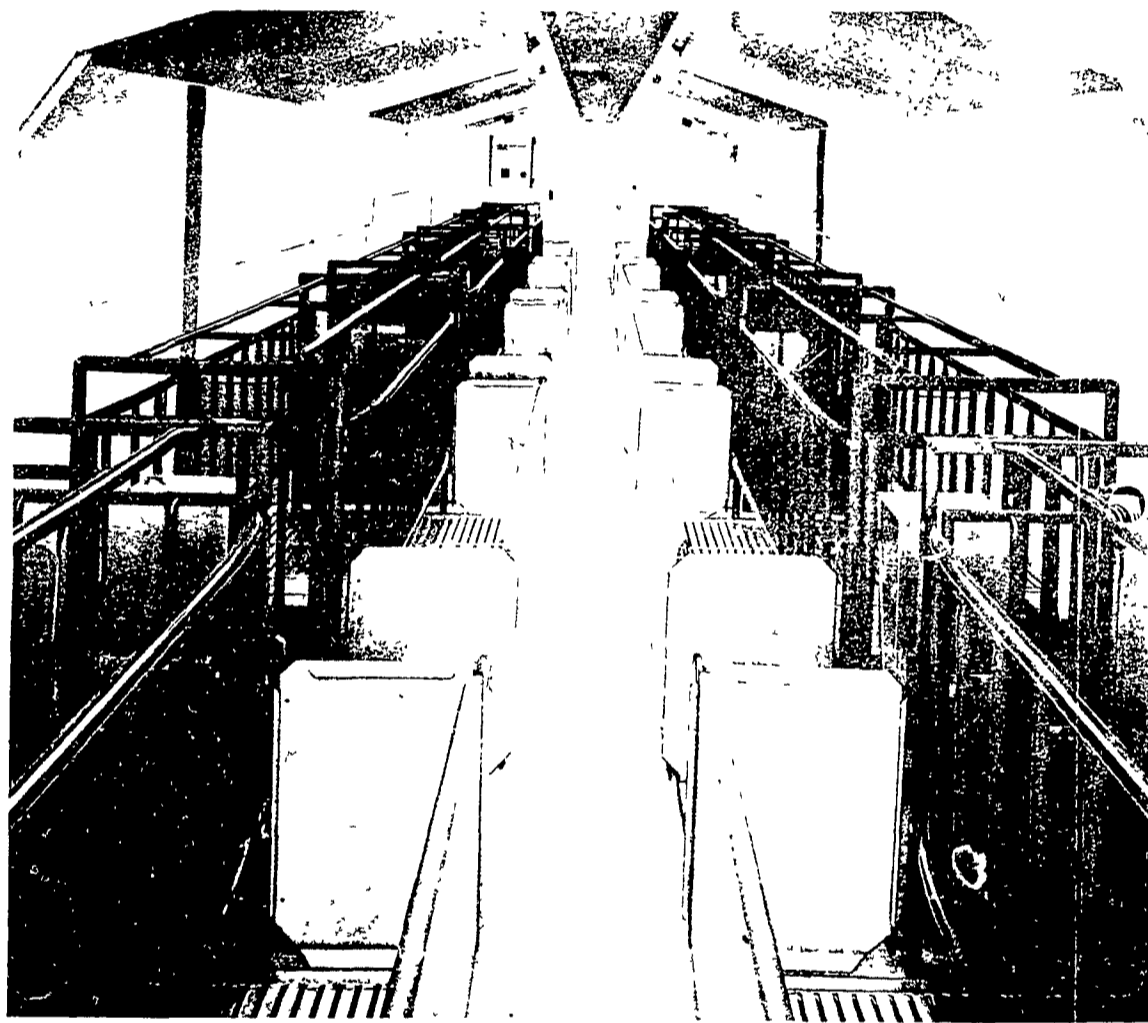
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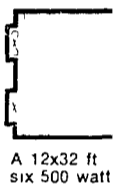
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