

Holly opening

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cooperatives is confident of having the facility be profitable and successful.

"We're disappointed that the plant hasn't opened sooner, but we're optimistic," Strock continued in a telephone interview Thursday afternoon. The major problems surrounding the delayed opening concern the waste treatment plant. A specialist from Purdue University has been contacted to alleviate that situation. Specifically, the problem was having enough of the beneficial bacteria that are needed to process the waste materials.

Despite the delay for full use of facilities at Holly, Strock is pleased that portions of the complex are in use. His cooperative has been using several of the storage tanks as a collection point for milk which is subsequently shipped out on tanker trucks to points West, including Ohio. He notes that although MCMP members produced 6 per cent less milk during August 1978, com-

pared to August 1977, surplus milk is still in the area. For the first 15 days of September, MCMP producers lagged three per cent behind last year's production levels.

"The use of those tanks is very helpful and profitable to us right now, Strock assured. "The facility is performing a very valuable service."

The Holly plant has been called the most modern in the world, according to spokesmen at Inter-State and MCMP. A national magazine which deals specifically with milk handling and processing has contacted the owners about possibilities of featuring the new complex in its pages.

While admitting that the costly venture has been strewn with obstacles and delays, the word from both cooperatives is that a time of profitable use and benefit to dairymen is near. The board of directors meets next week to discuss further plans and the final go-ahead may be received at that time.

READING — The Berks County Poultry Association will revive a tradition of the 1950's next Sunday when it resurrects the annual barbecue and meeting. It will be held Oct. 1 at the 'Sol' Shearer Barbecue Ranch, southwest of Shillington. Dinner will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Billing the event an "Afternoon of Fun in the Sun" and reminiscing by all persons engaged in or friends of the poultry industry, the Berks County Poultry Association is hopeful of rebuilding a tradition which at one time drew as many as 500 persons. The barbecue was a tradition throughout the 1950's. The most recent such event took place in 1960.

Following the serving of dinner, the Association will hold an election of officers. The "official reminiscer" will be Lowell Blass of Walpole, N.H. who was a former Berks County agricultural Extension agent, having served the area during the late 1940's and early 1950's. Blass is

Berks County poultrymen plan revival of barbecue tradition

presently vice president, director of sales, for Hubbard Farms, and is well acquainted with the poultry industry.

There will be a special recognition of the pioneers who started the original

barbecue events, among them former Penn State University poultry specialist Carl Dassin.

Aside from the eating and reminiscing, there will also be various game facilities

for both adults and children.

To arrive at the Shearer Barbecue Ranch, go south on Route 222 from Shillington, about three miles beyond Two Guys, turn right at directional sign and follow signs to the Ranch.

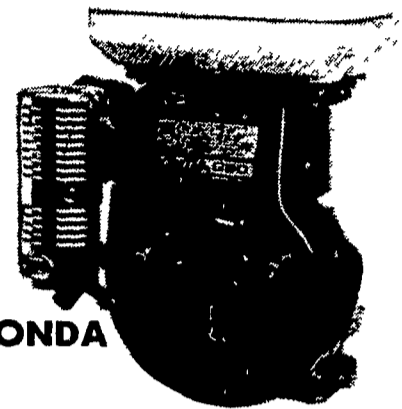
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