

# Former Grange prince sings with his hands

HARRISBURG - In 1974, when Wade Cadle came to the National Grange Convention in Sacramento, Calif. as the Tennessee State Grange Prince, he had no idea how it would affect his life.

During the convention, Wade attended a workshop sponsored by the then new Grange Deaf Awareness Program. After the workshop was over he was very impressed.

The following January, Wade toured the Gallaudet College. Gallaudet is a liberal arts college for the deaf in Washington, D.C. "That really did it for me," he said.

For the next four months, Wade was busy teaching himself "sign-singing". This is the sign language used by the deaf to communicate.

In May 1976, Wade made his first public appearance with his new talent. He performed a song, "I Still Love You" by Andre Crouch at the Tennessee State Grange Sewing contest in Knoxville.

Because of the favorable reaction that he received, Wade decided to give a deaf awareness program at the Grange Summer camp in Tennessee.

Wade changed his major from advertising to special education, with an emphasis in deaf education, when he returned to the University of Tennessee in the Fall.

Last Summer, Wade began working for the National Grange office in Washington, D.C. as a Summer intern. He is presently researching into legislative and educational programs for the National Grange's Deaf Awareness Program. One of his stops on

his stops during his Summer travels was the Pennsylvania State Grange's workshop, held last July at Elizabethtown College.

The National Grange



Wade Cadle of the National Grange sings to audiences in sign language.

became interested in the deaf and hard of hearing in 1971. The Department of Women's Activities adopted it as a Grange Health Program.

The first programs consisted of raising money for the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf.

In 1974, the National Grange produced the first sign-singing film, "I Hear Your Hand". The film was distributed for air time to the Public Broadcasting Service and the major networks.

The following year, the National Grange Youth Department became interested in sign-singing. At the National Grange Convention in Columbus, Ohio, the Youth Department premiered a 100-"voice" sign-singing choir.

"It became evident that we needed some way to send the kids home with the proper signs, so that they might perform them at their home Granges," said William Steel, national director for Grange Youth.

"Hence, the first sign-song book combining words, music, and signs was published in 1976." The book, entitled *Lift Up Your Hands*, is in its second printing with 15,000 copies sold to date.

The Grange is presently looking into a hearing conservation program in agriculture. There are very high on-the-job noise levels in agriculture. Prolonged exposure to these noise levels can cause hearing damage.

looking for new programs in

deaf awareness. It was for this reason that they hired Wade Cadle.

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Wade is optimistic. He believes in what he is doing and is a patient individual. Between the Grange and Wade Cadle, the deaf are not without a champion.

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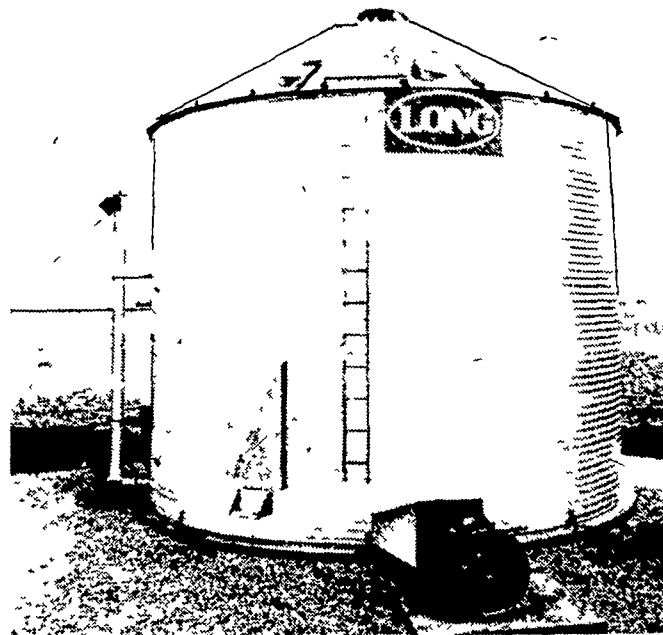
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