

# Wessel, Leppo elected to MCMP board

BALTIMORE, Md. - Herbert W. Wessel, Jr., Hampstead; and Melvin E. Leppo, Sykesville; were returned to the board of directors of the Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers, Inc. as the result of a special election held October 30, at the Carroll Co. Ag Center.

The special election, which was held in conjunction with the regular district membership meeting, was necessary due to a drop in the membership in the county. MCMP's District 3, Carroll Co., has always had three directors, one for each of 50 members. However,

urbanization has spelled a continuing decline in the number of dairy farms to the point where the number of MCMP members in Carroll Co. only justifies two directors. Myron Wilhite of Detour holds the third directorship and will leave

the board when his term expires in March, 1979.

Wessel, who was elected to a three year term told the members "he had never campaigned for the position", did not intend to start now but would serve to the best of his ability and would be "happy with whatever choice they

made". In addition to serving as a Carroll Co. director, Wessel also serves as president of the MCMP board. He is also a member of the board of directors for Holly Milk Cooperative, United Dairy Industry Assc., Pennmarva Dairymens Federation, Dairy Council of the Upper Chesapeake Bay, and The National Milk Producers Federation.

Leppo, who operates a dairy farm just off of Freter Rd., told the dairymen that five years ago he "seriously considered resigning from the board." However, he felt the cooperative needed to change direction and he felt as though he could "help initiate that directional change."

In other business before the meeting, the members approved a change in the cooperative by-laws that

would allow the board to establish a capital per unit retain program. This would then be used to finance specific capital needs of the cooperative.

The cooperative also honored five of its members for their 25 year membership. The awards are given to recognize those loyal members who have shipped milk continuously for 25 years either as an individual or a family operation. Those honored were Lloyd and Helen Bollinger, Taneytown; and Clayton and Dolly Poff, Hampstead; for individual memberships and Ralph and Rosalie Stambaugh, Union Bridge; Wayne and Joan Wilhite, Keymar; and Katherine and Timothy Wilson, Mt. Airy who received awards for family memberships.

## Rail freight increases opposed

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Proposed rail freight increases have been branded excessive by the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Allan Grant, head of the 3-million member-family organization, called on railroad officials to withdraw and re-figure proposals filed with the Interstate

Commerce Commission asking new rates higher by as much as 14 per cent on some agricultural commodities.

The new proposals follow increases of about 12 per cent since December, 1977, plus additional increases last month of three to 12 per cent for Eastern carriers.

Grant said such increases will force agricultural

producers to find new means of transportation. In cases where they must continue to use rail, the end result will be higher costs to consumer. He said transportation now represents nearly 10 per cent of the food bill.

While the most recent rate filed with ICC averages about eight per cent, the filing includes 104 commodity exceptions with significantly higher increases for grains, fresh vegetables and other agricultural commodities

The Farm Bureau president said a general increase of about 5.5 per cent could more reasonably be justified based on increased costs.

Grant said he had gone direct to railroad officials rather than the ICC, because Farm Bureau favors reducing the regulatory authority of the commission. But he warned that if the rail carriers persist with their unreasonable requests, shippers may be forced to look to the ICC for relief.

## Extension youth agent honored

UNIVERSITY PARK - David N. Kinsey, Extension community development youth agent for Bradford, Sullivan, and Susquehanna counties, was recipient of a Distinguished Service Award presented by the National Extension 4-H Agents Association.

Kinsey received the award, a plaque, at the organization's annual convention November 9 in Atlanta, Ga. The Penn State staff member was cited for his outstanding career education programs.

The Extension agent coordinated a career ex-

ploration program for eighth and ninth grade students in five Bradford County schools

Kinsey worked with school guidance departments, teachers, and administrators in recruiting community leaders who shared their expertise and interest in specific career areas

He also conducted additional career training for students in grades 6 through 12 in other area schools.

Kinsey is headquartered in the Sullivan County Cooperative Extension Service Office, Dushore.

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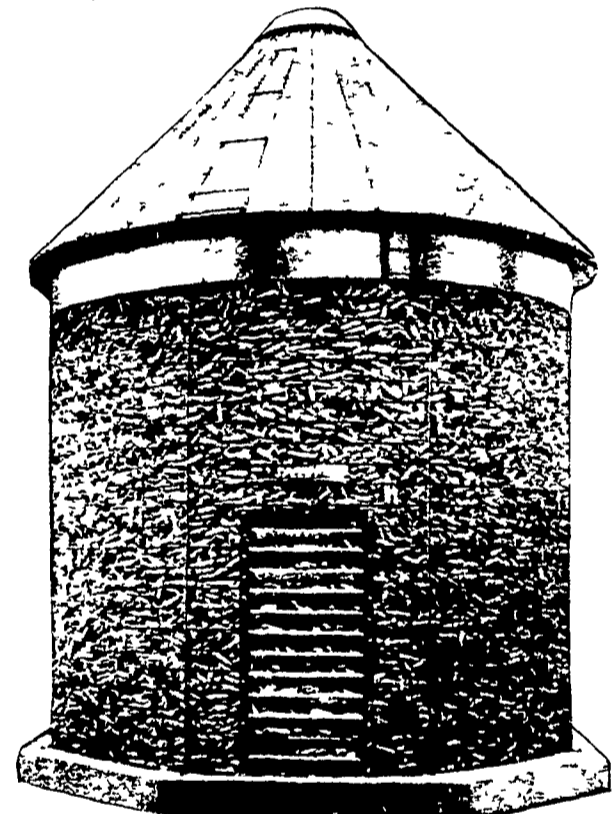
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