

Talent and art winners named at Grange meet

DENVER, Colo. - Talent contestants representing State Granges from all across the country competed for national recognition during the 112th Annual Session of the National Grange held November 13-20 in Denver, Colo.

First place winners in each division were (vocal) G.M.L. Gems, a female trio, Nampa, Idaho, (instrumental) Randall Wolfe, pianist, Circleville, Ohio, and (variety) Honnore Kerbert, humorous

monologue, Constantine Mich.

Winners in the family musical competition were (vocal) The Johnson Three, Lewiston, Idaho, and (instrumental) The Arellano Family, Yakima, Wash.

Best of show winners in the art and photography contests were (adult, art) Donna Kern, Cuba, N.Y., (junior, art) Mark Mincey, Seymour, Tenn., (adult, photo) Frances Doyle, Northboro, Mass., and (junior, photo) Mike Copeland, Knoxville, Tenn.

Congress looks at nutrition labeling

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, held oversight hearings recently on nutrition labeling. Testimony was heard from several industry representatives, and also from representatives of Giant Foods and the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute regarding the pilot nutrition education program, "Foods for Health."

During the first half of the hearing, representatives from Pillsbury, Gerber, Ocean Spray, and Proctor & Gamble presented the in-

dustry viewpoint on nutrition labeling, stressing the need for maximum flexibility in labeling regulations. Witnesses called for a label that would be useful to consumers, simple and at the same time able to convey meaningful information. They also emphasized that regulations should be cost-effective, so that continuing analytical costs could be minimized. Witnesses also pointed out that the label would have to be adaptable to small labels, and that allowance would have to be made for natural variations in nutritional components. While recognizing that consumers do want

cholesterol information, one witness questioned its usefulness, since new research has left the cholesterol question "wide open."

During the second half of the hearing, testimony was heard concerning the pilot nutrition education program being conducted here in Washington by Giant Food in cooperation with the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute. Gerson Barnett and O'Donna Matthews of Giant Food, and the NHLBI representative Dr. Steve Zifferblatt presented background information on the program. In a carefully orchestrated

presentation including slides and posters, Zifferblatt and Matthews outlined the program and the rationale behind it.

Zifferblatt conceded that nutrition information, especially in the area of heart disease, was still controversial. He pointed out that the federal government had been "silent for a long time...supposedly because there has been nothing definitive to say." He stated that NHLBI had been given a mandate by Congress to disseminate information and education, and said, "it doesn't charge us with saying something only when there's definitive evidence. We should say something regardless of the level of agreement on the evidence." He went on to say that scientists do have a role to play in trying to help people with nutrition information "even if all the evidence isn't in." That role, according to Zifferblatt, is to try to convey "what we know, and what we don't know," so that consumers can make an informed choice themselves.

Another hearing will be held in February, and at that time producers will have an opportunity to make their views known.

Computerized rations coming for cows

NEWARK, Del. - A computer program to help Delaware dairymen calculate feed rations for their cows is now in the works, report representatives of the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. When it is ready for use, the service should mean sizable savings for the state's dairy industry.

The program which was developed by a University of California extension dairy nutritionist, Dr. Donald Bath, was demonstrated at the recent Five-State Holstein Breeders Seminar at Rehoboth, Delaware. Dairy farmers present at that meeting were highly enthusiastic over the idea.

Basically a technique for least-cost feed formulation,

the program takes bovine nutrient requirements, the cost of available feeds, and the price farmers are getting for milk and from this data determines the optimum feed rations for a cow or group of cows. It can be accessed by remote computer terminals over regular telephone lines.

Savings from use of the program will depend on the

production level of each farm and each cow. Dr. Bath reports savings in California in the neighborhood of \$5 per ton of feed for low milkers in a herd, and around \$20 a ton of feed for high milkers. Over a year this can represent a considerable economy.

The California program has already been converted for use on the University of

Delaware computer. Tests are now being run to be sure it is working properly. Once these are completed, it will be made available to Delaware dairy farmers. The new service is being coordinated by Dr. George Haenlein, state Extension dairy specialist, and funded by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service.

Energy saver kits available

RONKS - Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. is part of a project to make available a kit which can help its customers plug up energy "leaks" in their homes.

The mail-order "Energy Saver Kit" includes 10 receptacle plug-in covers, seven electric outlet draft eliminators, three electric light switch draft eliminators and do-it-yourself instructions.

Also included are two shower head flow restrictors and an energy meter developed by PP&L to help customers determine insulation levels.

Special tests conducted by a Texas electric utility

showed that electrical wall outlet openings are among the biggest culprits in allowing outside air to enter the home. Draft eliminator gaskets were found to reduce the outlet leakage about seven per cent of its original amount.

Flow restrictors, which are placed inside the shower head, are designed to save water. By using the energy meter, the homeowner can judge the effectiveness of present wall and ceiling insulation and decide whether or not to add more.

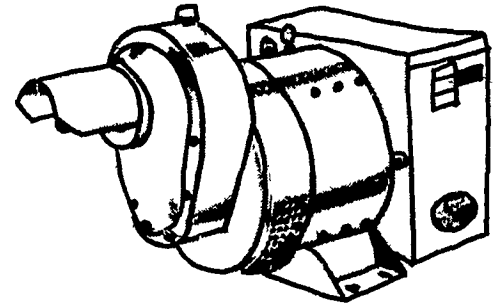
The kits have been advertised throughout PP&L's 10,000-square-mile service

area. Consumers can order the kits by sending a check or money order to Energy Saver Kit, P.O. Box 2000, Ronks, Pa. 17572. The \$2.35 purchase price includes no profit for PP&L.

xxx

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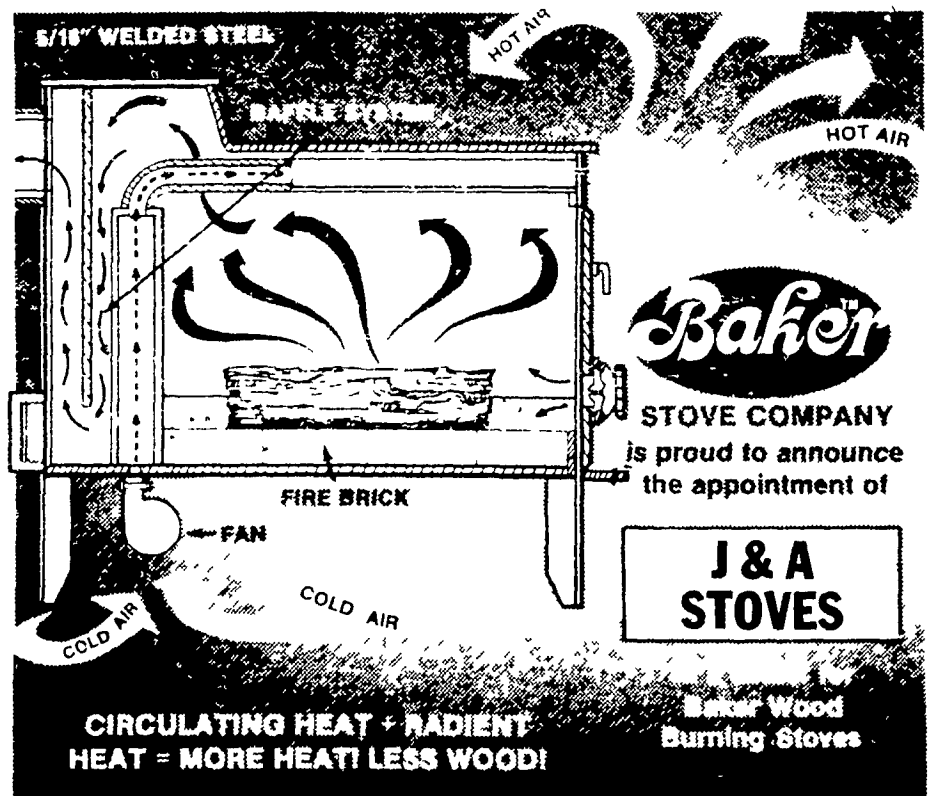
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