

Hallowell

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Agriculture by the Senate Tuesday evening; and was sworn into office on Friday.

Hallowell, 50, says he has a strong desire to hear what farmers have to say, adding that he believes such an attitude will help him be the most effective secretary. He wants to provide the services that they want and need, he says.

During a recent interview with *Lancaster Farming*, Hallowell indicated emphatically that "serving under (Governor) Dick Thornburgh is an extreme opportunity for me and for farmers. He (the governor) is interested in farmers and we have an opportunity to affect what the government is doing."

Governor Thornburgh, says Hallowell, recognizes the importance of agriculture in Pennsylvania and has requested the secretary of agriculture to establish a good relationship between farmers and government. "Both the governor and I view the Department of Agriculture as an important part of state government," he added.

"The governor has requested us to go out and do more listening than talking," Hallowell continued, again emphasizing the administration's desire for good communications and mutual understanding.

Looking into the past, rather than the future, Hallowell remarked that he considered former Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer to have a philosophy very close to Governor Thornburgh's as well as his own. He noted that even though Pennsylvania's government has been riddled with scandals and corruption, the Department of Agriculture has its integrity intact.

Hallowell says that he has

found no evidence of dishonesty in his Department, a fact which mirrors Shelhamer's leadership. Shelhamer has indicated in an earlier interview with *Lancaster Farming* that some questionable and objectionable activities were going on within the Department when he first took office in February of 1977.

Hallowell looks at his job with optimism and enthusiasm. But he also acknowledges it might be easy to "get tangled up" in the paper work and regulations involved in government bureaucracy. Making procedures easier is one of his objectives, he added.

While Hallowell is hopeful about the work of his office, he is just as buoyant about the future of farming. "I'm optimistic about farming for the very reason that I know it can be successful," said the Bucks County dairy farmer. He is head of a family which owns a 290-acre farm and 170 head of Holstein dairy cattle.

"There's all this talk about not being able to buy farms, etc., but it's being done all the time," Hallowell exclaimed. "It takes hard work and family cooperation. And you can't be afraid to go into debt...but you have to be able to manage your finances, that's extremely important," he added.

Hallowell, a graduate of Penn State University with a degree in agricultural economics, has been farming on his own since 1951. He and his wife, Marion, purchased their own farm in 1956. His agricultural roots go back much farther than that however. His children represent the 12th generation to be involved in Bucks County farming. His ancestors were among the

founders of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, having come to the New World in 1683. His Quaker ancestry continues to show through in that his family is very close-knit.

The Hallowells have four children:

Penrose Jr., 26, is a Penn State University graduate with a degree in environmental resource management.

Jim, 24, is a partner in the home farm, and an

agricultural mechanization degree holder from Penn State University.

Susan, 23, is a graduate of York College where she studied biology.

Emily, 20, is a horticulture major at Penn State.

"They've all had 4-H animals and both boys were president of their 4-H club," Hallowell commented with noticeable pride.

In looking at his own responsibilities as

agriculture secretary, and assessing the goals and philosophies of Governor Thornburgh, Hallowell says:

"We want to get the economy moving again and restore honesty to government. I don't expect to have all the answers nor do I expect to tell farmers what to do. But I do want to hear from farmers, identify problems, and then supply positive help."

Two of the issues which concern Hallowell are the alleged needs for better land use planning and a milk marketing security fund. He says both topics are much talked about, but little is

being done. "We have to come up with positive reasons to help a farmer stay in business," he emphasized.



"We have to come up with positive reasons to help a farmer stay in business," says Penrose Hallowell.

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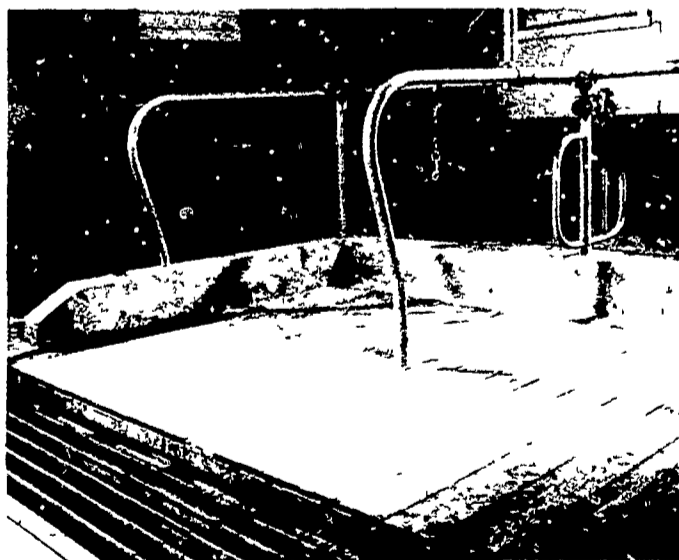
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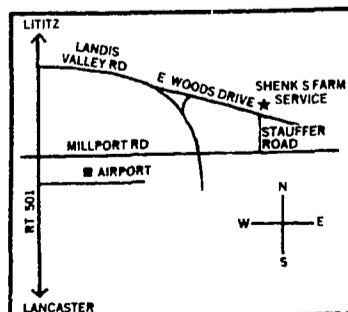


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