

'Reusable Container Act' introduced

HARRISBURG — Senator Clarence F. Manbeck (R-48th District) announced last week that he has introduced environmental legislation designed to encourage the use of reusable beverage containers.

Senate Bill 651, known as the "Reusable Container Act," is modeled after similar legislation which has been implemented in Oregon, Vermont, Michigan and Maine. Similar bills have been passed, but not yet implemented, in Iowa, Delaware and Connecticut.

The purpose of the legislation is to provide

economic incentives to beverage consumers and distributors, and to container manufacturers, which would encourage return and reuse of containers. The bill establishes a system for accomplishing various stages of the return process.

"If the bill is enacted by the General Assembly, it would help to eliminate one of our most serious environmental pollution problems — discarded bottles and cans," Manbeck said.

In addition to the environmental effects Manbeck cited the following potential benefits of the proposed legislation:

Implementation of the Act:

- would reduce consumer costs of beverages;
- would save energy expended in producing containers; and

- would reduce municipal expenditures for solid waste removal and processing

Major provisions of the "Reusable Container Act" include:

- requiring every malt liquor (beer) and carbonated beverage container sold in the state to be assigned a resale value of at least 5 cents;
- requiring the resale

value to be posted on each container;

- requiring every beverage dealer to refund the resale value to consumers;
- banning the sale of metal containers with detachable covers ("pop-top cans")

In addition, the bill authorizes the State Department of Environmental Resources to certify containers that are usable by more than one manufacturer. Once certified, such containers would become eligible for a lower resale value of two cents.

"The purpose of the

certification provisions is to encourage container manufacturers to produce uniform containers — making it easier for consumers to return containers for refunds," Manbeck said.

Other provisions of Manbeck's bill authorize DER to administer and enforce the Act. Violators

would be subject to losing their Liquor Control Board Licenses. Beverages sold in containers which violate provisions of the Act would be deemed contraband, and subject to confiscation.

The bill was referred to the Senate Environmental Resources Committee on April 24.

Reforestation program underway

SPRING GROVE - Hundreds of landowners in south central Pennsylvania are currently busy planting thousands of tree seedlings furnished through The Glatfelter Pulp Wood

Company's 50-50 share program.

All seedlings were furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Forestry Nur-

series, with the Glatfelter firm paying for 50 per cent of the cost.

Since the inception of the reforestation program in 1951, more than 16.5 million seedlings have been supplied

to landowners in Adams, Berks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, Schuylkill and York counties.

The Glatfelter Company imposes no restrictions of any kind, but landowners planting the seedlings must comply with state regulations that prohibit seedlings being used for Christmas tree production, decorative and ornamental uses for windbreaks. All trees become the property of the landowners who may harvest them at some future date for any wood product.

All planting is done in the Spring of the year and seedlings must be ordered well in advance of the planting season. Orders for tree seedlings to be planted in the Spring of 1980 will be accepted after Labor Day of 1979. Requests for information and application blanks should be made after that date.

4-H'ers to hold May Fair

NEWARK, Del. - How long has it been since you attended a county fair? The New Castle County 4-H May Fair will be held on May 18 and 19, 1979 at Agricultural Hall in Newark. Exhibits will be open on the 18th from 7 - 9 p.m. and on May 19th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

4-H'ers from the county will be displaying clothing, food preservation, food, home environment, arts & crafts, home beautification, photo, conservation, electric, entomology, field crops and woodworking exhibits.

Other activities on May 19 will include a dog show to

begin at 9:30 a.m.; a bicycle rodeo beginning at 9:30 a.m.; at 10 a.m. a sheep grooming contest; at 11 a.m. a pet show will begin; an auto driving contest begins at 11:30 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. a small engines contest will be held.

All exhibits will be prepared by 4-H'ers between the ages of nine and 19. Exhibits have been made as part of the 4-H'ers project work. 4-H is open to all youths between the ages of nine and 19 and is conducted on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color or national origin. For more information, call the 4-H Office at 302-738-1239.

Equipment sales up

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Retail sales of farm equipment in the U.S. took a big jump early this year compared with January, 1978.

All categories of tractors showed sales increases of 21

to 28 per cent, according to the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute.

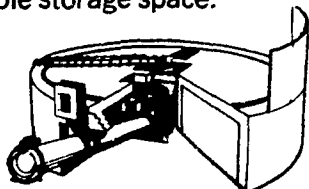
Combine sales were up 68 per cent; conventional balers, up 42 per cent; and mower-conditioners, up 54.5 per cent.

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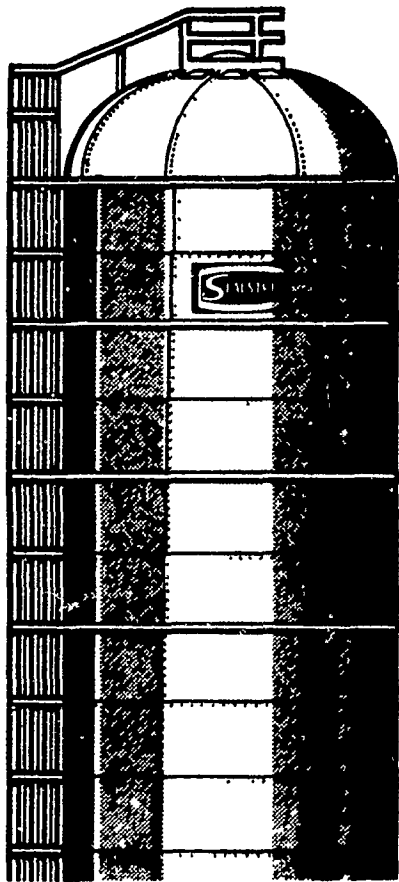
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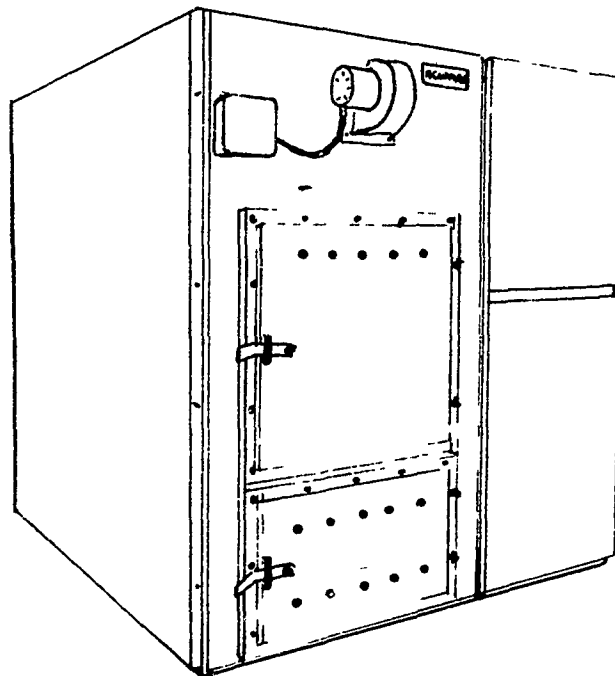
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